

'We mustn't wait till last Rohingya leaves Rakhine'

Yunus sets 7-point proposal for crisis resolution, says Bangladesh now ready for election

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Urging the international community to take stronger action to ensure justice, repatriation, and stability for the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday placed a seven-point proposal to help resolve the Rohingya crisis.

"It is not only the responsibility of Bangladesh, but also of the international community to share the burden of the Rohingya crisis, find solutions, and play an active role in implementing those."

He made the remarks while inaugurating the main session of the three-day international conference titled "Stakeholders' Dialogue: Takeaways to the High-Level Conference on Rohingya Situation", which aims to engage global stakeholders.

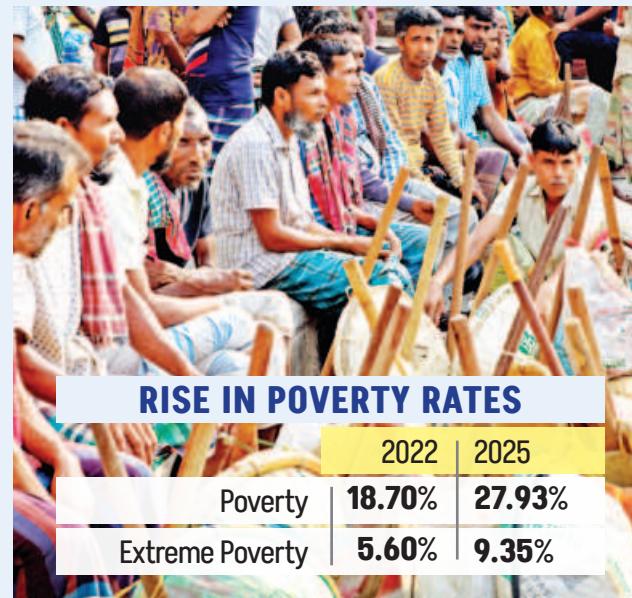
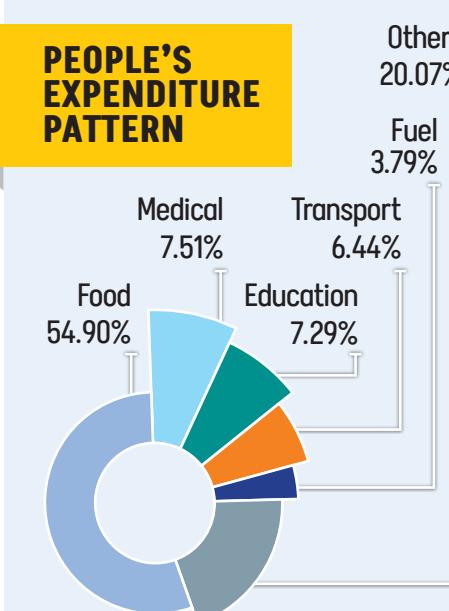
The event, held at the Hotel Baywatch in Cox's Bazar, marked the eighth Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day yesterday.

Explaining the first point of his proposal, Yunus said the umbilical relationship of the Rohingyas with their homeland cannot be severed.

"So, their rights to return to their homeland must be secured. Therefore, we urge all parties and partners to create a practical roadmap for their speedy, safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return ... We must not be held hostage to mere rhetoric. The time for action is now."

About the second point, Yunus said continued contributions from donors and humanitarian partners are vital to keep life-saving aid running. "We appeal to international donors to enhance their commitments and fill the funding gaps in the Joint Response Plan for 2025-26. At the same time, we urge stakeholders to undertake consolidated efforts for adequate and sustainable funding for the future."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Poverty soars to 28%

Food insecurity, chronic illness, debt deepening household vulnerabilities, finds govt-funded study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty in Bangladesh has surged over the past three years, with nearly 28 percent of the population now poor compared to 18.7 percent in 2022, according to new estimates by the Power and Participation Research Centre.

The share of people living in extreme poverty has also risen to 9.35 percent this year, up from 5.6 percent three years ago.

This means one in every four people now lives below the poverty line, while one in every 10 is trapped in extreme poverty.

Another 18 percent are in the "vulnerable non-poor" group, at risk of falling into poverty anytime.

TOP 5 PURPOSES OF DEBT

Household consumption	29.33%
Medical expenses	10.75%
House construction/repair	10.13%
Shop credit (consumption)	9.23%
Business/industrial investment	8.96%

PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman revealed the findings yesterday while presenting the results of a national-level study on the state of the real economy at the LGED auditorium in Dhaka.

The think tank surveyed 8,067 households nationwide between May 8 and May 31 this year, with funding from the finance ministry.

The previous findings were

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Repatriation hinges on Myanmar

Say UN, 11 Western countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the responsibility of Myanmar to create conditions that would allow Rohingya refugees to return home voluntarily, safely, and with dignity, said the United Nations.

Marking the eighth anniversary of the Rohingya exodus into Bangladesh, the UN and 11 Western countries issued statements urging action to address the crisis that has displaced more than a million people since 2017.

On August 25, 2017, Myanmar's military launched a crackdown against the Rohingyas in Rakhine State. Thousands were killed, while survivors endured arson, rape, torture, and ethnic cleansing. About 75,000 fled to Bangladesh, joining

"The most meaningful contribution the international community can make for the Rohingya is to bring Min Aung Hlaing and other military leaders before an international court."

Chris Sidoti of Special Advisory Council for Myanmar

those displaced by earlier pogroms. Since late 2023, another 2,00,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border, swelling the population in Cox's Bazar to over one million.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Hundreds blinded by bullets

ICT-1 hears more harrowing details of July violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eye doctor from a Dhaka hospital, where 864 injured people were treated during the July uprising, said 493 of them lost vision in one eye while 11 became completely blind.

Twenty-eight others had severe visual impairment, Zakia Sultana Neela, assistant professor at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Neela, a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides, said almost all patients were admitted between July 17 and August 6 last year.



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bangla-Pak ties grow, but '71 still unreckoned

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Bangladesh-Pakistan relations began to thaw after the 2024 uprising. Over the past year, three ministerial visits to Dhaka, a foreign secretary-level meeting, and two meetings between top leaders Prof Muhammad Yunus and Shehbaz Sharif have marked a significant shift from the last 15 years.

That was not all. Bilateral trade increased to \$865 million in 2025 from \$628 million the previous year. The two countries have initiated direct shipping, while visa regulations have eased and direct flights are set to start. Cooperation in education, culture, media and academia is expected to grow as several deals have been signed.

Bangladesh is willing to build a relationship, as expressed by Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, moving away from adversarial attitude of the last 15 years.

However, the unresolved issues of 1971 still call for reckoning.

Following his meeting with Bangladesh's foreign adviser on Sunday, the Pakistani foreign minister told the media that these issues had been resolved twice -- once in 1974 and again during former president Pervez Musharraf's visit. He did not elaborate.

Historians indicate the minister was likely referring to the 1974 tripartite agreement among Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and Pervez Musharraf's 2002 visit.

Bangladesh wants a formal apology from Pakistan for the 1971 atrocities committed by its military against Bengalis, settlement of financial accounts and repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

The financial claims include \$4.52 billion covering Bangladesh's share of undivided Pakistan's pre-1971 assets and foreign aid, unpaid provident funds, and savings


বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসল নোট চিনুন
নিরাপদ লেনদেন নিশ্চিত করুন

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পত্তি বাজারে ইস্যুকৃত নতুন ডিজাইনের ১০০০, ১০০, ৫০ ও ২০ টাকার নোট প্রচলনে দেয়া হয়েছে। পাশাপাশি, ইস্যুকৃত পূর্ববর্তী সংস্করণের নোটসমূহের বৈধতা ও লেনদেনযোগ্যতা বাহার রয়েছে। নগদ লেনদেনে আসল নোটের ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ ও জাল নোট প্রতিরোধে সচেতন ও সতর্ক থাকার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

আসল নোটের ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ ও জাল নোট প্রতিরোধের লক্ষ্যে :

- ❖ নোট প্রহরের সময় নোটের নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহ যথা: জলছাপ, অসমতল ছাপা, নিরাপত্তা সূতা, রং পরিবর্তনশীল কালি এবং ক্ষুদ্র লেখা ইত্যাদি যথাযথভাবে যাচাই করুন;
- ❖ উচ্চ মূল্যমানের নোট (১০০০, ৫০০, ২০০ ও ১০০) প্রহরের সময় বাড়তি সতর্কতা অবলম্বন করুন;
- ❖ সন্দেহজনক নোট পেলে আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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ROHINGYA RETURN
It's crucial that Dhaka, Naypyidaw reach consensus
Says Chinese envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The resolution of the Rohingya crisis must start with consensus between Bangladesh and Myanmar and then be expanded to a wider agreement involving ASEAN countries, donor nations, and UN agencies.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen yesterday made the remark while addressing an international conference in Cox's Bazar, "Stakeholders' Dialogue: Takeaways to the High Level Conference on Rohingya Situation".

"Any repatriation will be based on bilateral agreements. Bangladesh is now the host; Myanmar is the homeland. Broader consensus must then be built," he said at a session -- confidence building measures.

Referring to his personal involvement in the 2023 pilot repatriation project, Yao said that the process was "extremely challenging" due to differing views among stakeholders.

"Some believe that as long as the Myanmar government remains, it is not the right time for repatriation. But Myanmar is a sovereign state, and its national sovereignty must be respected."

The envoy stressed that halting further influx into Bangladesh would be the most urgent step.

For this, he said, a ceasefire between Myanmar's military and the Arakan Army was crucial.

"We understand the Arakan Army controls over 80 percent of the territory of Arakan state and still wants full control. But who provides them with weaponry, finance, and intelligence? China does not play any role; we don't provide anything to either the Arakan Army or the Myanmar government. However, there is some supply to them from other sources, so all parties need to be part of any agreement; otherwise, a ceasefire cannot be achieved," he said.

Once peace is achieved, Yao said, repatriation could start on a small scale with a few thousand Rohingyas under close monitoring supported by coordinated development, education, and livelihood projects by China, Bangladesh, ASEAN, and UN agencies.

He also underscored that Rohingya participation was essential. "Any solution must have their agreement and support. Otherwise, everything will be meaningless."

Reaffirming Beijing's commitment, Yao noted that China had already mediated a trilateral mechanism with Bangladesh and Myanmar, hosted several working group meetings, and contributed humanitarian aid projects with the UNHCR and WFP.

"China will never give up. Ending hostilities and achieving consensus between Bangladesh and Myanmar is the only way forward," he said.

Charles Santiago, co-chair of the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, said ASEAN and China must shoulder greater responsibility in resolving the crisis.

He warned that the withdrawal of US aid had cut food assistance for Rohingyas from \$18 to just \$6 per person and urged China, Japan, and others to step up contributions.

We mustn't wait till last

FROM PAGE 1

Thirdly, he said, all acts of violence against the Rohingya must cease immediately. "We urge the Myanmar authorities as well as the Arakan Army to ensure safety, security and livelihood of the Rohingyas. They must also allow internally displaced persons from camps in central and northern Rakhine to return home as soon as possible."

In his fourth point, Yunus said a platform for consultation or dialogue is essential to ease tension and end conflict among Myanmar's ethnic communities.

Citing the fifth point, he said the role of the international community, especially ASEAN and neighbouring countries, is indispensable. "We support all international efforts to this end, including the ASEAN 5-Point Consensus. We urge the international community to be more active in advancing peace, security and stability in Rakhine and the region. We also need to fight cross-border crimes such as trafficking, arms smuggling and other criminal activities that threaten stability."

In the sixth point, he urged regional and international stakeholders to stand firm against ethnic cleansing. "We urge all to calibrate their relationship with Myanmar, the Arakan Army and other parties in order to promote an early resolution of this crisis."

Lastly, he also called upon the international community to give more energy to accountability processes at the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court and elsewhere. "We urge them to implement the provisional measures decided by the ICJ, ensure justice and accountability, and put an end to genocide and crimes against humanity."

Noting that in August 2017, around eight lakh Rohingyas crossed into Bangladesh within a few weeks, he said, "Unfortunately, persecution still persists. Hence, we see fresh arrivals at our doorsteps even today."

"On the eighth Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day, with a heavy



Hundreds of Rohingyas attend a rally at the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia yesterday morning, marking eighth Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'We want justice, we want accountability'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Justice and accountability for atrocities against the Rohingyas must remain central to any resolution of the crisis, speakers said at a stakeholders' dialogue in Cox's Bazar.

Nicholas Kounjian, head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, stressed the urgency of holding perpetrators accountable, saying the Rohingya want to return home safely and rebuild their lives.

"We want justice. We want accountability," he said, citing evidence of civilian targeting by both the Myanmar military and other armed groups, including drone strikes and executions in violation of the laws of war.

Speaking on the second day of the three-day event yesterday, Kounjian urged decisive international action, noting that long-term solutions require both legal accountability and political will.

The three-day dialogue aims to engage global stakeholders in finding solutions to the prolonged crisis and relay the takeaways to the High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which is scheduled to begin on September 30.

Huma Khan, head of OHCHR Bangladesh, said justice provides the guarantee of non-recurrence.

She outlined the pillars of transitional justice -- truth, justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence -- with memorialisation as a new element, but noted that Myanmar's ongoing ethnic cleansing

challenges the immediate implementation of such processes.

She also stressed complementary local justice mechanisms alongside international processes, citing crimes by both the Myanmar military and armed rebel group the Arakan Army over the past year.

Antonietta Ann Trapani, programme coordinator of Legal Action Worldwide, pointed to recent progress: 25 arrest warrants issued in Argentina under universal jurisdiction, ongoing International Criminal Court investigations, and the case brought by The Gambia at the International Court of Justice.

Justice is ensuring that children who survive will never again face the same persecution.

Antonietta Ann Trapani, programme coordinator of Legal Action Worldwide

She stressed that justice goes beyond court judgments to reparations, the restoration of citizenship, and recognition of the Rohingya as equal members of society.

"Justice is ensuring that children who survive will never again face the same persecution," she said, calling for an integrated approach at international, regional, and local levels.

Rohingya diaspora representative Nay San Lwin urged global action against ongoing crimes by both the Myanmar military and Arakan Army.

He called for ICC cases to be expanded to cover the Arakan Army and for stronger

international pressure to ensure ICJ rulings are enforced, stressing that transitional justice, reparation, and security are essential for the safe and permanent return of the Rohingyas.

Addressing humanitarian challenges, Juliette Murekeyisoni, deputy representative of UNHCR Bangladesh, highlighted critical funding shortages affecting 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

Aid cuts, she said, have strained food, shelter, education, and protection services, particularly for women and children.

"We must involve refugees themselves in these processes and ensure they acquire skills and education to rebuild their country when conditions allow safe return," she said.

Lance Bonneau, chief of International Organization for Migration's Bangladesh mission, stressed a dual approach of providing essential services while preparing refugees for voluntary, dignified, and sustainable repatriation.

He cited achievements in literacy, skills development, and the Rohingya Cultural Memory Center, underscoring the importance of preserving culture and preparing refugees to contribute to Myanmar's future.

Lucky Karim, executive director of Refugee Women for Peace and Justice, echoed the urgency of improving conditions for both camp residents and internally displaced Rohingya within Myanmar.

She called for a medium-term plan to protect remaining populations and sustained international support to prevent further loss of life and ensure a safe, dignified, and permanent return.

'Engaging all to resolve Rohingya crisis'

Khalilur says refugees seek dignified return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Stakeholders' Dialogue has once again reflected the Rohingyas' clear and unmistakable yearning to return to Myanmar, said National Security Adviser and High Representative for the Rohingya Issue Khalilur Rahman yesterday.

They want to return to their homeland with dignity and safety, with the restoration of their rights and accountability for atrocities committed against them, he said.

To address the ongoing crisis, he said he has been engaging with all key actors, including the Arakan Army and the Myanmar government.

"A solution cannot be achieved by leaving out any important actor. Negotiations must involve everyone in order to be effective. If one party is excluded, any agreement reached is likely to fail or collapse," he said, while addressing the concluding session of the international conference, "Stakeholders' Dialogue: Takeaways to the High-Level Conference on Rohingya Situation", held in Cox's Bazar.



Khalil also underscored the historic participation of the Rohingya community at the dialogue, marking the first time they collectively presented their perspectives under one roof.

"The upcoming UN High-level International Conference on the Rohingya issue will be held on September 30 at the UN Headquarters. In preparation, we organised this dialogue to hear the voice of the Rohingya directly."

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus opened the session with a seven-point proposal expected to shape discussions at the UN meeting.

Khalil stressed that international aid is declining, which is threatening essential services such as food, healthcare, and education.

Trust between parties, he said, remains essential for a sustainable solution, and the dialogue marked a significant step in fostering confidence among stakeholders.

Khalil raised concerns over the criminal activities inside Myanmar that threaten regional stability.

He also clarified that ICC processes are ongoing and do not require acceleration from Bangladesh. Bangladesh has submitted lists for approximately 8,00,000 Rohingya, with Myanmar confirming over 1,80,000 as eligible for return, and further verification is ongoing, he added.

The dialogue also highlighted systematic persecution, and discriminatory laws such as the 1982 Citizenship Law as root causes of the crisis.

Panelists cited ongoing human rights violations in Rakhine, including indiscriminate attacks, arson, mass killings, rapes, and forced conscription by both the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Arakan Army.

They called for proactive roles from neighbouring countries, ASEAN, the UN, and concerned partners.

Poverty soars to 28%

FROM PAGE 1

reported by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2022.

Zillur said the country is facing the impacts of three overlapping crises: the Covid-19 shock (2020-22), persistently high inflation, and political economic uncertainty.

"So, focusing only on macroeconomics is not enough; we need to focus on people's well-being, on ground realities, on equitable allocation," he said, stressing the need to adopt a "people's lens" in economic planning.

At the event, the PPRC also unveiled the scenario of household income, employment, expenditure, financial resilience, and digital participation in mid-2025. In some cases, it has also made a comparison between the pre-uprising and post-uprising impact on households.

55% SPENT ON FOOD

The survey found that nearly 55 percent of a household's monthly expenditure now goes to food, averaging Tk 10,614.

Education costs average Tk 1,822 per month, healthcare Tk 1,556, transport Tk 1,478, and housing Tk 1,089.

Expenditure inequality has also intensified, with the national Gini coefficient rising to 0.436 from 0.334 in 2022. Gini coefficient is used to measure income or wealth inequality, ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality). The study found while rural inequality remains lower at 0.347, urban inequality has surged to 0.532.

Nationwide, the average monthly household income is Tk 32,685. Rural households earn Tk 29,205 and spend Tk 27,162, while urban households earn Tk 40,578 and spend Tk 44,961.

The divide is stark across social groups. The poorest 10 percent earn just Tk 8,477 a month but spend Tk 12,294, often through borrowing or external support. The richest 10 percent earn Tk 109,390 and spend Tk 101,163 -- around 13 and eight times more than the poorest.

Bangladesh is facing an "employment emergency" as 38 percent of those counted as employed are actually underemployed, working less than 40 hours a week, said Rahman.

Female labour force participation is stuck at 26 percent, and nearly half of workers are self-employed, underscoring both resilience and precarity.

BRIBE, HARASSMENT

The study found that although bribery

has declined since August last year, it still remains widespread.

Before the political changeover, 8.54 percent of respondents reported paying bribes to access services; the rate fell to 3.69 percent afterward.

The highest amount of bribes was paid at government offices, followed by the police and political leaders.

Households have been paying more

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS PAID BRIBES/EXTORTION MONEY

Before Aug 2024	8.54%
After Aug 2024	3.69%

WHOM THEY PAID BRIBE/EXTORTION MONEY

Govt employees	46.76%
Police	39.37%
Political activists	33.13%
Local thugs	16.11%
Local govt reps	13.22%

bribes to the police and political leaders in the post-August period compared to pre-August.

Nearly 39.4 percent of households now report paying bribes to the police, up from around 31.8 percent before August, while bribe payments to political leaders have risen to 33 percent from 31.77 percent. Payments in government offices have declined from 52.34 percent to 47.67 percent.

On "Hoirani" (harassment, frustration or dysfunction in systems), 75 percent of respondents said "nothing works without money" best described their experience.

Other frustrations included bureaucratic hassle (36.4 percent), unclear service paths (22.3 percent), and delays or indecision (21.8 percent).

5 EMERGING VULNERABILITIES

The report identified five new vulnerabilities deepening poverty.

These are chronic illness, debt burden, poverty with a female-headed family, food insecurity, and using non-sanitary conditions.

More than half of all households (51.3 percent) have at least one chronically ill member. Among them, 34.6 percent suffer from high blood pressure, 26.5 percent from gastric problems, 23 percent from diabetes, and 16 percent from heart disease.

"This is the new dimension of vulnerability. Families are incurring additional expenses on healthcare due to chronic illnesses, which in turn is increasing their debt burden."

"We have to address it with a new type of social safety net," said Rahman.

Secondly, about one in every four poor households (24 percent) is female-headed. These households are among the most disadvantaged in society and therefore require special support.

Thirdly, poverty is associated with a rising debt burden: the bottom 40 percent have debt burden at least twice their savings while the bottom 4 percent saw a net 7 percent increase in debt levels over the last six months.

Fourthly, food insecurity is a growing risk. Many of the poorest households skip multiple meals weekly or go a full day without food, and the situation is gradually worsening," said Rahman.

Finally, with only five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, the sanitation crisis remains critical. Nearly 36 percent of the population still uses non-sanitary toilets. Ensuring safe sanitation has therefore become extremely important.

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TUHIN MURDER

Charges
pressed
against 8
arresteesOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Police have pressed charges against eight people in a case filed over the murder of journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin in Gazipur on August 7.

The eight people are already in custody, said Rabiul Hasan, deputy commissioner (crime north) of Gazipur Metropolitan Police.

The charge sheet has already been submitted to a local court, the official told a press conference yesterday afternoon.

However, two mobile phones used by journalist Tuhin are yet to be recovered as those have been switched off since the day of the murder, he added.

The victim's family
SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Major reshuffle
in police, admin
ahead of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major reshuffle ahead of the general election, 12 deputy inspectors general of police and 14 superintendents of police (SP) ranked officers have been given new postings.

At the same time, six districts got new deputy commissioners (DC).

The Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs issued separate notifications yesterday, with the changes taking immediate effect. As part of the reshuffle in police, seven districts received new SPs.

Mohammad Al Mamun Sikder of Industrial Police has been made SP of Banguna, Md Asaduzzaman of Police Bureau of Investigation as Bagerhat SP, Menhajul Alam of Police Headquarters as Narsingdi SP, Jasim Uddin of Dhaka Metropolitan Police as Narayanganj SP, Manjur Ahmed Siddique of DMP as Meherpur SP, Rabiul Islam of Special Branch as Narail SP, and Tariqul Islam of Highway Police as Natore SP.

In the administration, Shahid Hossain Chowdhury, deputy secretary at the environment ministry, has been made DC of Patuakhali. His predecessor, Abu Hasnat Mohammad Arefin, has been transferred to Kushtia as DC.

Meherpur DC Shifat Mehnaz has been posted to Kurigram, while Mohammad Abdul Salam, deputy secretary at the home ministry, has been appointed as the new DC of Meherpur.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Mahmud Zaman, deputy secretary and zonal settlement officer at the Department of Land Record and Surveys in Dhaka, has been made DC of Netrokona.

Meanwhile, Kushtia DC Mohammad Toufiqur Rahman has been transferred to Khulna as the new DC.

Three more
die of dengue,
412 get
hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more deaths were reported from dengue in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 118 this year.

During the period, 412 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, raising the number of confirmed cases to 29,044 this year, according to the DGHS.

According to the DGHS, the three fatalities have been reported in Dhaka.

A total of 1,309 patients are currently receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

Last year, dengue claimed the lives of 575 people.

PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL JOBS

It's home chores that hold women back

Finds BIDS, Sajida Foundation study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not the lack of education; rather, care responsibilities are the main reason why Bangladeshi women, especially young women, remain outside formal employment, revealed a new study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Sajida Foundation.

The research found that 81 percent of women cited household duties as their biggest barrier to joining the labour force, while 48 percent of men pointed to education as the main challenge.

Young women aged 15-24 spend up to 20 hours a week on domestic chores - four times more than their male peers. Even women over 65 continue to spend double the time men do on household work.

Dr Sajeda Amin, senior research advisor at Sajida Foundation, presented the findings of the study, titled "Care Responsibilities and Women's Work in Bangladesh", at a seminar organised by BIDS at its

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



ISSUES

Young women spend up to 20 hours weekly on chores

Women over 65 still do double the domestic work of men

Home-based work rising, outside employment declining

Commuting challenges limit women's participation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Joint families, tertiary education

Accessible, well-located daycare centres

Home-based income opportunities

Encourage delayed marriage

'As a freedom fighter, I have the right to live in peace'

Fazlur Rahman voices concerns for his, family's safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chairperson's adviser Fazlur Rahman has expressed concern for his and his family's safety after protesters gathered outside his Segunbagicha residence in Dhaka yesterday, demanding his expulsion from the party and arrest over "derogatory remarks" about the July uprising.

"As a freedom fighter, I have the right to live in peace," Fazlur told reporters at the Supreme Court premises.

"A mob is being created in front of my house. I did not say that a dark force was behind August 5. Please listen to my entire speech."

He added, "Show me proof. Taking two lines from YouTube is not right. If you can prove it with the full video, I will apologise."

Earlier yesterday, protesters under the banner of Biplobi Chhatra Janata staged a sit-in in front of his home. Leaders and activists of several organisations, including Bangladesh Gonantantri Chhatra Sangshad and July Bangbandi, joined the demonstration.

The protest followed a show-cause notice issued on Monday by BNP, asking Fazlur to explain within 24

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



A man arranges freshly cut sugarcane in rows, preparing it for sale. Wholesale traders collect the stalks from the fields, bundle them, and keep them ready for the market. Depending on size and quality, each hundred stalks of sugarcane sells for Tk 1,500-6,000. The photo was taken recently at Boro Bazar market in Khulna city.

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JULY UPRISING

Up to Tk five lakh
reward for return
of looted firearms
Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday announced rewards for information leading to the recovery of firearms looted during the July uprising, with the highest amount of Tk 5 lakh for the recovery of a light machine gun (LMG).

Anyone providing information leading to the recovery of a sub-machine gun (SMG) will get Tk 1.5 lakh, Tk 1 lakh for a Chinese rifle, Tk 50,000 for a pistol or shotgun, and Tk 500 for each bullet, he told reporters at the Secretariat. He said the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

ACC to prevent use of
black money in polls
Says its chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has said it will take steps to prevent the use of black money in the upcoming national election.

The anti-graft body will also investigate whether candidates provide false information in their affidavits.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen announced the move while speaking to journalists at a press briefing yesterday.

In response to a question, he said the commission would work to cut off the supply chain of black money during the election. To that end, the ACC will coordinate with the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and other relevant agencies.

Momen urged voters to reject individuals who possess black money. He also said the commission's enforcement unit will be strengthened to prevent the use of black money during the election period.

He called on citizens to raise their voices, saying, "We don't want corrupt MP candidates."

Govt to fix prices
of life-saving
medicines: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed that the government, not the manufacturing companies, will fix the prices of all life-saving medicines.

It is the duty of the government to determine the prices of life-saving medicines, which are necessary to protect the health of people, under article 112 of the constitution and therefore the government must do it and issue a gazette notification containing the prices of those medicines, the court

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A man arranges freshly cut sugarcane in rows, preparing it for sale. Wholesale traders collect the stalks from the fields, bundle them, and keep them ready for the market. Depending on size and quality, each hundred stalks of sugarcane sells for Tk 1,500-6,000. The photo was taken recently at Boro Bazar market in Khulna city.

Khulna's 'Poor Man's Buffet' feeds hundreds

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

On a Sunday afternoon at Shabbari intersection in Khulna, rows of bowls filled with rice, lentils, vegetables, and eggs were arranged on a table.

Next to it, volunteers in uniforms, gloves, and hairnets stood in line to serve meals to people in need.

Rickshaw pullers, daily wage earners, and beggars lined up for food. Instead of a banquet hall, they sat on footpaths or in their rickshaws to eat. Their faces brightened as they finished the meals.

The event was part of the "Poor Man's Buffet," an initiative by Foodbanking Khulna Kallyan Sangstha. The local volunteer organisation has been serving free meals to underprivileged people in Khulna since 2017.

Every Sunday, it runs the buffet to provide fresh, hot food for free to those who cannot afford a proper meal, said AHM Shahriar Masud Megh, president of the organisation.

Around 170 people attended the



buffet last Sunday.

Ali Hossain, a rickshaw puller from Dumuria, said he had never been treated with such care.

Aynabibi, a beggar from Tootpara, said the meals provided rice, dal, vegetables, and eggs, which she could

not afford on her own.

The organisation started by collecting surplus food from weddings and events.

Its first programme, "Goriber Mehmaan Khana" (The Poor Person's Feast), later moved to Khulna Railway Station, serving around 160 people

every Wednesday.

Another project, "Tripti'r Ahaar" (Meal of Satisfaction), provides cooked food to about 50 people daily. The buffet launched earlier this month is its largest effort.

Volunteer Jarin Tasnim Roza, a student at North Western University, Khulna, said the buffet system prevents the chaos that is common in food distribution programmes. The initiative has received support from local leaders.

Advocate Babul Howlader, member secretary of Khulna Nagork Samaj, said, "Seeing young people organise something like this gives hope. If more people come forward, such efforts could ensure no one goes hungry in the city."

Due to financial limits, the programme currently runs once a week. Megh said the organisation hopes to expand meal programmes to different parts of the city.

He said most expenses are covered through a fund created from members' contributions, though a few regular donors support the initiative.

Up to Tk five lakh

FROM PAGE 3

Jahangir said the government has taken measures to prevent recruitment-related corruption in law enforcement agencies. "In the past, there were allegations of trade in transfers and recruitment. We have taken steps to stop such practices," he said.

The Awami League government was overthrown in a student-led uprising on August 5 last year, when 5,753 firearms and 6,51,609 rounds of ammunition were looted from various police stations and outposts, according to police headquarters.

More than 1,300 looted firearms and over 2,50,000 rounds of ammunition remain missing, with many reportedly now in the hands of criminals and being used in crimes across the country.

Among the unrecovered weapons are rifles, SMGs, LMGs, 7.62x25mm pistols, 9x19mm pistols, shotguns, gas guns, teargas launchers, and 26mm signal pistols.

The IGP made the remark after a journalist raised the issue with the home adviser, who said the matter had been discussed in the meeting and that the IGP had already taken steps.

Asked about the measures, the IGP said, "We have sought an explanation from him initially."

Earlier, Bangla daily Prothom Alo reported that the GMP commissioner resides in Dhaka's Gulshan, and roads on his route to and from Gazipur are routinely closed, causing sufferings to commuters.

Charges

FROM PAGE 3

demanded maximum punishment for the accused as soon as possible.

Tuhin, 40, who worked as a staff reporter of Mymensingh-based daily Pratidin Kagoj, was killed with sharp weapons by a group of miscreants around 8:00pm on August 7.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
Department of Global Studies and Governance
• Assistant Professor • Lecturer B

School of Environment & Life Sciences
Department of Life Sciences
• Assistant Professor • Lecturer B

Application Deadline
Monday, September 8, 2025

For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code



Govt to fix prices of life-saving

FROM PAGE 3

said in a verdict.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hasan and Justice Biswajit Debnath delivered the judgment following a petition filed as a public interest litigation by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in 2018.

But the health ministry on February 26, 1994

issued a circular fixing prices of only 117 medicines and stated in the circular that the manufacturing companies will fix the prices of other medicines.

ISSUED A CIRCULAR

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00

JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1381 OF 2025

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

AND
IN THE MATTER OF:

Rashed Mahmud, Managing Director, Kitty Industries Limited, Rose Mont Tower, Plot # 148, Road # 13, Block # E, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Petitioner.

VERSUS-
.....Respondents.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) read with sections 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed on behalf of the Petitioner in the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of the company namely **Kitty Industries Limited** for Calendar Years 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024. On 14.08.2025, upon hearing the learned Advocate for the Petitioner the Hon'ble High Court Division will consider the aforesaid application and issue Notices upon the Respondents. Any person or persons having interest in the aforesaid matter, may appear before the Hon'ble High Court Division either in person or through his duly appointed learned Advocate.

Copy of the Petition of the said Company Matter may be obtained from our office.

Md. Abdur Rashid, Advocate

Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No.2 (1st floor)
Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 01715838044

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1423 OF 2025

An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, for the condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of Frontier Assets Management Limited for the year 2025 has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, comprising his Lordship, Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel. The said company bench has been pleased to accept the aforesaid application vide order dated 14.08.2025.

Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs.

Md. Anisul Hassan, Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Concord Ovalish (1st Floor), House No.-62, Road No. 11A
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209
Tel: 01755606972

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Urban Development and City Governance Project (UDCGP)

RDEC Bhaban (8th Level)

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Dhaka-1207

www.iged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.658.07.011.25.891

Date: 25.08.2025

Corrigendum

e-Tender Notice-02/2025-26

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

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Field name	Old date & time	New date & time
1	Procurement of 3 (Three) Nos. Wheel Loader. (UDCGP/GD/07)	Last date of selling document	03/09/25; 14:00	14/09/25 14:00
		Opening date & time	04/09/25; 14:00	15/09/25 14:00
		Last date of tender security submission	04/09/25; 12:00	15/09/25 12:00
		Closing date & time	04/09/25; 14:00	15/09/25 14:00
		Corrigendum	Technical Specification of Wheel Loader SI No. 14 & SI No. 17	

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

To submit an e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch.

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


Md. Abdur Rouf
Project Director
UDCGP, LGED
Phone: +88 02 44826411
Email: pd.udcgp@iged.gov.bd

GD-1873



TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BDG - UNHCR ITB 1494	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAME AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF AND DELIVERY OF LOT 1: ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LOT 2: SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICINES

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Invitation to Bid (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from the UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/276411>
BDjobs Tender notice link: <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr/unhcr536.htm>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR ITB 1494 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in the Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe (Acknowledge Participation) to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in, as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:

UNHCR will organize an online supplier [Join Pre Bid Meeting here BGD-UNHCR-ITB-1494](#) on 02 September 2025 at 10:00 am BST via Microsoft Teams. Bidders may also join the meeting by scanning the QR Code from mobile:

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guidelines: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to log in with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on [Forgot Password](#) to reset your password.

**Bid submission deadline: Sunday, 21 September 2025 – 14:00 hrs. BST
Bangladesh time.**

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer must be submitted only through the Cloud ERP portal.



Scan above QR Code to join

TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD-UNHCR-ITB-1466	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A

Autorickshaws risky, yet vital for livelihoods Says adviser Fouzul Kabir

UNB, Dhaka

Battery-run autorickshaws pose safety concerns and should be removed from the capital's streets, said Road Transport and Bridges Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday.

He, however, acknowledged their role as a vital source of employment for many people, highlighting the challenge of balancing regulation with livelihoods.

The adviser was speaking to reporters after a meeting at the Secretariat on the overall situation and condition of highways in Dhaka.

"Ideally, these vehicles are risky and cause traffic jams. They should be removed. But one thing must be remembered -- they provide jobs for many people. We're not in a position to offer alternative employment. Behind every autorickshaw, there is a family whose livelihood depends on it," he said.

The adviser also said battery-powered rickshaws are using electricity illegally, and the electricity department has been instructed to take action to stop illegal charging.

Local Government Division Secretary Rezaul Maksud Jahedi said they have made a regulation to control autorickshaws in Dhaka city. "We've also arranged training for the drivers so they understand and follow traffic rules," he added.

Illegal nets, jatka catching behind hilsa decline Says adviser Farida Akhter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Hilsa production has seen a decline due to multiple factors including continuous use of illegal nets and indiscriminate catching of jatka (fry). Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter said yesterday.

She also pointed to several other reasons -- loss of river navigability, climate change, and development projects along the riverbanks near hilsa sanctuaries.

The adviser was speaking to the reporters after attending a workshop on buffalo grazing at Barishal Club.

She said, "The government is taking strict measures including special drives to curb illegal fishing as well as to ensure jatka protection and uninterrupted breeding seasons."

"We are conducting drives, and hopefully hilsa production will increase and prices will come down in the coming days," she said adding that the government is also planning to regulate the chain of middlemen between rivers and retail markets.

It's home chores that hold women back

FROM PAGE 3
Agargao office in Dhaka yesterday.

Drawing on nationally representative data from the 2016 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the study noted that Bangladesh's rising female labour force participation (FLFP) is driven mainly by home-based work rather than jobs in offices,

factories, or farms.

While 66 percent of women remain outside the labour force compared to just 20 percent of men, more women are taking up income generating activities from home or nearby, as they juggle childcare, household management, and care for the elderly or sick.

The data show a sharp

rise in women's home-based work across rural areas.

Agricultural work outside home fell from 64 percent in 2010 to 21 percent in 2016, as rural women shifted to agro-processing and informal activities.

Meanwhile, urban women's participation in outside work has declined.

Another key finding was

the positive impact of joint families. Unlike in India, Bangladeshi women living in joint households are more likely to work outside the home, as extended family members share childcare and domestic duties, reducing women's care burden and increasing productive hours.

The study also found tertiary education significantly improves women's chances of engaging in productive work and reduces time spent on unpaid chores. Secondary education, however, has limited effect due to cultural and care-related barriers.

The report recommended recognising care economy in labour policy, supporting agro-processing and rural enterprises, promoting delayed marriage to enhance opportunities for young women, and encouraging equitable sharing of household responsibilities to address gender imbalances.

At the seminar, Prof A K Enamul Haque, director general of BIDS, said women's participation in the workforce dropped sharply when they have children under five and stressed the need for accessible day care centres.

He noted that Western-style daycare centres in garment factories often failed because mothers could not bring their children to the facilities, even though the centres were well equipped.

"Evidence shows that centralised factory-based centres often fail, whereas easily accessible and location-based centres near homes are far more effective for working mothers," he said.

Prof Enamul also pointed to unreliable and unsafe urban transport system as another major barrier preventing women from taking up jobs.

Navanita Sinha, deputy representative of UN Women, said investing in basic care services can yield significant returns, citing OECD research that showed 30-40 percent gains in women's employment. She expressed hope for similar evidence from Bangladesh.

As a freedom

FROM PAGE 3
hours why action should not be taken against him for making "distasteful and misleading statements about the historic July-August mass uprising."

Police were deployed in the area to prevent any untoward incident, said Tariqul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Ramma Police Station.

Meanwhile, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) expressed concern over what it described as "mob and intimidation" outside Fazlur's home.

In a statement, ASK said such acts "not only target an individual but threaten the whole society, undermining freedom of expression and security."

ASK urged immediate steps to halt "mob politics" and ensure the safety of Fazlur and his family.



Workers of the Roads and Highways Department repairing a section of the Barishal-Dhaka highway, which was badly damaged by heavy rainfall. They are filling potholes with stone, sand, and bitumen to ensure the road is safe for vehicles. Working from morning to evening, each worker earns a daily wage of Tk 800. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Bangladesh Bank

(Central Bank of Bangladesh)
Head Office
Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh
website: www.bb.org.bd



Inviting applications for establishment of Digital Bank

Bangladesh Bank recognizes the changed landscape of the global financial ecosystem leveraged by continuous technological innovation. It also notices the challenges of the changes and prioritizes its role in driving greater efficiency in the delivery of financial products and services as well as in widening the outreach of the financial system.

In order to effectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), capitalize on the transformative potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and reaping from the waves of tech-driven future financial ecosystem, it is imperative to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth—particularly through the development of the Cottage, Micro, and Small Enterprises (CMSEs).

This requires fostering an innovation-led economy for accelerating employment generation and ensuring long-term food security. An enabler to expanding and streamlining access to credit and finance across all segments of society—especially underserved and marginalized groups—will be crucial in unlocking the full economic potential of CMSEs and advancing national development priorities.

Towards this end, BB, in principle, has decided to issue/award license(s) for Digital Bank (DB) in pursuant to section 31 of the *Bank Company Act, 1991* against suitable proposal(s).

Bangladesh Bank now invites sealed and fresh applications from eligible and qualified sponsors for establishing DB. As a processing fee, an application needs to be submitted along with a non-refundable pay order issued by any scheduled commercial bank in the amount of BDT 5.00 (Five) Lacs in favor of Bangladesh Bank. Failure to provide all required documents/information will result in automatic cancellation of the application.

Applications must be submitted to the address below during office hours from 01 September 2025 to 30 September 2025. Moreover, applicants need to submit all of their documents (soft copy) to the email address: apply.db@bb.org.bd

For details, please visit the **GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH DIGITAL BANK, Version-2** in our website <http://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/guideline>.

(Md. Bayazid Sarker)

Director (BRPD)

Banking Regulation and Policy Department
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: +88-02-9530252
Email: gm.brpd@bb.org.bd

GD-1875

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Jamalpur

Memo No. 37.07.3900.003.64.05.25-7115

Date: 25/08/2025

e-Tender Notice No. 2025-2026/06

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Jamalpur as mentioned below:

Tender ID	Name of works	Publication date/time	Closing date & opening date
1142590	Construction of 4-storied Academic Building with 4-storied foundation in/c. Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Batikamari High School, Sarishabari, Jamalpur.	25-08-2025 at 10:30	15-09-2025 at 12:30

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Joyita Adhikary
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Jamalpur



A Palestinian man stands next to an empty wheelchair following an explosion in the Saftawi neighbourhood, west of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on August 25, 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli bulldozers uproot hundreds of trees in West Bank village

AFP, Al Mughayir

Israeli bulldozers uprooted hundreds of trees in the West Bank village of al-Mughayir on Sunday in the presence of the Israeli military, according to AFP journalists who witnessed the scene.

Most of the felled vegetation appeared to be olive trees, essential to the economy and culture of the West Bank, while olive groves have also long been a flashpoint for violent clashes between farmers and encroaching Israeli settlers.

Abdelatif Mohammed Abu Aliya,

a local farmer from the village near Ramallah, said he lost olive trees that were over 70 years old on about one hectare of land.

"They completely uprooted and levelled them under false pretences," he said, explaining he and other residents had already begun replanting the pulled-up trees.

AFP photographers on the ground saw overturned soil, olive trees lying on the ground, and several bulldozers operating on the hills surrounding the village.

Al Mughayir

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts. 3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100.			
Memo No. 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/22 Date: 25/08/2025			
The Invitation of Tender (IFT) vide no. 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/15 dated: 19/08/2025 for Procurement of Vehicle Hiring (Along with Driver, Fuel and others) is hereby intended as follows:			
Corrigendum			
Sl. No.	Activity	Existing	As amended
1	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	2,64,000.00 (Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand only)	1,50,000.00 (One Lakh Fifty Thousand only)
All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.			
(Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam) Project Director Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts 3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100			

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি Bangladesh Shishu Academy Doyel Chattor Sorok Dhaka-1000			
Memo No: 32.03.0000.200.33.001.18(Part-2)-8739 Date: 24.08.2025			
Invitation For e-Tenders			
e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods.			

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of the procurement	Tender Document last selling	Tender Closing Date and Time
1	1142307	Procurement of Food, Educational and learning materials, Consumable goods, Dress, Medicines, Office equipments, Furnitures, Repair and maintenance and Bedding for Shishu Bikash Kendro at Azimpur, Bangladesh Shishu Academy	14-Sep-2025 17:00	15-Sep-2025 16:00
2	1142308	Procurement of Food, Educational and learning materials, Consumable goods, Dress, Medicines, Office equipments, Furnitures, Repair and maintenance and Bedding for Shishu Bikash Kendro at Keraniganj, Bangladesh Shishu Academy	14-Sep-2025 17:00	15-Sep-2025 16:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System portal and no offline/hardcopy will be accepted.

To submit e-tender/e-tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for Downloading the e-Tender Document/Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd/Contact Number: 16575, +8809677016575)

Director General
Bangladesh Shishu Academy

GD-1870

Bangla-Pak ties grow, but '71 still unreckoned

FROM PAGE 1

instruments as well as \$200 million from international donors in 1970 for cyclone victims that was never transferred, the then Bangladesh foreign secretary Md Jashim Uddin said at a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart in April this year.

There are 324,147 stranded Pakistanis in 79 camps across 14 Bangladeshi districts who wish to return. Until now, only 26,941 have been repatriated.

"None of these issues were resolved," South Asian history researcher and commentator Altaf Parvez told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the tripartite treaty that Dar referred to does not even mention reparations.

"This is our just demand. Undivided Pakistan had foreign reserve, while there was foreign aid on account of the cyclone of 1970, but that was not distributed to the people in East Pakistan because of the war," Altaf Parvez said.

The treaty, however, does touch upon repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and prisoners of war. As per the agreement, Bangladesh,

on humanitarian grounds, handed over the 195 accused officers to Pakistan, on condition that they would be tried in their own country. Pakistan also pledged to prosecute those 195 officers, but in reality, there has been no trial till this day.

In the 1974 tripartite agreement, the then Pakistani state minister for defence, Aziz Ahmed, states that Pakistan "condemned and deeply regretted" any crimes that may have been committed.

It was noted in the treaty that following recognition, the prime minister of Pakistan had declared that he would visit Bangladesh in response to the invitation of the prime minister of Bangladesh and appealed to the people of Bangladesh to "forgive and forget the mistakes of the past" in order to promote reconciliation.

But there was no mention of the word genocide, which significantly diminishes the gravity of the crimes.

Similarly, during his 2002 visit to Bangladesh, Pervez Musharraf regretted the "excesses" committed during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. However,

he urged both nations to "bury the past in the spirit of friendship."

Musharraf avoided using the term Liberation War, instead referring to it as the "unfortunate period," which further diluted the historical and moral significance of the events.

In diplomatic language, regret generally expresses sorrow or sadness that something happened, often without accepting responsibility. In contrast, an apology includes both an expression of remorse and an acknowledgment of wrongdoing.

When made officially, an apology carries greater moral and political weight, and is more likely to be accepted by victims and the international community.

On Sunday, speaking to the media, Ishaq Dar advised Bangladeshis to "clean the heart" as is told by Islam.

"What Islamic teaching, what the Holy Quran, what our sunnah of Muhammad tells us is that you should have a clean heart and move together ... we are a family and we should work together," he said.

Sk Tawfiq M Haque, director at the South Asian Institute of Policy

and Governance (SIPG), North South University, says Dhaka and Islamabad have re-established high-level communications and economic ties in less than a year, but history cannot be set aside so easily.

"For Bangladesh, the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War remains etched into its collective consciousness," he said, adding that this unresolved discord is both a visible obstacle and the defining backdrop to any future rapprochement.

Prof Haque says reimagining the future of Bangladesh-Pakistan relations requires a change in mindset on both sides. For Pakistan, it requires recognising that symbolic and meaningful gestures can build trust and goodwill.

For Bangladesh, this means acknowledging that while the past cannot be erased, the future can be shaped by pragmatic interests and mutual respect," he told The Daily Star.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain clearly said Bangladesh wants to advance the relations with Pakistan and work together on regional and global fronts, and that the unresolved issues should be settled and agreed upon accordingly.

However, Ishaq Dar's remarks are notably not aligned with such sentiments.

Altaf Parvez pointed

Hundreds blinded by bullets

FROM PAGE 1

Recounting the inflow of patients, she said that July 18 and 19 were blood soaked days.

Apart from Neela, three more witnesses testified yesterday. The ICT-1 has so far recorded testimonies of 24 witnesses in the case in which former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex IGP Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun, who has turned an approver, are also accused.

Describing the situation in the operating theatre on July 18-19, Neela said, "Over 100 patients, aged 14-25, came to the hospital, some covering one eye, others both. Metal pellets and bullets had pierced their eyes causing bleeding."

She added that many patients gave false names, phone numbers, and ID details out of fear of harassment or retaliation.

Md Edris, father of Maruf Hossain, a 12th grader killed in front of BRAC University in Badda on July 19 last year, testified that his son had left home with his maternal uncle to join a protest.

Hours later, the uncle called him to say BGB, police, and Awami League men were firing indiscriminately at protesters on Rampura bridge. Around 5:45pm, another call informed him that Maruf had been shot and was being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On the way, AL activists, police, and BGB stopped the ambulance claiming that Maruf was already dead, even though he was still groaning in pain. A police officer even

prodded his bullet wounds with a rifle. This delayed Maruf being taken to hospital by 15-20 minutes. He was declared dead within minutes of reaching the hospital, Edris said.

A video clip provided by Edris was screened at the tribunal, showing BGB officer Lt Col Redwanul Islam firing recklessly at protesters and severely wounded individuals being carried away by others.

Edris held Lt Col Redwanul, local AL activists, Hasina, ex-ministers Kamal and Obaidul Quader, former IGP Mamun, and local lawmaker Wakil Uddin responsible for his son's death.

Another witness, Amena Akter, a Noakhali Government College student who was injured during protests in Laxmipur on August 4, said when they brought out a procession, some 120-130 AL, Juba League, and Chhatra League activists opened fire.

A student, Saad Al Afsan, was hit and died instantly. The attackers then chased protesters, caught Amena and beat her severely.

In her testimony, Hasna Ara, mother of Abdur Razzak Rubel, who was killed in Cumilla's Debidwar upazila on August 4 last year, said her only son Rubel, a bus driver, was shot twice by AL supporter Salabuddin before others hacked him to death. At the time, Rubel's wife was eight months pregnant.

She said AL leader Mostafizur Rahman Sarkar offered Tk 7 lakh and two shops to dissuade her from filing a case, but she refused.

Recounting the inflow of patients, she said that July 18 and 19 were blood soaked days.

The statement further noted that the international community would maintain pressure on Myanmar at upcoming platforms, including the High-Level Conference on the Rohingya crisis in September 2025.

They said Rohingyas in Bangladesh want to return to their homes. "These conditions can only be met by addressing the root causes of their displacement, which requires a peaceful and stable Myanmar. We therefore recognise that a timeline for the return of the Rohingya cannot yet be established," the statement said.

The envoys condemned escalating violence and human rights abuses by Myanmar's military regime and other armed groups, calling for an immediate end to all acts of violence and for unrestricted humanitarian access. They also pledged continued support for the Rohingyas

and the Bangladeshi host communities in Cox's Bazar.

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LAL SALAM

The making of Bangladesh's leftist politics

A considerable body of research-based literature has been produced on the history of the Communist Party of Bangladesh. Alongside these works, autobiographies and memoirs by leading figures associated with the party provide more personal perspectives on its political journey. Adding to this body of knowledge, the recently published *Laal Salam: Bangladesh's Communist Party* stands out as a distinctive and timely contribution.

KHALILULLAH

The history of Bangladesh's leftist politics is a story of unity and division, of shared ideals splintering into competing paths. Despite drawing strength from the same ideological roots, the movement has long been defined by factionalism, shifting strategies, and contested visions for the future. For anyone seeking to understand Bangladesh's political journey—from the Partition of India in 1947 to the Liberation War of 1971—these struggles within the left provide essential context. Matiur Rahman's recent work, *Laal Salam: Bangladesh's Communist Party*, shines a light on this complex landscape, offering a rare window into the forces that shaped, divided, and defined the country's leftist politics.

The ideological roots of the left trace back to Enlightenment and revolutionary thinkers—Voltaire, Paine, Bentham, and above all Karl Marx—whose writings gave shape to the intellectual foundation of socialist and communist politics. Their ideas travelled across continents, igniting movements that challenged power and reimagined society. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 marked the moment when theory translated into power, as a communist party for the first time seized control of a state. South Asia soon felt the reverberations.

Marxism's dawn in Bengali intellect
The emergence of Marxism in Bengal was a dynamic interplay of intellectual discovery, political disillusionment, and the pressing socio-economic conditions of the time, gradually transforming into a significant intellectual and political force. It was not a sudden transplantation but rather a gradual evolution, influenced by a confluence of factors.

By the 1920s, a growing number of Bengal's revolutionaries began searching for an ideology that went beyond the limits of nationalist slogans and sporadic acts of violence. Confronted with the stark realities of colonial exploitation and entrenched social inequality, many found in Marxism a framework that spoke directly to the need for structural change. In prisons and detention

Marxist texts. Moreover, the Bengali journals of the time became crucial arenas for vigorous debates on Marxist theory, reflecting both the multiple shades of Bengal Marxism and its critics.

A key aspect of Marxism's theoretical emergence in Bengal was its strong engagement with the cultural and intellectual arena. From the mid-1930s onwards, arts and aesthetics became important for Marxists. Intellectuals debated how Marxism could be integrated into Bengali literature, art, music, and theatre to propagate socialist ideals. The "Progressive Writers' and Artists' Association" and the "Indian People's Theatre Association" were founded to spread socialist ideas through cultural mediums. Poets like Kazi Nazrul Islam were deeply impressed by communist ideals, writing about social justice and editing journals focused on workers and peasants.

While the Communist Party of India was formally founded in 1925, various communist groups were active in Bengal in the 1920s and early 1930s. These early groups, though often operating under colonial bans, laid the organisational and theoretical groundwork for the wider adoption of Marxism.

Politics in a divided land

In the aftermath of Partition in 1947, the Communist Party of Pakistan emerged as the country's first leftist political organisation. At the Communist Party of India's second congress in Calcutta in 1948, the party was formally split into two, giving rise to a separate Pakistani branch. A nine-member central committee was elected to lead it, and March 6, 1948 was officially recognised as the founding date of both the Communist Party of Pakistan and its East Bengal wing.

Initially, the Communist Party agreed to cooperate with the East Bengal government; however, this accord did not last long. Between 1948 and 1950, several peasant movements and uprisings took place under the leadership of the Communist Party of East Bengal. The Party was influenced by the ultra-revolutionary line of B.T. Ranadive, the then general secretary of the Communist Party of India. Many party activists were killed and imprisoned during these events. As party members went underground, they became largely disconnected from the general populace. Following widespread criticisms of the ultra-revolutionary line, a 1951 conference in Calcutta resolved that the Communist Party of East Bengal (later the Communist Party of East Pakistan) would operate by working with other political parties.

Over time, the Communist Party of East Pakistan underwent further divisions. The 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in 1956 marked the beginning of a schism within the international communist movement. From the early 1960s, this division spread to the Communist Party of India, which split along Soviet-China lines, and it also influenced the fragmentation of the Communist Party of East Pakistan. After Bangladesh's Liberation War, these rifts deepened, giving rise to



Adding to this body of knowledge, the recently published *Laal Salam: Bangladesh's Communist Party* stands out as a distinctive and timely contribution.

Matiur Rahman, the author, maintained a close association with the Communist Party for over three decades, beginning in the early 1960s. During this time, he played an active role in many of the party's activities and publications, eventually rising to leadership positions, including membership of the central secretariat and serving as international secretary. He also edited the

party's official mouthpiece, the weekly *Ekota*, for an extended period, and was involved with other significant publications such as the underground *Shikha*, the bi-monthly *Muktir Digantha*, the literary journal *Gonosahitya*, and during the Liberation War, *Muktijuddho*. This long engagement gave him unparalleled access to party documents and archives, much of which he helped to preserve.

Rahman notes that the publication of this book, the product of years of effort, was also a way to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to the party and its leaders. He dedicated it to two of the most prominent figures in Bangladesh's communist movement—Comrade Moni Singh and Comrade Mohammad Farhad.

The book brings to light several little-known dimensions of familiar political events. One such episode is the landmark Jukto Front (United Front) election of 1954. While this election has been discussed extensively in historical and political literature, the role of communist candidates remains only partially understood. Some communists contested under

accounts, this book attempts to clarify the record, confirming that 24 communist and leftist candidates were elected. It also makes an important distinction: the noted leftist leader Sardar Fazlul Karim entered the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan in 1955, but his election was separate from the 1954 polls and should not be conflated with them.

The book also offers valuable insights into the wide-ranging contributions of communists to the political, cultural, and social landscape of early East Pakistan.

Among the initiatives discussed is the formation of the Jubo League in 1951—distinct from the present-day organisation—which stood as the first progressive youth platform in East Pakistan. The narrative also traces communist involvement in the Language Movement, the creation of the East Pakistan Student Union, their active role in literary and cultural circles, and the establishment of the Peace Council.

Another key development in Pakistan-era politics was the formation of the Ganatantri Dal (Democratic Party). Faced with the Pakistani government's repressive policies, communists found it increasingly difficult to operate openly under their own banner. To continue their activities, they advanced their politics through this new platform. The book explores the motivations behind the Ganatantri Dal, its organisational evolution, and its eventual decline.

The communists played a central role in the formation of the Jukto Front during the 1954 elections. Yet, the victory was short-lived: arrests and detentions of communist leaders began almost immediately afterwards, and by July 1954 the party was formally banned. Here, the book underscores the decisive role of both the Pakistani state and the United States administration in suppressing communist activities, bringing to the surface aspects of these events that have received little attention in earlier accounts.

Struggle for democracy
With the imposition of martial law by Ayub Khan in 1958, Pakistan entered an era of autocratic rule. Yet, communists in East Bengal remained deeply engaged in the democratic struggle, sustaining their involvement in movements and protests throughout the following decade.

Drawing from Matiur Rahman's extensive personal archive, *Laal Salam* reconstructs this history by presenting rare documents, including the political report, programme, and proposals adopted at the Communist Party's first congress in 1968. These papers reveal a striking fact: the idea of an independent Bengal was being formally considered within the Party as early as that year.

Rahman's account is not simply archival but deeply personal. As an active participant in the student movement against martial law—launched on 1 February 1962—he occupied a unique position, simultaneously maintaining clandestine links with the Communist Party leadership while publicly working with the East

Pakistani Student Union and the broader student movement. His testimony situates East Bengal's activism within a global moment. The 1960s were a high point for student movements across the world—from Africa and the Americas to Asia and Europe—driven by opposition to war and imperialism, demands for civil rights and democracy, the rise of countercultural politics, and Cold War anxieties. Most of these currents resonated powerfully in East Pakistan, fuelling Bengali students' anger at the authoritarian regime and strengthening their yearning for democracy and independence.

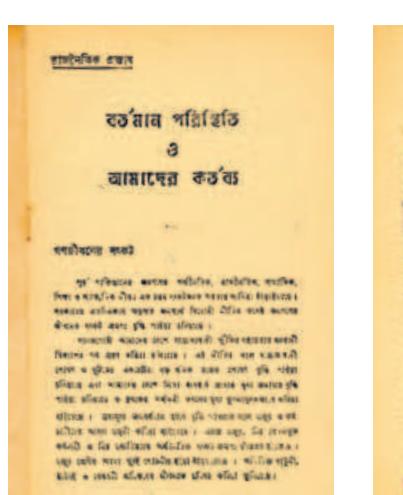
Following the Communist Party's first congress in 1968, the nation's political milieu underwent rapid transformation. The Student Union and the Student League, reaching a significant accord, resolved to augment Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's seminal Six-Point Programme into an Eleven-Point Programme. This new manifesto incorporated the demands of workers and peasants, called for the nationalisation of banks, insurance companies, and major industries, and advocated an independent, anti-imperialist foreign policy. On January 4, 1969, the Eleven-Point Programme was formally announced, sparking a mass movement across East Bengal that culminated in the historic uprising of 1969 and the eventual downfall of Ayub Khan's regime.

The years that followed, from 1969 to 1971, were marked by profound upheaval, ultimately leading to the birth of Bangladesh. During the Liberation War, the National Awami Party, the Communist Party, and the Student Union came together to form a united guerrilla front against Pakistan's military regime and its local collaborators, including the Razakars, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams. The Party also played a crucial role in mobilising international opinion in support of Bangladesh's independence. Rahman's collection preserves rare leaflets, circulars, evaluation reports, and booklets that document this struggle, while his own first-hand participation in both the 1969 uprising and the Liberation War lends authenticity and immediacy to the narrative.

The book is further enriched by historically significant appendices, including the Communist Party's 1948 leaflet on armed revolution, the US State Department's 1950 programme against communism in East Bengal, the Party's 1953 draft political programme, short profiles of communist candidates in the 1954 Jukto Front elections, lists of political prisoners released in 1955–56, and the text of Anil Mukherjee's speech representing East Pakistan at the 1969 Moscow conference of 75 communist parties.

In tracing this history, *Laal Salam* makes clear that the Communist Party of Bangladesh's early years were defined by formidable challenges and relentless repression. Its formative journey was far more complex than most existing accounts acknowledge. From the creation of Pakistan in 1947 to the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, the Party remained deeply woven into the nation's political, social, economic, and cultural struggles. Any serious account of Bangladesh's political history would be incomplete without recognising this role. By drawing on both documents and lived experience, Rahman offers not only a historical record but also a portrait of resilience, defiance, and the uncompromising determination of the Bengali Left in the face of systematic suppression.

Khalilullah is the Climate Project Manager at The Daily Prothom Alo.



Archival copies of two significant documents of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, reflecting its political vision and struggles.



Prominent leftist leaders—including Comrade Moni Singh, Mohammad Farhad, Barin Dutta, Abul Kalam Azad, Harunur Rashid Lal, Dibakar Singh Tutul, and Maulana Hossain Ali Pramanik—celebrating the birthday of Comrade Moni Singh. c.1980s.

PHOTO: RASHID TALUKDAR

camps, they came across Marxist texts that reshaped their political imagination. The triumph of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, and the bold Soviet experiment that followed, further deepened this turn, fuelling a socialist consciousness that would soon take root across Bengal's political landscape.

The efforts of Indian revolutionaries living abroad, who made early contacts with groups like Anushilan and Jugantar in Bengal, played a crucial role in introducing Marxist concepts. The 1920s saw significant efforts by Indian expatriate revolutionaries such as M. N. Roy, Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Ghulam Ambia Khan Luhani, Bhupendranath Dutt, Abani Mukherjee, and Panduraj Khanjeho. Operating from abroad, they established crucial contacts with Soviet leaders in Moscow, including Vladimir Lenin, and played a key role in integrating Marxist ideologies into the Indian political landscape. For a detailed account of these expatriate revolutionaries, see Ghulam Ambia Khan Luhani: *Ek Ojana Biplobi* by Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of the Daily Prothom Alo.

The translation of Marxist classics into Bengali, though initially slow, gradually made these ideas accessible to a wider intellectual audience. Early communist figures such as Rebati Barman were instrumental in translating and disseminating

multiple ideological streams within the country's communist movement. Amid these divisions, the Communist Party of Bangladesh is considered a leading branch.

A considerable body of research-based literature has been produced on the history of the Communist Party of Bangladesh. Alongside these works, autobiographies and memoirs by leading figures associated with the party provide more personal perspectives on its political journey.

multiple ideological streams within the country's communist movement. Amid these divisions, the Communist Party of Bangladesh is considered a leading branch.

Drawing on the 1977 report of the Bangladesh Election Commission as well as contemporary newspaper

No Emission Goals Without Sustainable Land Management

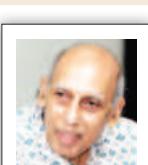
Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Landesa, along with The Daily Star, organised a roundtable discussion titled "NDC Implementation Challenges: Accelerating Mitigation & Adaptation through Sustainable Land Management", at the newspaper's office in Dhaka on July 21, 2025. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Khushi Kabir
Country Lead, Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign and Climate Action Coalition, Bangladesh; Coordinator, Nijera Kori; Chairperson, ALRD


Our conversations around climate change are often disconnected from the realities of everyday life. The goal of today's discussion is to bridge that gap, especially for those of us leading organisations that work on these issues. We also need to consider how we can more effectively engage with policymakers and enhance our contributions to the fight against climate change.

For those of us working in agriculture, it's important to recognise how our production processes contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We must remain aware of this impact and take responsibility for it. The recommendations we make locally could also have relevance on a global scale.

Shamsul Huda
Executive Director, ALRD


Carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture are a major contributor to global warming. However, we must remember that agro-based countries like ours in the Global South contribute far less to this problem than developed nations. Despite this, it is often the developed countries that make the biggest promises at international summits like COP.

However, most of these promises remain unfulfilled. It's our responsibility to hold them to account by continuing to bring forward these discussions, especially when it comes to the global fight against climate change.

Rowshan Jahan Moni
Deputy Executive Director, ALRD; Country Coordinator, Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign and Climate Action Coalition, Bangladesh


The NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) is one of the government's core commitments in the fight against climate change. It identifies five key sectors, and the most important among them is AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use).

AFOLU covers emissions from agriculture, forests, land use practices, and related policy areas. The last updated NDC was introduced 2021, last year, the goals are still not well-aligned, and the responsibilities across sectors remain unclear. AFOLU covers emissions from agriculture, forests, land use practices, and related policy areas. The last updated NDC was introduced in 2021, last year; the goals are still not well-aligned, and responsibilities across sectors remain unclear.

One of the most important steps now is to ensure that the NDC aligns with our national land management procedures, including the use of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. We also hope that civil society and sector experts can be included in policy-level consultations, so we can present concrete recommendations emerging from discussions like this one.

Dr. Dwijen Mullick
Research Fellow, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)


Climate change is a global crisis, yet marginalised and indigenous communities remain its most vulnerable victims. Although Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were



introduced to curb emissions, current pledges still project up to 3°C warming by 2100—far above the 1.5°C target. For Bangladesh, one of the most climate-exposed nations, closing this gap is urgent.

Bangladesh adopted its first NDC in 2015 and updated it in 2021, integrating mitigation and adaptation measures with stronger focus on Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and waste management. The revised NDC raises the unconditional emission reduction target to 7% by 2030, with a conditional goal of 15%. While awareness of NDC goals remains limited, implementation and financing must now be prioritised with COP30 in Brazil approaching.

AFOLU contributes roughly 25% of global emissions through deforestation and unsustainable agriculture but also holds immense mitigation potential. Land-use planning, carbon sequestration, improved soil and livestock management, and reducing food waste can all deliver progress. Waste management, particularly urban organic waste, is another challenge that can be transformed into opportunities for green jobs and women-led innovation.

Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation, recognised in COP28's Climate Solutions Roadmap, could deliver one-third of the global emission cuts required by 2030. For Bangladesh, inclusive approaches—such as community-led management of forests, wetlands, and mangroves—are essential for resilience, food security, and resource protection. Yet barriers persist: inadequate finance, weak institutions, and lack of recognition of women's and indigenous land rights in the NDC framework.

Bangladesh's Eighth Five-Year Plan aligns with global climate goals, but financing remains insufficient and poorly directed. To ensure a just transition, future NDCs must guarantee land rights, community participation, and clear implementation pathways. Sustainable land management is not only a climate strategy—it safeguards livelihoods, dignity, and a just future.

Dr. Farida Perveen
Deputy Director, Project Implementation & Evaluation, Department of Agricultural Extension

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) is the largest in Bangladesh, with over 26,000 staff—14,000 of whom are Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers working at the grassroots. This is our core strength, operating directly at union-level blocks.

Globally, 40% of all climate-related disasters occur in South Asia. Bangladesh, despite contributing only 0.56% to global greenhouse gas emissions, ranks 7th among the worst affected countries. The agriculture sector is especially vulnerable.

In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a directive to align with NDC targets—cutting chemical fertiliser

use by 50% by 2030, increasing organic fertiliser use by 35%, and raising AWD (Alternate Wetting and Drying) adoption by 20%. These shifts have significant food security implications, so practical, farmer-friendly strategies are vital.

By 2050, global rice and wheat yields are expected to decline, making adaptation critical. DAE is currently implementing 33 adaptation projects.

For mitigation, Bangladesh has launched a low-carbon rice pilot supported by ADB, with a Japanese partner developing emissions assessment methodology.

Agriculture drives GDP, food security, rural employment, and exports, yet remains highly climate-vulnerable. Adaptation practices include solar and drip irrigation, IoT-based automation, vermicomposting, and floating cultivation.

Legal frameworks exist, but sustainability requires a mindset shift. In low-lying areas, polycult systems offer temperature control. Precision agriculture—using GIS, remote sensing, and drones—helps boost efficiency and readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Dr Md. Moniruzzaman Khan
Associate Professor, Institute of Disaster and Vulnerable Studies, University of Dhaka

From a research methodology perspective, the most crucial step before starting any project is clearly defining the problem—it addresses half the challenge upfront. In sustainable land management, this means first designing an effective project management process and then developing environmentally sustainable solutions. We live in a "risk society," where many threats are human-made, yet problem-solving often remains one-dimensional, focusing narrowly on success, frequently measured by financial gain.

Take tourism as an example: when identified as a major driver of environmental degradation, it was rebranded as "eco-tourism," yet in many cases, the practices remain unchanged. Sustainability does not occur automatically; legal frameworks exist, but what is truly needed is a shift in mindset. Recent reform discussions have often lacked inclusivity, undermining their effectiveness.

Achieving real sustainability requires moving beyond individualism toward collective, inclusive solutions. Solidarity, participation, and shared responsibility are essential. Only through this collaborative approach can environmental, social, and economic goals be balanced, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience in land management and broader development initiatives.

Gazi Mohammad Suhrawardy
Development Researcher, Coordinator, Centre for Knowledge

The government and policymakers need to prioritise this issue. However, our research suggests that this is not

currently the case when it comes to AFOLU and loss and damage. One of the reasons for this may be that Bangladesh's total emissions are relatively low compared to other countries.

However, despite our smaller contribution, we remain extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. That's why our focus should be on mitigation, adaptation, and addressing loss and damage.

It is encouraging to see that the government is taking the NDC seriously. To make the process more participatory, both the government and civil society can play a crucial role. That said, implementation still needs to be treated as a top priority by the government if we want real progress.

Krishnapada Munda
Executive Director, Sundarban Adibasi Munda Sangastha (SAMS)

Sustainable solutions must prioritise inclusivity, as indigenous communities in coastal areas are affected not only by climate disasters but also by certain development projects. Proper representation of these communities is vital. Area-based agricultural production should consider salinity challenges, while secure land ownership for indigenous people remains crucial. Clear guidelines on fertiliser use are needed at the upazila level. Moreover, shrimp and crab farming must be carefully planned to prevent further environmental degradation.

Afzal Hossain
Executive Director, Rural Underprivileged & Landless Farmers Organisation (RULFAO)

Technology remains scarce at the grassroots level. That's why we need to pay more attention to indigenous knowledge and practices, many of which we are gradually losing due to unnecessary market penetration by so-called convenient options. The market itself needs better regulation.

We also need to trust the processes that our farmers have long relied on. For example, sourcing water from underground is not a sustainable option in the long run. Given Bangladesh's landscape, relying on surface water is far more viable. To do that, we must protect and restore our rivers, because saving our rivers is essential to saving the agro sector.

Ultimately, our adaptation strategies need to be culturally contextual and sensitive to local realities.

AHM Shamsul Islam
Executive Director, Speed Trust

LGED and WAPDA focus heavily on agricultural issues, but the main problem lies in the lack of coordination

among the relevant agencies. While many projects claim to be participatory on paper, there is often little real engagement or involvement with the target communities.

Greater community outreach and better coordination are crucial, alongside placing more emphasis on the opinions and needs of the communities themselves.

ANM Fazlul Hadi Sabir
Executive Director, Beneficiary's Friendship Forum (BFF)

To address grassroots challenges effectively, more detailed information is essential. Chemical fertiliser marketing remains stronger than efforts promoting organic options, while guidelines on cattle feed remain unclear. These gaps hinder progress. With better coordination among relevant agencies, results can be significantly improved, ensuring sustainable practices and stronger support for farmers at the local level.

Lipi Rahman
Executive Director, Badabon Sangho

In my experience, women's participation remains neglected at the field level. We need to prioritise their voices and opinions. Many women are even deprived of land rights, which is another critical area that requires attention. To ensure meaningful participation, we must recognise their opinions, land rights, and contributions.

Ajoy A. Mree
Executive Director, ACDF

The goals of government agencies working on agriculture often directly contradict those focused on forest conservation. Frequently, agricultural development comes at the expense of forests. Even some forest development projects contribute to deforestation. Natural forests are being destroyed in the name of social afforestation and rubber plantations, and wildlife is slowly edging towards extinction.

We need to prioritise the survival of our natural forests rather than simply pushing towards social afforestation and eco-tourism.

Mezbah Uddin Mannu
Journalist

In Kolapara upazila, about 40,000 acres of farmland have been lost to unplanned development, while climate change has turned into a daily struggle. Farmers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Align NDC with land, agriculture, and climate policies
- » Secure land rights for women and indigenous communities
- » Strengthen institutional coordination and implementation roadmap
- » Promote climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forestry
- » Ensure community participation and local knowledge integration
- » Increase access to climate finance for marginalised groups
- » Enhance transparency and representation at climate platforms

face recurring floods and crop failures due to heavy rains. Many have devised local innovations, such as using plastic bags to protect roots, with official support following later. Their resilience shows readiness to adapt if aided properly. Meanwhile, the 320 km coastal mangrove belt offers protection, but even minor disasters still cause devastating impacts.

Professor Dr Ainun Nishat
Climate Change Specialist; Advisor, C3ER, BRAC University


One of the major issues with climate conferences and related discussions is the complete lack of continuity. This is a serious concern.

We often don't send the right people with the relevant expertise to represent us or actively participate in these conversations. Civil society has an important role to play in this matter; it can and should pressure the government to take these issues more seriously.

Social forestry, as it's currently practised, goes against the very principles of true forest conservation. We keep talking about planting trees, but rarely discuss which trees should be planted or how different species contribute to carbon preservation. There's little awareness around mechanisms like LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) regulations, which are crucial for carbon accounting.

Climate change is not a distant threat. It is real, ongoing, and happening right now. Global temperatures could rise well beyond our targets if we don't act. This is not just a short-term challenge; we need to be thinking 30-40 years ahead, especially for the younger generation, who will inherit these consequences. And from a disaster management perspective, we must also ensure inclusion, especially of diverse gender identities. It's time to move beyond binaries and design truly inclusive climate responses.

Tanjim Ferdous
In-charge, NGOs and Foreign Missions, The Daily Star, and moderator of the session


As the Government updates its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) policy, setting emission targets in key sectors like agriculture and land, the absence of clear implementation pathways remains a challenge. Without grassroots participation, awareness, and equity in land management, our climate ambitions may fall short. The goal of this discussion was to shape a realistic, inclusive, and sustainable land management approach for the upcoming NDC update.

Thank you all for your valuable insights—may they guide more effective and people-centred climate action moving forward.

Emon Chowdhury

on how he bet on 'Baaji'

Kojo Na, his father shared a video with him of a Dhua Gaan troupe performing. "It was unlike anything I had ever seen—a group singing while dancing, moving from place to place with their traditional instruments. Later, I discovered that their team has been performing for more than a hundred years, passing the songs down through generations. It was astonishing that we knew so little about them."

Later, inspiration struck again when Emon's wife, who attended a



performance, witnessed a Manipuri troupe

dancing to the beat of the *dhol*. She told him about them, and when Emon saw them he couldn't believe that they were from Bangladesh. They were a dance troupe in Sreemangal who practiced the sacred art of the Pung Cholom dance form. "I was fascinated to see them dance with such beauty and power while playing the *dhol*," he recalled. Their art form, deeply religious, involves praising their deity through music and dance. "When we played the song for them, we asked if they could play without going against their rituals. They agreed, and what they brought us was extraordinary."

The journey didn't stop there. Emon and his team realised the song also needed the vibrant traditions of the Bawm community and other indigenous groups. A full troupe travelled from Bandarban to Dhaka, bringing

bamboo stick rhythms and humming parts that added another defining layer to the track. "Most of them were from the Bawm tribe, and their energy added something very raw and authentic," Emon said. Hashim Mahmud later joined them in the studio, and together with the musicians, they elevated the song further. Still, Emon felt something was missing.

That "X-factor," as he described it, came through a suggestion by Arnob. He introduced Emon to Mrakoi Ching Marma, fondly called "nani"—she was known for singing the Marma puthi. Her grandson, Kyoprou Marma, a flutist in *Coke Studio Bangla*, helped connect them. "I really requested them to bring her to Dhaka. She had never been here before. We even planned to send someone from our team to pick her up, but the shoot was just two days away. Despite that, she was determined. She wanted the whole world to hear the words of her tribe," Emon recalled.

With the help of her daughter, Kyoprou's mother, who also had never been to Dhaka, they travelled from Bandarban and finally made it. When Mrakoi Ching Marma sang her part in the studio, Emon felt that the song had finally found its soul. "It felt like *Baaji* was complete."

Baaji marks the third time he collaborated with Hashim Mahmud. "From the very beginning, I wanted Hashim bhai to be present with us on set. Even if just in a cameo, I wanted him to be part of the song. Our team wanted to honour him, to give him a tribute. It was a challenge, but he embraced it beautifully in the music video. This song is a tribute to Hashim bhai for gifting us such timeless songs."

On using his mellifluous voice, he said, "*Coke Studio* and Arnob bhai were adamant that I should take it on as lead singer. *Coke Studio Bangla* always tries to represent a generation, and Arnob bhai felt it should be me and Hashim bhai singing together. Honestly, I had other plans. I wanted other artists to sing it. However, he insisted, and in the end, I did it. To be honest, I enjoy playing instruments and composing far more than singing."

Bangladeshi short 'Happy Birthday' earns spot at Anatolia Film Festival

Bangladeshi short film *Happy Birthday*, directed by Ruslan Tareq, has been officially selected for the Anatolia International Film Festival in Turkey. The 19-minute dark comedy marks another breakthrough for the country's independent cinema.

The film has already won an Honourable Mention at the Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival 2025. Its story follows Faysal, a family man grappling with suppressed desires that blur the line between thought, imagination, and reality.

Shot entirely in Dhaka, *Happy Birthday* blends humour and unease while critiquing urban facades. Cinematography and editing are by Nazmul Hassan Shuddho, with Naeemul Haque as executive producer. Monirul Islam Tufan plays the lead role.

'Nandini' set for September release

After years of delays, director Shoirur Rahman Russell has announced that his film *Nandini*, starring Indraneil Sengupta and Nazira Ahmed Mou, will finally release in theatres on September 12. The official trailer of the film will be launching today, marking the beginning of its promotional campaign.

Originally slated for August 2023, the film's release was postponed due to the quota reform movement. The production also faced disruptions from scheduling issues and the Covid-19 pandemic. Adapted from Paritosh Barai's novel *Norok Nandini*, it features an ensemble cast including Fazlur Rahman Babu, Irfan Sajjad, Munira Yusuf Memi, Joysee Kar Jaya, and Elora Gohor.



"My long-time dream was to create a song where the whole of Bangladesh could be seen together, with people from the hills, plains, sea, and riverbanks singing and playing in unison."

PHOTOS:
COURTESY OF RAW XPOSURE

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

After a long hiatus, *Coke Studio Bangla* has finally returned, and it couldn't have chosen a more fitting comeback than *Baaji*. The release not only marks the revival of the popular platform but also reunites fans with the magical duo of Hashim Mahmud and Emon Chowdhury.

Penned and originally performed by Mahmud, *Baaji* finds new life through Chowdhury's arrangement, molding it into a fresh, soulful texture.

"My long-time dream was to create a song where the whole of Bangladesh could be seen together, with people from the hills, plains, sea, and riverbanks singing and playing in unison. In our small country, there is so much diversity that it is almost impossible to bring everyone together in one place, yet I tried to weave everyone into a single thread," shared Emon.

Baaji speaks of journeys and quietly mirrors the beauty of Bangladesh. "It's a story about love," Emon explained. "We had this plan since *Kotha Koiyo Na*. With this song, we wanted to create a sequence of moods with *Baaji*."

Sometimes, passion finds its own way forward. "When you wholeheartedly want to create something beautiful, God somehow connects you to it," Emon reflected. After *Kotha*

Kojo Na, his father shared a video with him of a Dhua Gaan troupe performing. "It was unlike anything I had ever seen—a group singing while dancing, moving from place to place with their traditional instruments. Later, I discovered that their team has been performing for more than a hundred years, passing the songs down through generations. It was astonishing that we knew so little about them."

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Bleak future for Rohingya, as Dhaka seeks to tackle crisis

AFP, Dhaka

Both Bangladesh and the UN want to provide stable conditions in Myanmar for the Rohingya to eventually return. That seems unlikely any time soon.

"I consistently hear from Rohingya refugees that they want to return to their homes in Myanmar, but only when it is safe to do so," Nicholas Koumjian, who heads the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

"Ending the violence and atrocities against civilians from all communities in Rakhine is critical for the eventual safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of those that have been displaced."

Any rally, procession or meeting must have written approval from the

Campaigning starts

FROM PAGE 6
enforcement agencies to finalise security measures.

A meeting will be held today with VP, GS, and AGS candidates at the Senate building to discuss the code of conduct, said Prof Zashim, adding that students who want their photographs undisclosed in the final voter list must apply by August 27.

Announced in March, the code of conduct sets strict rules, one of which states that campaigning is allowed only between 10:00AM and 11:00PM.

Loudspeakers cannot be used after 10:00PM, while outsiders are barred from taking part in campaigning.

Additionally, campaigning is banned in classrooms, corridors, exam halls, libraries, and religious sites. Parade bands and vehicles such as motorcycles, rickshaws or horse carriages cannot be used for campaigning.

Some inconsistencies in the ordinance. We cannot do anything about it unless an order is issued from higher authorities."

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

About the inconsistencies in the ordinance, Firoz Miah, a civil service expert and former additional secretary, said, "If such flaws and errors exist even after scrutiny by a high-level government committee, can it be called anything but incompetence?"

There is no room for haste when it comes to enactment of laws or rules, he noted.

"People who lack understanding or expertise in certain matters should not be given responsibilities in those areas. If, for any reason, a law or regulation needs to be formulated quickly, it is best to consult with relevant experts to minimise the chances of errors."

Echoing his opinion, a retired secretary said, "How could such glaring mistakes and inconsistencies remain in the ordinance even after the involvement of top officials in the process?"

Seeking anonymity, a former Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid, one of three members of the committee that oversaw the amendment process, said, "Since primary responsibility for the ordinance rests with the public administration ministry, it would be appropriate if they comment on this."

>Contacted, Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary at the public administration ministry, declined to comment.

Seeking anonymity, one of the officials involved in drafting the ordinance said, "It is true that there are

chief returning officer or hall returning officers at least 24 hours in advance. Each panel may hold one projection meeting in each hall and up to three across the campus. Events must not disrupt classes or block roads.

Microphones may be used only inside auditoriums or on campus grounds till 10:00PM. Disrupting a rival's programme is prohibited.

Only black and white posters, leaflets and handbills are allowed, and they may carry only the candidate's photograph. Posters cannot be pasted on walls, trees, poles, fences or vehicles. Defacing opponents' materials or using paint, chalk or chemicals is banned.

Candidates are not allowed to erect gates, arches or use decorative lighting. Temporary pandals, shamianas or stages are allowed but food, drinks or gifts may not be distributed. Fundraising or donations linked to campaigns are also banned. Clothing such as t-shirts, jackets or fatuas with slogans or images is forbidden.

Meanwhile, students of Jagannath Hall yesterday announced a new panel -- "Shaheed Jagat Jyoti Brigade" -- named after freedom fighter Shaheed Jagat Jyoti Das, from which Shri Madhusudan Kumar will contest for VP and Bishnu Pandit for GS.

The last DUCS election was held in 2019 after a 29 year hiatus. This year, there are 39,775 registered voters, including 20,871 males and 18,902 females.

Khamenei calls US issue 'unsolvable'

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's supreme leader said the current situation with the United States was "unsolvable", and that Tehran would never bow to pressure to obey Washington, amid a standoff with Western powers over its nuclear programme, state media reported on Sunday.

The Islamic Republic suspended nuclear negotiations with the United States after the U.S. and Israel bombed its nuclear sites during a 12 day war in June.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments come after Iran and European powers agreed on Friday to resume talks to try to restart full negotiations on curbing Tehran's nuclear enrichment work.

"They want Iran to be obedient to America. The Iranian nation will stand with all of its power against those who have such erroneous expectations," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was reported as saying.

"People who ask us not to issue slogans against the U.S. ... to have direct negotiations with the U.S. only see appearances ... This issue is unsolvable", he added.

NEWS

President appoints

FROM PAGE 16

Additional Secretary Md Saiful Islam, Joint Secretary SM Saiful Islam, and Solicitor Wing Chief Md Rafizul Islam are among the appointees.

The notification, signed by Sheikh Abu Taher, said the appointments will take effect from the date of oath-taking.

This is the first time HC judges have been appointed under the

Unite to uphold

FROM PAGE 16

chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee of Bangladesh and law minister from 1972 to 1973.

He said that those who hold constitutional office have taken an oath to uphold the constitution. If they "violate" that oath and deviate from their duties, the constitution itself is "undermined,"

constitutional governance collapses, and good governance disappears".

"What follows is what we are already witnessing: widespread corruption, the rise of destructive forces, and activities that steer the country's administration down the wrong path. This is why we are facing crisis after crisis," he said.

Revised twice, yet errors persist

FROM PAGE 16

37(Ka) in Section 34 and 36 which give employees the right to appeal and seek reviews of the authorities' decisions.

This means, a government employee punished under Section 37 (Ka) may not be able to ask for a review under the two sections.

The ordinance must be revised again, or else employees punished for misconduct will not get a proper opportunity to appeal, said a joint secretary of the public administration ministry, seeking anonymity.

The amended ordinance also introduces a provision for issuing only one show-cause notice to the accused employee before imposing punishment. Typically, such a notice asks the accused to explain why the proposed or any other applicable punishment should not be imposed.

However, if the authorities impose a punishment different from the one mentioned in the notice after receiving a reply from the accused, it would violate Article 135(2) of the constitution.

The Article clearly stipulates that no person shall be dismissed, removed, or subjected to any other punishment without being given a reasonable opportunity to show cause against the specific punishment proposed.

There is another inconsistency in the ordinance. It includes the provision already outlined in the existing

some inconsistencies in the ordinance. We cannot do anything about it unless an order is issued from higher authorities."

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Seeking anonymity, one of the officials involved in drafting the ordinance said, "It is true that there are

place, their operations have stopped, and that is why they carried out the attack." He also said preparations were underway to file a case with Gajaria Police Station.

Authorities set up the temporary police camp in Jamalpur village on August 22 in a bid to contain such criminal activities.

The OC said police suspect that the firearms used in the attack might have been among the weapons looted from the police stations in Munshiganj last

week.

Israel has barred all foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip since the start of the war in 2023. Reporting from the territory throughout the war has been produced by Palestinian journalists, many of whom have worked for many years for international media organisations, including wire services such as Reuters and the Associated Press.

Reuters and other news providers often deliver live video feeds to media outlets worldwide during major news events to show the scene from the ground in real time. Reuters had frequently broadcast a feed from Nasser hospital during the Gaza conflict, and for the past several weeks had been delivering daily feeds from the Nasser hospital position that was hit.

Israel has also separately said it is investigating the death of Issam Abdallah, a Reuters journalist killed in southern Lebanon by Israeli tank fire in October 2023 after the Gaza conflict erupted.

Israel has not announced any findings.

The Islamic Republic suspended nuclear negotiations with the United States after the U.S. and Israel bombed its nuclear sites during a 12 day war in June.

No, the 1971 issues are not resolved

Pakistan FM's comment brings doubt amid warming relations

We disagree with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's assertion that the 1971 issues stand resolved between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Speaking to journalists after a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain on the final day of his two-day visit, he claimed that the matter was settled once in 1974 and again in the early 2000s during then president Pervez Musharraf's visit to Bangladesh. The truth couldn't be further from that. We do not know where Mr Dar was getting his facts from, but history and media reporting over the years show a constant pattern of Pakistani authorities ignoring demands for an official acknowledgement and apology for the 1971 genocide, the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis or "Biharis," or Bangladesh's rightful share of pre-1971 assets. That the country's official messaging should still rely on evasion is quite painful to see, especially as the two countries embark on a new era of bilateral relations.

Even if we leave aside the need for factual corroboration, an apology for atrocities committed against a nation should be apologetic enough to convince. It shouldn't cause further consternation. That said, Mr Dar's reference to the 1974 Tripartite Agreement signed in New Delhi deserves to be read within the right context. The agreement was hailed at the time as an act of reconciliation in a sharply divided subcontinent. But it also left crucial issues unresolved. Bangladesh, under pressure from India and Pakistan, released 195 senior Pakistani officers accused of war crimes on Islamabad's assurance, albeit verbal, that they would face justice at home—an assurance that was never honoured. Moreover, Pakistan's statement condemning crimes "that may have been committed" stopped short of admitting to atrocities, creating space for denial and rehabilitation of those responsible. The agreement also didn't address the issue of sharing the assets and liabilities of pre-1971 Pakistan.

How, then, did it settle our unresolved issues? A selective reading of history may serve parochial interests at home but the fact remains that Pakistan has neither acknowledged the genocide nor apologised for it in unequivocal terms. More than five decades on, school textbooks in Pakistan still feed students with simplistic or rather distorted narratives, blaming India and international conspiracies for East Pakistan's fall while erasing our struggle and suffering. But the genocide, mass displacement, or systematic sexual violence inflicted on innocent civilians were not accidents of war but deliberate acts of annihilation. Any meaningful progress in our relations requires Pakistan to confront its past honestly, just as some other nations have done in the face of historical crimes.

That said, we welcome the efforts both countries are presently making to forge a partnership rooted in the needs of the present. Mr Dar's visit has produced agreements on various issues. Such steps are vital, but they must rest on a foundation of trust and respect. In the spirit of increasing warmth in bilateral ties and freeing itself from a historical burden, Pakistan should positively consider Bangladesh's demands for a genuine apology for the genocide and return of \$4.52 billion as the latter's share of pre-1971 assets. Only then can both be free to forge a true and lasting partnership. For us, raising the issue of genocide is not to impede the revival of this relationship but only to put it on a firmer footing.

Protect children from rape, sexual abuse

State must take effective measures to prevent these crimes

We are alarmed by the sharp rise in child rape cases across the country during the first seven months of 2025. According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), cases have surged by nearly 75 percent compared to the same period last year. During this time, 306 girls were raped, up from 175 in the same period of 2024 and even exceeding the year's total of 234 cases. Even more horrifying are the ages of the victims: 49 were toddlers aged under 6, 94 were between 7 and 12, and 103 were teenagers. In 60 cases, the ages were not specified. During these seven months, 30 boys were also raped. The whole picture is deeply disturbing, laying bare the failure of the state and society to protect our children.

Equally, child rape and abuse remain pervasive, with nearly nine out of ten rape victims in the country being children, according to another ASK report. Many incidents also go unreported due to social stigma and family pressure. Even when cases are filed, they often remain unresolved due to weak legal follow-ups, delays in investigation, and pressure from perpetrators to settle out of court. One example of the weakness in our legal system is the gruesome rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Magura. While the main perpetrator in this case was convicted, his accomplices were released. Although the Magura incident saw sheer outrage, with many taking to the streets demanding justice, we must keep in mind that such outcry is rare. The lack of public pressure could be one of the reasons why many cases do not end in conviction. Apart from rape, children also face other forms of violence, such as sexual harassment by stalkers and even by their teachers and close relatives, which highlights just how vulnerable they are to potential abuse.

To address the situation, a stronger role from law enforcement and the judiciary is essential so that offenders cannot get away with impunity or feel emboldened. It is also crucial to strengthen victim and witness protection laws to encourage reporting. Silence around male rape should also be broken through open conversations at home, in schools, and in religious spaces, with support from respected voices in society. Community-based child protection groups can be formed to help prevent abuse at the grassroots level. Equally importantly, families must teach children about personal boundaries, respect, and potential dangers. Schools, too, should incorporate safety education into the curriculum and train teachers to safeguard children effectively.

EDITORIAL

How to stay resilient when trade slows and aid shrinks



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KATUN

The global economy is entering a more fragmented and protectionist phase. Economies around the world are raising tariffs, tightening trade defence tools, and tying industrial policies to local content rules—that is, a certain percentage of domestically sourced goods must be present in production. For low-income countries, these changes coincide with shrinking aid budgets and a slowdown in global growth. This has created heightened risks for export-led development models that depend on predictable market access and concessional finance. The world of trade and development finance is becoming less reliable and more uncertain than it was even a decade ago.

What distinguishes today's protectionism is not only its scale but also its scope. The World Trade Organization (WTO) reports that by 2024, import restrictions affected \$2.94 trillion of global imports, equal to 11.8 percent of total trade, up from 9.9 percent the previous year. This shows that restrictions are accumulating without meaningful reversal. In April 2025, the WTO lowered its trade outlook, warning that new tariffs and higher trade-policy uncertainty would lead to a 0.2 percent contraction in global merchandise trade in 2025, with only a modest recovery expected the following year. These cuts to projections are unusually steep and linked explicitly to policy choices, rather than to cyclical economic weakness, showing how policy-driven trade frictions now impact global commerce.

Meanwhile, official development assistance (ODA) is also weakening. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reveals that ODA fell in 2024 for the first time in six years. Also, in 2024, donor countries spent 17.3 percent less of their aid budgets on refugee costs within their borders compared to 2023. The OECD projects that ODA to poorer countries could fall by another 9 to 17 percent in 2025. For low-income economies, this means that aid flows are shrinking precisely when trade is becoming more expensive and uncertain, while debt and climate-related pressures are intensifying.

The broader economic context does little to offset these headwinds. According to June 2025 Global Economic Prospects of the World Bank, global growth is forecasted to slow to 2.3 percent in 2025, with most economies expanding more slowly than they did last year. In parallel, the April 2025 report of the WTO indicates that reciprocal tariffs and policy uncertainty would deepen trade contraction in 2025, impacting low-income and least developed countries the most.

Advanced economies are dealing with this new environment by combining protectionist measures

with industrial promotion. Tariff shields are being paired with subsidy-heavy reindustrialisation strategies in areas such as green technology, semiconductors, and critical minerals. Emerging economies are responding in different ways. Aided by diversification and a deepening manufacturing base, Vietnam has sustained rapid export growth in 2025 despite tariff uncertainty. However, the country remains exposed to policy swings in its major markets. Thus, countries which are most able to plug into diversified value chains can still thrive even as global rules fray.

Regional integration has also

should be reoriented toward building productive capacities and moving up value chains to reduce vulnerability to sudden shocks in preferences. At the same time, investment in trade facilitation and services has become a priority. Both the WTO and the World Bank underscore the resilience of services and digitally delivered trade. By modernising ports, customs systems, and digital infrastructure, low-income countries can raise their competitiveness, attract investment, and offset some of the pressures from tariffs and shrinking aid.

Rebuilding fiscal space and development finance is equally important. With ODA stagnating and humanitarian needs growing, domestic revenue mobilisation must improve, and subsidy reforms must be carefully sequenced to protect vulnerable groups while creating space for productive public investment. The apprehension about sharp reductions in ODA to the poorest countries highlights the urgency of diversifying financing sources and improving the quality and transparency of public

However, the impact of the new tariff regime should be closely monitored and preparations made accordingly.

The government has begun preparing for these changes. Under IMF-supported programmes, Bangladesh has committed to macroeconomic stabilisation, tax and customs modernisation, and structural reforms to improve the investment climate. These reforms will lower trade costs, support diversification, and help firms meet compliance requirements in stricter markets. For the EU, Bangladesh's path after graduation depends on access to the new Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), which requires ratifying and effectively implementing a larger set of international conventions, stricter monitoring, and tougher rules of origin. Securing GSP+ is essential for Bangladesh's future competitiveness in its largest export market.

Even if Bangladesh succeeds in gaining GSP+ status, broader global shifts mean the country must still adapt. Moving up the value chain



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

emerged as an important coping strategy. In Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is seen as a mechanism to open alternative markets, deepen regional value chains, and reduce over-reliance on any single external partner. As the agreement progresses beyond pilot programmes, the speed of regulatory and trade-facilitation reforms will determine how quickly firms can take advantage of the new opportunities.

For low-income countries, navigating this growing protectionist world begins with recognising that old assumptions about trade and aid cannot longer be relied upon. Protecting and diversifying market access is crucial. Countries must maximise the use of existing trade preference schemes, negotiate improvements in rules of origin, and invest in the compliance infrastructure needed for standards, traceability, and sustainability reporting. UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2024 emphasises that in a low-growth and high-debt environment, development strategies

should increase flexibility in supply chains. Low-income countries should seek to participate in multiple regional arrangements, negotiate mutual recognition agreements to lower non-tariff costs, and help firms broaden their supplier bases. At the enterprise level, building the capacity to meet environmental and labour standards demanded by global buyers has become essential for maintaining access to key markets.

Bangladesh provides a vivid example of the challenges and opportunities in this new environment. The country is scheduled to graduate from the LDC category in November 2026, which means it will lose some of the special trade preferences it currently enjoys. Its export structure remains heavily concentrated in ready-made garments (RMG) and is dependent on the US and EU markets, leaving it highly sensitive to changes in preferences and buyer behaviour. RMG exports to the EU rose strongly in early 2025, underscoring Bangladesh's competitiveness.

is essential. This means scaling up production through technology, investing in design and branding services, and expanding into apparel-adjacent logistics and testing. These sectors are more resilient to tariff changes and can meet the growing demand for speed, traceability, and sustainability. Trade facilitation reforms must also deliver tangible results. Customs systems need full digitisation, single-window operations should be fully integrated with port systems, and clearance times must fall to levels that encourage diversification into pharmaceuticals, IT-enabled services, light engineering, and agro-processing. Diversification of export markets is another priority. Bangladesh needs to strengthen trade ties in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa to reduce dependence on the traditional markets.

In a protectionist era, preparation itself becomes a source of competitiveness, and Bangladesh must move faster to protect its hard-won gains.

How a train to Tehran is rewriting the world's map



Zakir Kibria is a Bangladeshi writer, policy analyst and entrepreneur based in Kathmandu. He can be reached at zk@krishikaij.com.

ZAKIR KIBRIA

The whistle tears across Iran's sun-cracked deserts—a freight train's war cry, hauling the future on its back. This locomotive has completed its maiden run from Xi'an to Tehran, stacked with defiance. Its arrival wasn't just a delivery; it was a geopolitical quake. The China-Iran corridor, bypassing western sea lanes, had become a steel reality. And then this year we witnessed Israeli bombs lighting up Natanz while a US ambassador whispered of Truman and nuclear fire. Coincidence? No. This was the sound of old empires panicking as a new world clawed free.

Rewind a century. British strategist

Halford Mackinder called Eurasia's landlocked core the "Heartland"—history's ultimate prize. His 1904 warning echoed: "Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island." The Trans-Siberian Railway first made maritime powers sweat. Now, China's overland artery—slashing China-to-Iran transit from 40 risky sea days to 15—fulfils Mackinder's prophecy. It's Heartland power reborn, dodging choke points like the Strait of Hormuz, where 45 percent of China's oil sails under Western guns.

For Iran, the corridor is its lifeblood. Despite US sanctions, it transports

90 percent of Iran's oil exports to China—a \$25 billion lifeline supplying 16 percent of Beijing's crude needs. Sanctions? Bypassed. Blockades? Outflanked. This isn't just trade—it is sovereignty forged through rail tracks.

Yet, the corridor's genius lies in its connection. It locks into Russia's International North-South Transport Corridor, weaving a sanctions-proof net across Eurasia. Overnight, Iran morphs from pariah to pivotal hub—bridging China to Turkey and beyond.

So why the bombs? Israel Natanz followed the train's debut. Officially, Iran "raced for a nuke." Yet US spies insisted Tehran was "years away from a weapon."

Then, atomic nostalgia: A US envoy compared Trump to Truman, who nuked Japan despite evidence it wasn't needed to win the war. The ghost of 1945 haunted 2025, signalling readiness to burn cities for dominance. As CENTCOM carriers prowled Iran's coast, China warned that "regime change" risked a global energy "nightmare."

For the non-Western world, this corridor ignites hope: energy security unchained from gunboat diplomacy, development without IMF shackles, and sanction defiance. For the West, it's extinction logic: 500 years of sea rule upended by Heartland rails, the petrodollar bleeding as China pays Iran in yuan, NATO fracturing while Ankara flirts with BRICS.

Picture the duel: A train—a steel Doctor Zhivago crawling Central Asia's steppes—embodies slow creation. Against it, the fireball over Natanz—the old order's violent spasm. Mackinder's "Great Game" reloaded: hypersonics and digital yuan replacing cavalry charges.

That whistle howling through Iran isn't noise. It's a manifesto. The Heartland stirs. Empires clutching sea power maps hear their requiem. For billions, it's the dawn of multipolar sovereignty—where trade runs on sovereign tracks, not imperial tides. Bombs bring darkness, but gaze east: light glows on the rails of a fairer world.

Banning Hasina's words risks strengthening her legacy of fear



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H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

When George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm*, he surely did not know that his allegory would fit Bangladesh so perfectly. But the story of animals who topple one master only to discover their new rulers are no different, captures our political cycles with painful clarity. The slogans change, the faces change, but the instinct for control, particularly control of speech, remains stubbornly the same.

The interim government's recent warning to the media against broadcasting or publicising Sheikh Hasina's speeches is the latest episode in this cycle. To the casual reader, it looks like an administrative step in line with court directives. But for anyone who has lived through the past decade or so, it feels like an old play staged with new actors. Before, it was Tarique Rahman whose words were deemed too dangerous for the public ear. Today it is Sheikh Hasina. The justification shifts, but the script remains unchanged.

The case for the latest prohibition may seem convincing. For over 15 years, Hasina ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist, reducing parliament to a one-party theatre, weaponising the judiciary, and turning law enforcement into her party's private militia. Her hands remain stained with the blood

of thousands of innocent citizens. By every meaningful measure, she was an autocrat. Here lies the irony of the speech ban: a leader who for years silenced critical voices by force now finds herself treated the same way.

It is poetic justice, yes. But it is also a dangerous precedent. The question here is not whether Hasina deserves to be silenced, but whether a government should resort to silencing at all. If the interim authorities want to remind the people of her sins, the way is not to ban her words but to let them flow. The more she speaks, the more her arrogance resurfaces, and the more her irrelevance is exposed. Every speech she delivers is less a threat to the nation than a reminder of the darkness she imposed.

Contrast this with the situation of Tarique Rahman, once treated as a ghost voice under the Awami League government. In 2015, the court ordered his speeches off limits because he was a "fugitive"—the same label is now used against Hasina. For nearly a decade, his voice was muted across television channels and newspapers. But this silencing only magnified his significance to his followers. The interim government must recognise this paradox. If his words could eventually return to the public domain without catastrophe, so



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

could Hasina's. Banning them only elevates her, cloaking her in forbidden importance, and worse, it casts the interim administration in the same mould as the autocrat it replaced.

The claim that Hasina's speeches amount to "hate speech" holds little water. Tyrants often reveal themselves best in their own words. Let her speak, and let the people remember the arrogance with which she dismissed student protests, the disdain with which she treated the opposition, and the authoritarian logic with which she justified enforced disappearances and mass arrests. A government that truly believes in democracy does not fear the words of an ousted

autocrat. If Hasina's era was indeed rejected by the people, her speeches will only reinforce why they chose to rise against her.

Silencing her, on the other hand, risks creating martyrdom. Already her statements are circulating on YouTube, Facebook, and WhatsApp. History also teaches us that silencing or censorship never works. Both Bangabandhu and Ziaur Rahman were subjected to attempts at political erasure at different times in our history, but they deepened their symbolic weight eventually. Far from burying their legacies, silence transformed them into larger-than-life figures. The same mistake now risks giving

Hasina a stature she does not deserve. Censorship can turn ordinary speeches into forbidden fruit, to be consumed with greater appetite. It also signals insecurity, which the interim government cannot afford to project.

Unfortunately, Bangladesh never seems to learn these lessons. Every regime inherits the tools of suppression from the last and convinces itself that they are necessary for survival. Surveillance, censorship, and repressive policies are rarely dismantled. The Awami League silenced Tarique Rahman; now the interim government silences Sheikh Hasina. Tomorrow, another regime will silence someone else. With each repetition, the principle of free speech—so vital for democracy—risks eroding further.

To break this cycle, the interim government must dare to trust the people. Let all voices—whether popular or poisonous—be heard. Citizens, too, have a big role to play in this, as they must learn to confront lies or provocations without yielding to authoritarian tendencies. The strength of a democracy lies not in silencing words but in confronting them openly, dissecting them, and defeating them with reason. Hasina's autocracy thrived because she feared dissent and muzzled it. The interim government must not follow her path, however tempting it may seem.

In the end, the choice is simple. Bangladesh can continue down the Orwellian path, where each new ruler repeats the sins of the last, and the barn wall is rewritten to justify fresh contradictions. Or it can break the cycle by allowing speeches, even by the people we don't like, to circulate freely. Our decision will determine the kind of democracy we want for ourselves.

Humanity is losing the war against an impossible predator



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from New York City, US.

FARIDUL ALAM

From Beowulf's Grendel to Camus' plague-stricken Oran, literature has long grappled with terrors that haunt humanity—monsters, contagion, invisible adversaries that test the limits of survival. Yet, no antagonist has been so enduring, so real, and yet so underestimated as the mosquito.

Even as science races to outpace the mosquito's insidious advance, a quieter failure shadows our response—not one of technology, but of imagination. Despite being the deadliest predator in human history, the mosquito remains strikingly underrepresented in both classical and modern literature. When it does appear—whether in Aesop's fable *The Lion and the Mosquito*, Virgil's *Culex*, or Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*—it is cast as a petty irritant, a moral aside, never a true antagonist. Even Thoreau, in *Walden*, admired its persistence, likening its hum to "Homer's requiem," yet still relegated it to background noise.

This absence is telling. Unlike lions or metaphysical plagues, the mosquito kills without spectacle—its victims slip away in silence, far from poetry and pageantry. That silence has enabled a deeper neglect, blinding us to a predator of mythic scale and slow, unrelenting lethality. Analogous to the warning etched on the rear-view mirror of the very transport we are driving, the mosquito's presence looms closer than we think—trailing us, gaining ground, and poised to prey.

In *The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator*, Timothy C Winegard chronicles how this tiny insect has (re)shaped human destiny—from decimating Alexander

simultaneous outbreaks of dengue, Zika, and chikungunya, while malaria re-emerged in southern Europe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) World Malaria Report, the WHO African Region recorded 246 million malaria cases and 569000 malaria deaths, in 2023 alone—most of them children under five. Meanwhile, in the United States, dengue is surging in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and parts of Florida and

drivers—climate injustice, urban poverty, and decaying public health infrastructure—remain unaddressed.

Still, humanity has not stood still. Across the globe, scientists, governments, and public health advocates have mounted increasingly innovative counteroffensives. In sub-Saharan Africa, drone-assisted larval spraying has dramatically reduced mosquito populations. In Rwanda, larval density dropped by 93.3

percent. Wolbachia-based methods, which use bacteria to block virus transmission, have cut dengue cases by over 75 percent in Indonesia and Australia.

Other tactics include the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), where irradiated males are released en masse to reduce breeding. Supported by the IAEA and FAO, SIT is being tested from Réunion Island to Valencia. China's Photon Matrix laser prototype uses LiDAR to detect and kill mosquitoes mid-air—30 per second—without harming other insects. Spatial repellents like SC Johnson's Mosquito Shield™, approved by the EPA, are proving effective in humanitarian settings.

Yet, these innovations risk becoming tools of the privileged. High costs, infrastructure demands, and patent restrictions limit their use in low-income regions. Bed nets remain the primary defence in many areas—unevenly distributed and often compromised by resistance.

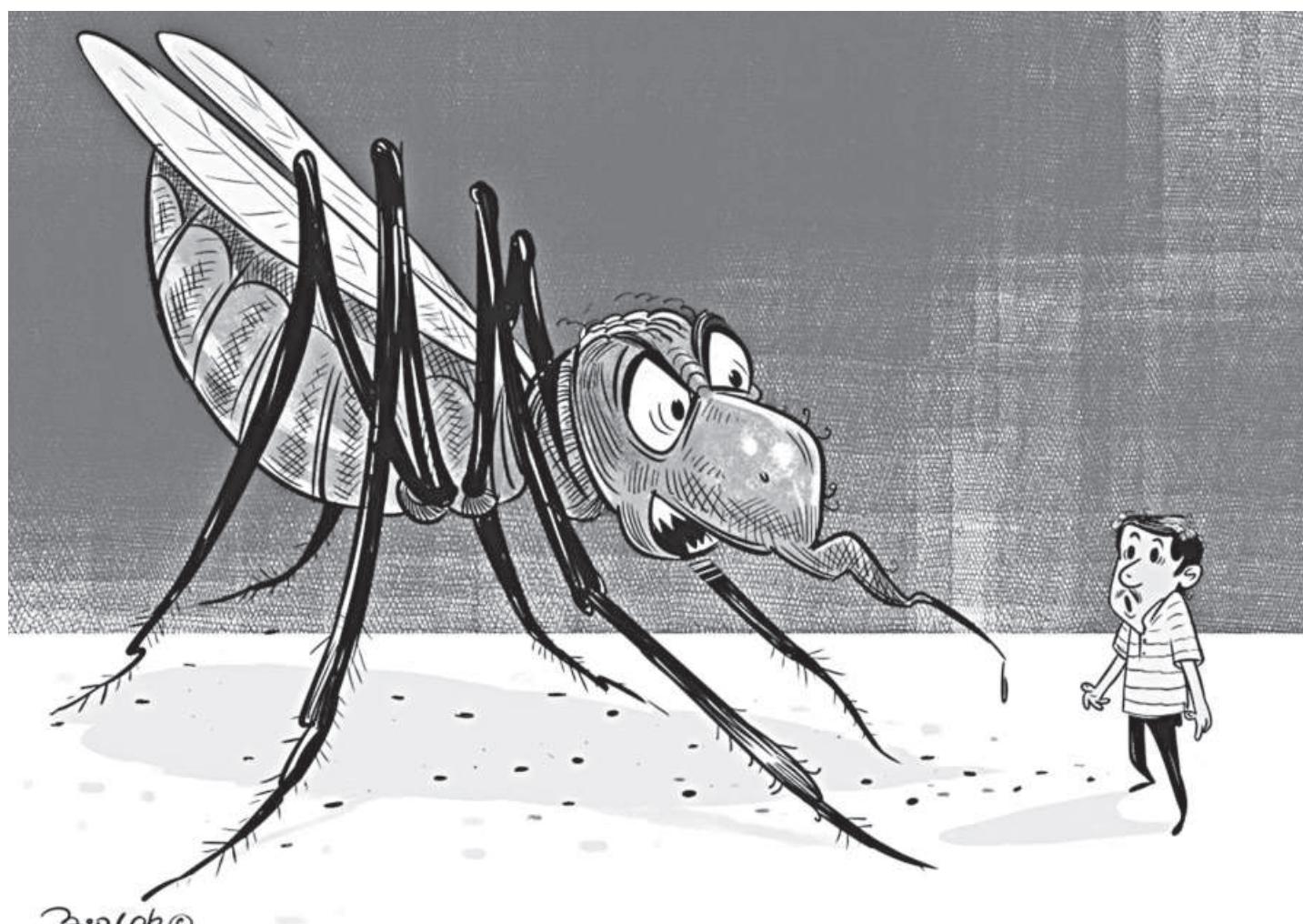
This is not just a scientific challenge. It is a political and moral reckoning. A coordinated response must integrate classical tools, such as source reduction, repellents, education, with high-tech innovations. Surveillance must inform health dashboards. Gene technologies must be ecologically reviewed, transparently governed, and locally approved.

Above all, interventions must address the inequality mosquitoes exploit—poverty, overcrowding, poor infrastructure. The mosquito adapts quickly. So must we, through inclusive innovation and sustained investment.

Winegard ends his book with a sobering truth: we may never eliminate mosquitoes. But we can alter the terms of coexistence. We must treat them not as nuisances, but as existential threats, on par with pandemics and climate change.

The hum in the dark is not just an insect's wingbeat. It is a historical echo and a future warning. If we fail to act with foresight and equity, the battle will not end in a dramatic crescendo, but in slow attrition: more childhood deaths, more failed pregnancies, more disrupted lives, and deeper global divisions. The mosquito did not merely accompany human history—it stalked it. To ignore its power is folly. To confront it requires not just scientific progress, but moral clarity and political will. In the end, humanity may not lose to a nuclear bomb or artificial superintelligence, but to an impossible predator we still underestimate: the mosquito.

In Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, dreams are undone by forces just beyond reach—misunderstood, underestimated, and ultimately lethal. The mosquito belongs to a similar register of fatal irony. It is small, almost laughable in scale, yet it kills with impunity, thriving on our negligence and inequality. As we confront this ancient adversary, we must shed our illusions—of technological supremacy, of immunity by wealth, of victory by indifference. The story of *Of Mosquitoes and Men* is not over yet. But unless we confront its protagonist with urgency, imagination, and justice, it may end as Steinbeck's tale does: with a quiet devastation we saw coming all along, but still failed to stop.



Despite being the deadliest predator in human history, the mosquito remains strikingly underrepresented in both classical and modern literature.

FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPLAB CHAKRABORTY

its power not with sound (sans buzzing) and fury, nor with a bang or a whimper, but with veritable torrents of fever and blood. And yet, in the third decade of the 21st century, it is not we who are winning the war; but the mosquito, deftly keeping us on a slippery slope, turning each step forward into one back.

Climate change, unchecked urbanisation, and growing insecticide resistance have converged to give mosquitoes a decisive edge. Diseases once in retreat, such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Zika, are resurging. The dream of eradication, fervently pursued in the mid-20th century, has faded into a tenuous and fraying truce.

In 2024, South Asia witnessed its worst dengue epidemic in history. Bangladesh and India recorded thousands of deaths as hospitals overflowed. Latin America faced

Texas. West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis are expanding, and local malaria cases have returned in Florida and Texas—the first in two decades. Bangladesh, ground zero for the 2024 dengue crisis, offers a stark preview of what happens when mosquito prowess meets state paralysis: hospitals overflow, science lags, and death becomes routine.

The mosquito thrives on inequality. It does not discriminate in whom it bites, but it kills disproportionately—affecting the poor, the displaced, and those without access to clean water, sanitation, or healthcare. Winegard captures this paradox: mosquitoes are democratic biters but undemocratic killers. And yet, the world's attention remains fleeting. Funding for mosquito-borne disease prevention spikes during crises and vanishes in the aftermath. The structural

percent, while malaria incidence also declined significantly. Ghana and Sierra Leone are testing AI-enabled drones that identify breeding sites and deliver larvicides with precision.

Asia is scaling smart surveillance systems. Singapore's Dragonfly robot scans traps and uses deep learning to identify species with 82 percent accuracy in real-time. India's Smart Mosquito Surveillance System (SMoSS) relays mosquito density data to municipal teams for intervention. Microsoft's project Premonition combines robotic traps, drones, and DNA sequencing to detect mosquito-borne pathogens.

Genetic strategies have opened new fronts. In Brazil, genetically modified Aedes aegypti males are released to mate with wild females, producing non-viable offspring and suppressing local populations by up to 96

percent. The Great's army to undermining colonial forces in the American South, influencing the outcomes of wars and the rise and fall of empires. Winegard estimates that mosquitoes have been responsible for the deaths of some 52 billion people, nearly half of all humans who have ever lived. This insect has stalked humanity across time and space, asserting

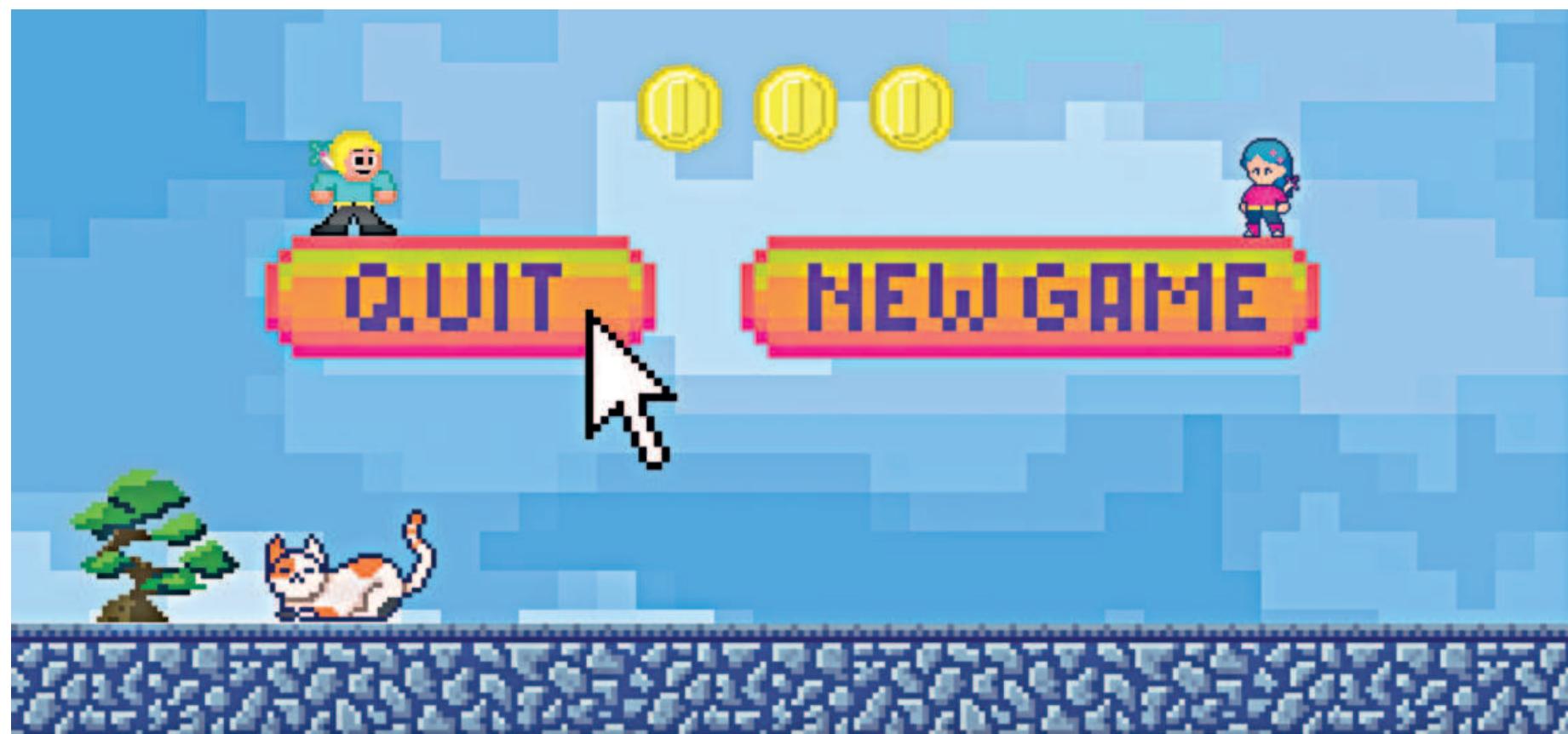


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

The art of STRATEGIC QUITTING

One common reason for quitting early is realising that the job you signed up for is not the one you were promised. This can happen when the role changes after you accept it, or when the culture turns out to be very different from what was described.

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Most of us grew up hearing the same bit of career wisdom: never leave a job before you have been there a full year, or employers will think you are unreliable. It is advice that made sense in a slower world where careers were built on long service and steady progression. But work has changed. Jobs move faster, industries transform in months, and the skills that matter today may not be the ones you need tomorrow. In this environment, sometimes the wisest move you can make is not to stay, but to leave early.

Quitting quickly is often confused with giving up. In reality, there is a difference between walking away out of frustration and leaving because the role is pulling you in the wrong direction. Strategic quitting is the art of stepping away with purpose, timing, and a plan. It is about recognising when the cost of staying outweighs the benefits, and making the decision before that cost becomes too high.

One common reason for quitting early is realising that the job you signed up for is not the one you were promised. This can happen when the role changes after you accept it, or when the culture turns out to be very different from what was described. Another is discovering that the workplace is toxic. Poor management, unfair treatment, or relentless overwork can wear you down more quickly than you expect. As Coursera noted in a 2025

article, "If you feel less motivated to go to work every day or be productive once you arrive, it could be time to move on." Sometimes you know within weeks that the situation will not improve, and staying will do more harm than good.

It is also possible to outgrow a role almost immediately. You might join with high expectations, only to find there is little to learn or no clear path forward. In other cases, the warning signs are about the company itself. If you see evidence of financial instability, confused leadership, or a lack of direction, staying too long could tie your name to a sinking ship. A 2025 article on job platform Indeed explains, "When you are passionate about your work, it creates a greater sense of purpose and fulfillment... Without this, work can feel monotonous and more like a job than a career." If your role does not excite or inspire you, moving on could be the healthier choice.

This raises the question: when is the ideal time to quit? If you can, reaching the one-year mark in a job still carries weight. It gives you enough time to learn the role, contribute meaningfully, and show future employers that you can commit. Too many short stints on a CV can make hiring managers wonder whether you will stay long enough to make your next role worth the investment. If you do need to leave sooner, you will have to explain it clearly and convincingly in interviews. Remember, the shorter your tenure, the stronger your reasons

should be. And whenever you do decide to leave, the University of Southern California advises in a 2024 article that "at least two weeks' notice is ideal, giving time for you to transfer your knowledge and for your employer to find a replacement if needed."

With all that being said, leaving quickly is only part of the equation. The other part is how you explain it. Employers want to know why you left and what you did next. The best way to answer such questions is with clarity and confidence. Show that you have moved towards something, not simply away from a bad situation. Even a short stint can provide lessons or skills you can carry forward, and these should be part of your story. Avoid speaking bitterly about your old job. A calm, thoughtful explanation will serve you far better.

Strategic quitting does not mean avoiding hard work or running from every bad day. Every career involves challenges. The real skill lies in recognising when those challenges are helping you grow and when they are holding you back. Keep in mind that leaving early should never be an impulsive reaction. It should be a deliberate choice that moves you towards a better opportunity, a healthier environment, or a role that fits your ambitions.

Sometimes quitting is not the end of a chapter at all. Done well, it is the start of a far better one.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

British High Commission

Head of IT & TWG,
Technical Works Group



Deadline: August 28

Eligibility:

Relevant or similar experience required, with proven experience in managing large teams.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Education Project Manager



Deadline: September 1

Eligibility:

Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Philosophy in Education (M.Phil.), Master's in Education and Research (IER), or a Master's degree in Social Science, Disaster Management, or another relevant field.

Minimum experience: 4 years

Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Protection Coordinator



Deadline: August 30

Eligibility:

University or graduate degree in Social Sciences, Development Studies, International Relations, Psychology, Social Work, or other relevant fields.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Bangladesh

Coordinator, Grant Management



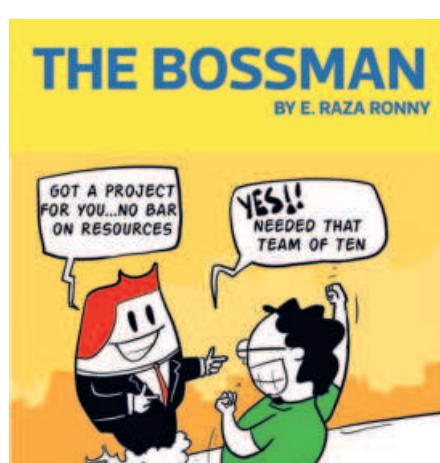
Deadline: August 31

Eligibility:

Master's degree in Accounting/Finance, administrative, or relevant fields.

Minimum experience: 5 years

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



US adults fear AI could steal jobs, Reuters poll shows

NEXT STEP DESK

US adults see AI as more of a threat than a promise, with fears ranging from losing jobs to political turmoil, according to a new poll by Reuters and global market research firm Ipsos.

The survey, conducted over six days, found that 71% of respondents believe AI could permanently wipe out too many jobs. The concern lingers even as the US unemployment rate holds steady at 4.2% in July, states a Reuters report on the findings.

AI's growing presence in daily life adds to the

unease. As per Reuters, critics point to bots giving false medical advice, chatting romantically with children, or promoting racist ideas. Two-thirds of those surveyed feared people might even swap human relationships for AI companions.

Opinions on education were more mixed: 36% said AI could improve learning, 40% disagreed, and the rest were undecided. The poll gathered responses from 4,446 US adults and has a margin of error of about 2% points, states the Reuters report on the poll results.



Gen Z's guide to planning: five apps that actually work

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Staying organised in today's fast-paced world is less about having the perfect memory and more about using the right tools. Effective planning is not about squeezing more into your day but making your day work for you. Whether you are a student juggling classes and part-time jobs, or a young professional navigating hybrid workdays, effective planning tools can make all the difference. So, here are five apps that can help you plan, prioritise, and stay on top of your day.

Google Calendar

Google Calendar remains one of the most widely used scheduling tools and for good reason. It offers seamless integration with Gmail, Google Meet, and other productivity apps, making it an ideal choice for students and professionals alike. You can easily schedule events, set reminders, and create multiple calendars for different aspects of your life, such as work, academics, or personal time. The color-coding feature helps visually distinguish between various commitments, while the 'Day' and 'Week' views provide a clear snapshot of your time. You can also invite others to events or meetings, making collaboration straightforward. For those managing hybrid schedules or trying to balance classes and internships, Google Calendar offers real-time syncing across devices. It may not be flashy, but it is reliable, accessible, and efficient.

Notion

Notion is less of a planning tool and more like a customisable digital workspace. For Gen-Z users who want flexibility without switching between multiple platforms, it brings everything under one roof. You can create to do lists, manage projects with boards, track daily habits, and even take class notes – all in one interface. Its templates are particularly useful for planning your

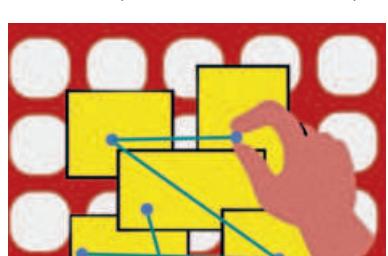


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

week, organising a syllabus, or even designing a job application tracker. The drag-and-drop system is intuitive, and the minimalist layout reduces clutter while keeping everything accessible. While Notion does have a learning curve, once you set up your system, it can become your digital brain and a central place to store plans, goals, and notes. However, it is specifically helpful for those who like blending structure with creativity in how they manage their time.

Todoist

If your main concern is organising daily tasks without distractions, Todoist is a standout choice. It offers

a streamlined interface that lets you focus on what needs to get done, when. Tasks can be organised by priority, deadline, or project, and you can assign recurring tasks, like study blocks or gym sessions. One of the platform's strengths is its natural language processing. You can type "submit report by Friday at 3 pm" and Todoist will automatically schedule it correctly. Its productivity score and streaks feature can also be a subtle motivator to stay on track. With integration options across platforms like Google Calendar, Slack, and Outlook, Todoist plays well with other tools. So, whether you are managing personal goals or academic deadlines, Todoist helps you track progress while keeping the interface clean and focused.

Trello

Trello is ideal for visual thinkers who prefer to plan through drag-and-drop boards. Based on the kanban system, it uses columns and cards to break down tasks and ideas. Whether you are planning a group project, launching a small business, or simply structuring your week, Trello gives you a bird's eye view of everything in motion. Each card can contain checklists, due dates, attachments, and comments, making it easy to manage even complex tasks with several moving parts. Trello also allows collaboration, so team planning or shared goals are easy to manage. Its visual design appeals to those who want a clear sense of progress without relying solely on lists. You can also integrate

external tools to extend functionality. Hence, if you need a tool that balances structure and flexibility, this is worth exploring.

Apple Reminders/Google Tasks

Sometimes simplicity is key. For those who do not want to manage another app but still need a reliable tool to remember their daily commitments, the default reminder apps are often underrated. These tools allow you to create quick to do lists, set reminders with time and location, and integrate tasks with your existing calendars. The clean interface minimises distractions. Apple Reminders now supports subtasks and tags, making it more versatile than before, while Google Tasks automatically syncs with Gmail and Google Calendar. If you just need a simple, effective way to keep track of groceries, assignments, or calls to make, without spending time customising, these apps offer functionality with zero learning curve. They are especially useful for light task tracking, and you are already one tap away from using focused.

Ultimately, the right app depends on your habits, workload, and the kind of structure you prefer. Whether you like visual boards, detailed lists, or all-in-one dashboards, these tools can help you stay organised, consistent, and clear-headed. Start with one platform that feels intuitive and commit to using it for a few weeks. With time, planning will feel less like a chore and more like a habit that gives you control over your time.

Coinbase CEO fires engineers who resisted AI tools

NEXT STEP DESK

Brian Armstrong, CEO of US-based cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase, recently revealed that he fired software engineers who refused to adopt AI tools following a company-wide mandate.

Speaking on a podcast this week, Armstrong said he had ordered all engineers to begin using AI coding platforms such as Cursor and Copilot by the end of the workweek earlier this year. Employees who did not meet the deadline were told to attend a Saturday meeting with him to explain why.

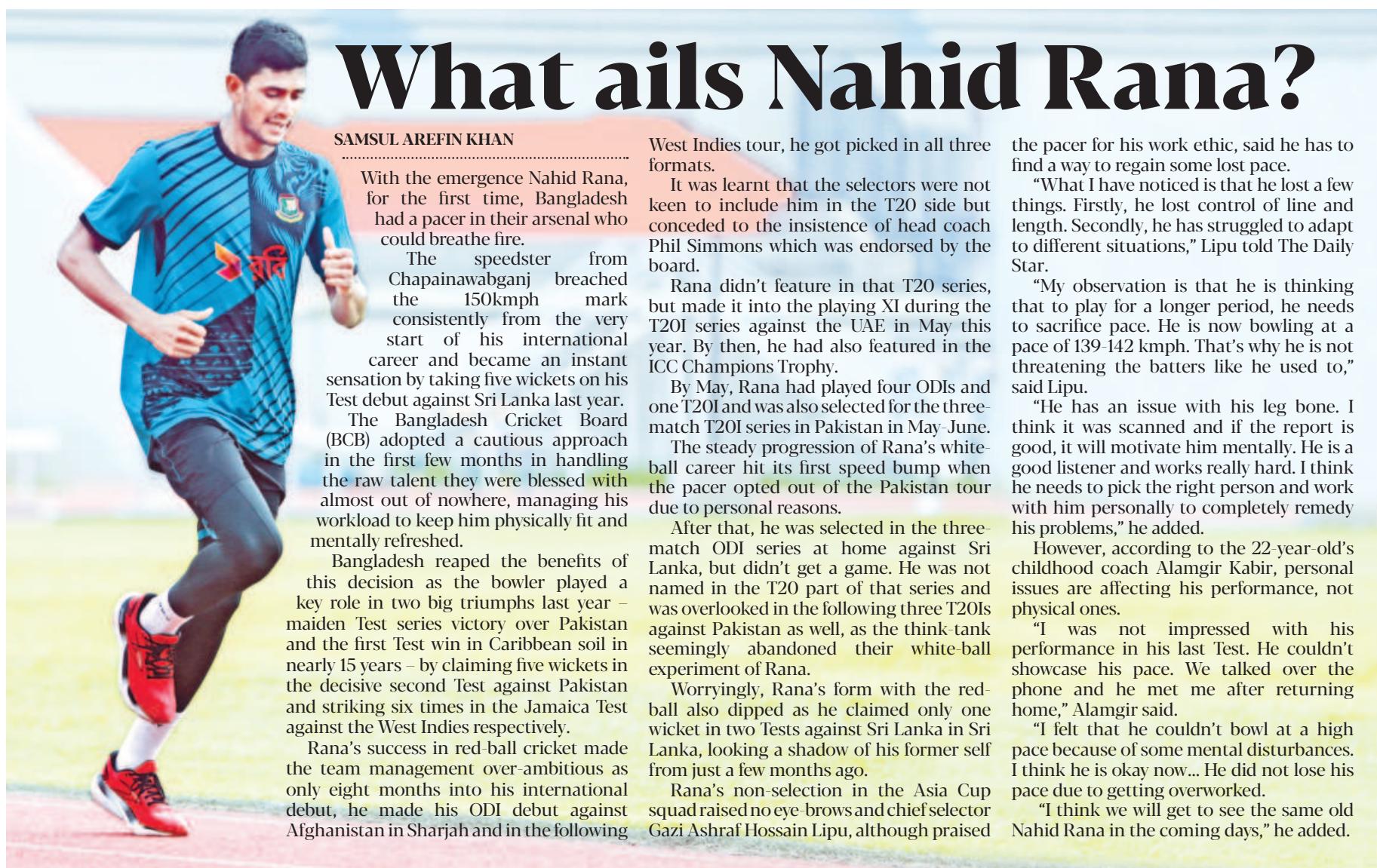
The directive is part of Coinbase's wider push to integrate AI across its operations. Armstrong said 33% of the company's new code is currently generated with AI, with a target of 50% by the end of September. He acknowledged limits to AI use in sensitive areas such as financial systems, but described his approach as "heavy-handed" but necessary to make clear the company's priorities.

Coinbase, currently valued at around \$77 billion, employs around 4,200 people according to its official website. However, following the recent announcement, the company has not disclosed exactly how many employees were dismissed.



WARREN BUFFETT

IMAGE: REUTERS



What ails Nahid Rana?

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

With the emergence Nahid Rana, for the first time, Bangladesh had a pacer in their arsenal who could breathe fire. The speedster from Chapainawabganj breached the 150kmph mark consistently from the very start of his international career and became an instant sensation by taking five wickets on his Test debut against Sri Lanka last year.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) adopted a cautious approach in the first few months in handling the raw talent they were blessed with almost out of nowhere, managing his workload to keep him physically fit and mentally refreshed.

Bangladesh reaped the benefits of this decision as the bowler played a key role in two big triumphs last year – maiden Test series victory over Pakistan and the first Test win in Caribbean soil in nearly 15 years – by claiming five wickets in the decisive second Test against Pakistan and striking six times in the Jamaica Test against the West Indies respectively.

Rana's success in red-ball cricket made the team management over-ambitious as only eight months into his international debut, he made his ODI debut against Afghanistan in Sharjah and in the following

West Indies tour, he got picked in all three formats.

It was learnt that the selectors were not keen to include him in the T20 side but conceded to the insistence of head coach Phil Simmons which was endorsed by the board.

Rana didn't feature in that T20 series, but made it into the playing XI during the T20I series against the UAE in May this year. By then, he had also featured in the ICC Champions Trophy.

By May, Rana had played four ODIs and one T20I and was also selected for the three-match T20I series in Pakistan in May-June.

The steady progression of Rana's white-ball career hit its first speed bump when the pacer opted out of the Pakistan tour due to personal reasons.

After that, he was selected in the three-match ODI series at home against Sri Lanka, but didn't get a game. He was not named in the T20 part of that series and was overlooked in the following three T20Is against Pakistan as well, as the think-tank seemingly abandoned their white-ball experiment of Rana.

Worryingly, Rana's form with the red-ball also dipped as he claimed only one wicket in two Tests against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka, looking a shadow of his former self from just a few months ago.

Rana's non-selection in the Asia Cup squad raised no eye-brows and chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, although praised

the pacer for his work ethic, said he has to find a way to regain some lost pace.

"What I have noticed is that he lost a few things. Firstly, he lost control of line and length. Secondly, he has struggled to adapt to different situations," Lipu told The Daily Star.

"My observation is that he is thinking that to play for a longer period, he needs to sacrifice pace. He is now bowling at a pace of 139-142 kmph. That's why he is not threatening the batters like he used to," said Lipu.

"He has an issue with his leg bone. I think it was scanned and if the report is good, it will motivate him mentally. He is a good listener and works really hard. I think he needs to pick the right person and work with him personally to completely remedy his problems," he added.

However, according to the 22-year-old's childhood coach Alamgir Kabir, personal issues are affecting his performance, not physical ones.

"I was not impressed with his performance in his last Test. He couldn't showcase his pace. We talked over the phone and he met me after returning home," Alamgir said.

"I think that he couldn't bowl at a high pace because of some mental disturbances. I think he is okay now... He did not lose his pace due to getting overworked."

"I think we will get to see the same old Nahid Rana in the coming days," he added.

Fixing in DPL: ACU wants Minhazul banned

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) has recommended a minimum five-year ban on Shinepukur Cricket Club's wicketkeeper-batter Minhazul Abedin Sabbir after he was found guilty of corrupt conduct during his side's Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match earlier this year.

According to a 10-page investigation report seen by The Daily Star, which was presented to the board president Aminul Islam Bulbul yesterday by the ACU after a detailed four-and-a-half-month investigation, the 27-year-old was found guilty of breaching BCB Anti-Corruption Code Article 2.1.1 (Corruption – Match Fixing), BCB Code Article 2.4.2 (Failure to Disclose Approaches) and ICC Code Article 2.4.7 / BCB equivalent (Obstructing an Investigation).

"The evidence conclusively shows he engaged in behaviour that compromised the integrity of the match," the ACU stated in their investigation report.

"Given the evidence... a minimum five-year ban from all cricket is recommended," added the investigation report which, however, contains no evidence of involvement by team management or officials in the wrongdoing.

On April 9, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Sabbir displayed suspicious behaviour with Shinepukur needing only a few runs to win against Gulshan Cricket Club. In the 44th over, he stepped out to a wide delivery, missed the ball, and failed to ground his bat despite ample time, resulting in an easy stumping that sealed a five-run defeat. This unnatural dismissal, at a crucial stage, immediately raised suspicions of deliberate underperformance.

The BCB issued a statement reaffirming its zero-tolerance stance on corruption and launched an immediate investigation. Sabbir, along with others, was summoned by the ACU the following day.

ANSAR REIGN SUPREME IN WOMEN'S HANDBALL



Bangladesh Ansar's Alpona Akter soars mid-air to fire off a shot in the 36th National Handball Championship final at Shaheed Monsur Ali Stadium yesterday. Ansar stormed past Bangladesh Police 35-29 to bag their 24th national title. Police, however, salvaged some pride as Rubina Islam clinched the tournament's Best Player award.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Govt, BFF push for grassroots football 'revival'

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Football Championship, jointly organised by the Youth and Sports Ministry and the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will return this month after a four-year break, featuring all 64 districts across the country.

Held under the banner of the government's Festival of Youth, the tournament will follow a home-and-away format, though concerns remain over the availability of some district stadiums being used as temporary army camps.

The competition will kick off on August 30 with Munshiganj facing Madaripur, while matches at other venues will get underway in mid-September. The final is scheduled for November 24 or 25 at the National Stadium, where AFC president Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa is expected as chief guest.

The 64 districts, divided into eight zones and named after the July Uprising martyrs, will feature in two-legged ties. Winners will advance to the round of 32, also contested



on aggregate, before reaching the round of 16 -- from which point the competition will shift to a direct knockout format.

"This championship is an initiative to revive sports at the district level," Youth and Sports Ministry secretary Mahbub Ul-Alam said at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

He added that the National Sports Council has allocated Tk 5 crore to the BFF, while the ministry will provide another Tk 5 crore to support district participation.

District Football Associations (DFAs) have struggled for years to hold

local leagues due to financial constraints, limiting the pipeline of emerging players. While some districts have benefited from recent upazila level tournaments, others face difficulties either in assembling teams or in securing suitable grounds.

"A football tournament just concluded at an upazila, and we picked our players from there to start training a couple of days ago. Our district stadium is fine, but places

like Kurigram and Lalmonirhat may need alternative venues due to army camps at their stadiums," Rangpur DFA president Shamim Khan Miskin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Faridpur DFA general secretary and former footballer Abul Kashem added, "We are preparing Rajendrapur College's ground for our home match because the Faridpur Stadium is occupied by the army. We managed to form a squad, but training has been difficult due to the poor condition of the ground."

Committee chairman and BFF vice-president Wahid Uddin Ahmed informed the estimated cost for three ongoing tournaments -- the National Football Championship, the JFA U-14 Women's Tournament, and the BFF U-17 Tournament -- is Tk 18 crore. Of this, Tk 10 crore comes from government funds, while the BFF expects to raise another Tk 8 crore. He could not, however, specify how much financial aid would be allocated to each district.

Meanwhile, the Youth and Sports secretary confirmed that the government has earmarked Tk 20 crore for the Festival of Youth, with Tk 10 crore set aside for football and the remainder distributed to districts and upazilas to host events nationwide.

Shakib's in a league of his own

Records tend to follow Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan whenever he takes the field. The 38-year-old has often elevated himself into distinguished company, and on Sunday, he added another accolade to his career, becoming the first cricketer to complete the double of 7500 runs and 500 wickets in T20 cricket, while playing for Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their Caribbean Premier League.

Shakib entered the game one wicket shy of 500 and dismissed Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to join the exclusive 500-wicket club, finishing with 3-11 to take his career tally to 502.

Before him, only Rashid Khan (660), Dwayne Bravo (631), Sunil Narine (590) and Imran Tahir (554) had reached 500 wickets, but none combined it with 7000 runs. Shakib's 7574 runs make him the only cricketer with this double.

Bravo came closest with 6970 runs and 631 wickets, while Andre Russell is inching toward the feat at 9361 runs and 487 wickets.

Shakib's all-round show restricted St Kitts and Nevis Patriots to 133-9 before Antigua chased it down in 19.4 overs. He contributed 25 off 18 balls, featuring two sixes and a four, with the bat.

The performance earned him his 44th Player of the Match award in T20s, the joint-fifth with Russell on the all-time list.

He also became the first left-arm bowler to take 500 T20 wickets.



Medvedev exits US Open with chaotic flourish

REUTERS, New York

The opening day of the US Open descended into chaos late on Sunday when Daniil Medvedev launched a tirade at the match umpire and fans disrupted his opponent's service game.

New York's famously rowdy fans caused a six-minute delay by refusing to stop jeering and boozing midway through Medvedev's 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(5), 0-6, 6-4 defeat by Benjamin Bonzi on Louis Armstrong Stadium.

The controversy began when a photographer entered the court prematurely after Bonzi missed his first serve on match point at 5-4 in the third set, prompting chair umpire Greg Allensworth to award the Frenchman another first serve for the disturbance.

An incensed Medvedev exploded at the official and whipped up the crowd, preventing a rattled Bonzi from serving.

Medvedev, the 2021 champion at Flushing Meadows, fought off the match point and took the set in a tie break before bageling Bonzi in the fourth to set up a decider.

It was not to be his day, however, as Bonzi composed himself to secure a dramatic win.





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THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025



Suspected robbers attack police camp on the Meghna Over 100 shots fired at law enforcers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Suspected robbers launched an assault on a newly established police camp in Munshiganj's Gajaria upazila yesterday, sparking a gunfight between them and law enforcers yesterday.

The attack was carried out around 5:00pm in Jamalpur village under Guagachia union, just three days after the police outpost was established to rein in robberies and sand lifting in the area.

Gajaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Anwar Alam Azad said 50-60 robbers, armed with firearms and crude bombs, came to the police camp on 5-6 trawlers.

"They fired more than 100 shots and exploded multiple crude bombs. In retaliation, police fired 24 bullets. Later, the robbers took off towards Chandpur on the trawlers," the OC said, adding that no police personnel

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Mourners carry the body of one of five journalists killed in an Israeli strike on Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, during their funeral on August 25, 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

Unite to uphold the constitution's basic principles

Says Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum Emeritus President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged everyone to stay united in upholding the constitution's basic principles.

"We may have differing opinions on various matters, but we should remain united in our commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of the constitution," said Kamal, one of the framers of the constitution.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on judicial independence and reforms, organised by the Gonoantrik Ainjibi Samity at the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association.

"Whenever someone deviates from it, we can collectively intervene to stop it and take corrective action," he said, adding, "I believe that by doing so, we will uphold constitutional governance and ensure that everyone can enjoy their rightful freedom."

Kamal noted that lawyers remain divided over many provisions of the constitution, which hinder its full and effective implementation.

"This is the root cause of the cultural and systemic crisis in our governance. By disregarding the fundamental principles, we are attempting to govern the country, something that is simply not possible."

He urged everyone to identify which provisions of the constitution are not being upheld.

"Those responsible for implementing them must be held accountable, and if they fail to do so, they should be removed from their positions," said Kamal, who was the



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President appoints 25 new HC judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday appointed 25 new judges to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, raising the number of HC judges to 113.

The appointments, made under Article 98 of the constitution in consultation with Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, were confirmed in a law ministry notification. The new judges will serve a 2-year term from the date they take their oaths.

The list of appointees includes senior judges of the lower judiciary, deputy attorneys general, and practising advocates of the Supreme Court.

Among them are Chattogram District and Sessions Judge Md Nurul Islam; Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Jakir Hossain; Supreme Court Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan; and Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission Secretary Murad A Mowla Sohel.

Several prominent lawyers were also elevated, including advocates Md Arowarul Islam, Shaheen, Razuddin Ahmed, Faysal Hasan Arif, Fatema Anwar, Abdur Rahman, Syed Hasan Zobair, Md Ashif Hassan, Md Ziaul Haque, and Urmee Rahman.

From the Attorney General's office, Deputy Attorneys General Dihider Masum Kabir, Md Monjur Alam, Md Lutfor Rahman, Rezaul Karim, Mahmud Hasan, AFM Saiful Karim, and SM Iftekhar Uddin Mahamud have been named.

Habiganj District and Sessions Judge Jesmin Ara Begum is the only female judge from the subordinate judiciary to be appointed as an HC justice.

Law and Justice Division Secretary Sheikh Abu Taher,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

REUTERS

Israel struck Nasser hospital in the south of the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least 20 people, including five journalists who worked for Reuters, the Associated Press, Al Jazeera and others.

Cameraman Hussam al-Masri, a Reuters contractor, was killed near a live broadcasting position operated by Reuters on an upper floor just below the roof of the hospital in Khan Younis in an initial strike, according to Palestinian health officials.

Officials at the hospital and witnesses said Israel then struck the site a second time, killing other journalists, as well as rescue workers and medics, who had rushed to the scene to help.

The journalists killed included Mariam Abu Daga, who freelanced for the Associated Press and other outlets, Mohammed Salama, who worked for Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera, Moaz Abu Taha, a freelance journalist who worked with several news organisations, including occasionally contributing to Reuters, and Ahmed Abu Aziz.

Photographer Hatem Khaled, also a Reuters contractor, was wounded.

Israel's military, the Israel Defense Forces, acknowledged striking the area of Nasser hospital and said the chief of the general

staff had ordered an inquiry.

The IDF "regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such. The IDF acts to mitigate harm to uninvolved individuals as much as possible while maintaining the safety of IDF troops," it said.

At least 20 people killed after Nasser hospital struck

Al Jazeera, Reuters, AP mourn loss of contributors

Israel acknowledges striking area, orders inquiry

Over 240 journalists killed by Israeli fire in Gaza

A Reuters spokesperson said in a statement: "We are devastated to learn that cameraman Hussam al-Masri, a contractor for Reuters, was killed this morning in Israeli strikes on Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in Gaza. Moaz Abu Taha, a freelance journalist whose work had been occasionally published by Reuters, was also killed, and

photographer Hatem Khaled, a

Reuters contractor, was wounded." "We are urgently seeking more information and have asked authorities in Gaza and Israel to help us get urgent medical assistance for Hatem," the spokesperson added.

The AP said it was "shocked and saddened" to learn of the deaths of Abu Daga and other journalists, adding that Abu Daga had often based herself at the hospital for coverage, which recently included stories on starving and malnourished children.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate condemned Israel for the strikes, saying it represented "an open war against free media, with the aim of terrorising journalists and preventing them from fulfilling their professional duty of exposing its crimes to the world".

More than 240 Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since the war started on October 7, 2023, according to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.

Two weeks ago, Israel killed prominent Al Jazeera correspondent Anas Al Sharif and four other journalists in a strike. In that attack, Israel acknowledged targeting Sharif and said that he worked for the Hamas militant group, which the broadcaster denied.

Witnesses said Monday's second strike took place after rescue workers, journalists and others had rushed to

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Two women, one of whom is carrying a baby, are forced to leap over the central divider of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway after an intercity bus dropped them off on the express lane, where stopping is strictly prohibited. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the Institute of Child and Mother Health in Dhaka's Matuail.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DUCSU POLLS

Campaigning starts under strict code of conduct

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) and hall union elections are set to begin campaigning today under a strict code of conduct to ensure discipline.

Campaigning will continue till September 7 midnight, while voting is scheduled for September 9 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Counting and results will follow the same day.

Meanwhile, 21 candidates pulled out of the race yesterday, the last day for nomination withdrawal, Chief Returning Officer Prof Mohammad Zashim Uddin said. "Candidates can now begin campaigning in accordance with the set rules. If any irregularity or discrimination occurs, written complaints can be filed and action will be taken."

He said no major violations have occurred yet, adding that his team is working to ensure that none do.

Returning Officer Professor Golam Rabban said students will be allowed to cast their votes at polling centers by showing their hall cards, university ID cards, library cards, or paid fee slips.

This year, 565 nomination forms were collected for 28 central posts, while 1,226 were submitted for 18 hall unions.

On Sunday, the university held a meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, with law

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

PUBLIC SERVICE ORDINANCE 2025 Revised twice, yet errors persist

BAHARAM KHAN

Even after two rounds of revisions, "Public Service (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025" still contains errors and inconsistencies, with experts warning that the ordinance will remain ineffective unless these flaws are addressed.

In the wake of disruptions in civil administration after the July uprising, the interim government moved to amend the "Government Service Act, 2018" that outlines key issues such as discipline, accountability, and efficiency in public administration.

The public administration ministry issued a gazette on the amendment on May 22. The changes triggered protests among government employees at the Secretariat, prompting the ministry to revise the ordinance. A second amendment was gazetted on July 23.

Yet, errors persist in the revised version, raising questions about the competence of the officials responsible for its drafting, say experts.

Take Section 37(Ka-9) for instance. This section empowers either the "appointing authority" or the "individual framing the charges" to impose penalties on an official found guilty of breaching service rules.

However, allowing "the individual framing the charges" to impose penalties violates Article 135(l) of the constitution, which clearly states that no person holding a civil post shall be dismissed or penalised by anyone other than the appointing authority.

Besides, there is ambiguity regarding the scope for a public servant to seek a review of disciplinary punishment.

Subsections 10 and 11 of the ordinance's Section 37(Ka) lays out punishment for government employees found guilty of misconduct. But there is no mention of Section

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Man beaten to death over theft allegation in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was beaten to death for his alleged involvement in a theft incident in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rana Mia, 35.

Quoting witnesses, Monsur Ahmad, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station, said Rana allegedly attempted to commit theft at Baitul Rahman Jame Mosque in Raymoni Dakshinpara area after he broke the lock of the mosque around 3:30am.

Locals caught Rana and started beating him indiscriminately, killing him on the spot, said the OC.

Police later recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The victim's younger brother, Rubel Mia, filed a murder case against unidentified persons with Trishal Police Station yesterday.

The OC said Rana was accused in several theft cases.



SUPPLEMENT

The Daily Star

BUILD WISE



DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 26, 2025, BHADRA 11, 1432 BS

S1

RECYCLED AND LOCALLY sourced materials must be prioritised

Mohammad Khourshed Alam, Chief Operating Officer, AkijBashir Group



The Daily Star (TDS): What key measures do you recommend to ensure the sustainability of construction materials during the building process, and which areas require the most urgent attention?

Mohammad Khourshed Alam (MKA): To ensure the sustainability of construction materials, we need a multifaceted approach that balances environmental, economic, and social responsibility. One of the most critical measures is the adoption of lighter and more efficient materials. For example, modern construction now

Auto Bricks and tunnel kilns, are already making a significant impact by reducing the need for firewood and lowering emissions.

The most urgent areas needing attention are:

- Supply chain sustainability—ensuring materials are sourced responsibly.
- Energy-efficient manufacturing processes.
- Wider industry awareness and education on sustainable alternatives.

Ultimately, sustainability in construction is not just about materials—it's about mindset, innovation, and long-term responsibility.

TDS: What type of products does your company offer, and how do you ensure they are both fit for purpose and aligned with sustainability priorities?

MKA: AkijBashir offers a wide range of modern building materials designed to meet both performance and

technology, sourcing raw materials from Italy, Spain, China, and partly from India.

We are the only company in Bangladesh to export sanitary products in Europe. We've been doing this for the last six years. We use Hypetia casting in our sanitary products, ensuring fully automated production. Additionally, we employ robotic glazing and state-of-the-art kilns to guarantee uncompromised product quality.

Our faucets are comparable to any other globally made faucets due to the main component—the cartridge—sourced from a Hungarian company called Kerox, the largest cartridge manufacturer globally. We use three-layer electroplating, which ensures the product's longevity.

When it comes to the board, we have German SiempelKamp ContiRoll technology where no pressure is applied, and this plant is the largest in South Asia. We also offer products under the super high gloss to super matt zero gloss products.

We operate three ceramics factories—tableware, sanitaryware, and tiles. Our tableware division uses the highest-grade ceramics, allowing us to recycle waste materials from tableware production and repurpose them in our sanitaryware and tile sections. While others have struggled to achieve effective recycling, this capability gives us a distinct advantage.

All our production facilities have environmental sustainability in mind. 40% of the energy comes from solar in our ceramic factories. We export electricity in the national grid by net metering from our facilities. We also recycle wastewater and are aiming to become a zero-discharge company.

We are particularly focused on materials that reduce the weight of structures, which not only lowers construction costs but also reduces the consumption of raw materials

and energy throughout the building's lifecycle. For instance, our upcoming introduction of 4-5 mm ultra-thin tiles is a step forward in minimising material usage while maintaining durability and visual appeal.

To ensure all our products are fit for purpose, we follow strict quality control processes and test for strength, longevity, and performance under local climate conditions. At the same time, we evaluate their environmental footprint, choosing solutions that reduce emissions, conserve natural resources, and support circular economy practices—such as recycling and reuse.

Sustainability isn't an afterthought for us—it's built into our supply chain, product innovation, and even our partnerships with local suppliers. Our goal is to offer building solutions that support both functional excellence and a greener future.

TDS: What technological advancements have you adopted to enhance the quality and efficiency of your products? What future plans do you have for innovation and sustainability?

MKA: We've made substantial investments in automation and advanced European technology to ensure consistency, efficiency, and premium quality across all our factories. The technology we use matches the standards of global leaders in Germany, Spain, and Italy.

Automation allows us to minimise errors and maintain uniform quality. Each factory is equipped with in-house laboratories for both online and offline inspections, while our R&D teams continuously explore improvements in product design, durability, and sustainability.

Looking ahead, innovation is central to our growth. In tiles, for example, we are preparing to introduce meter-by-meter formats and 900x1800 mm

products, along with advanced surface structures.

Energy security is another focus. The industry heavily depends on natural gas, and Bangladesh is facing supply shortages. To address this, we've built LPG storage systems and developed hot air generation technologies as alternatives to natural gas. Combined with our solar initiatives, these measures ensure that our factories remain operational even during crises.

TDS: What forms of policy reform or government support would help make sustainability efforts in the construction sector more effective and long-lasting?

MKA: Regarding our expectations from the government for the establishment and sustainability of our business, we seek a consistent and reliable supply of natural gas. We recognise that our internal reserves are insufficient; therefore, timely and adequate imports of LNG must be ensured. The government should be prepared to support the industry at any time and under any circumstances, so that investors can feel confident and secure when committing to this sector.

Secondly, port operations remain a major barrier. Port management must be efficient, customer-friendly, and customer-centric. Unfortunately, this is not the current reality. The ports need to recognize that the industry is their customer—and the customer is always king—so they must treat us accordingly. Otherwise, business growth will be severely hindered.

Thirdly, we expect the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and customs authorities to adopt a more business-friendly approach regarding VAT and other regulations. Policies must be applied consistently and fairly across the sector. We seek proper guidance, transparent assessment, and uniform implementation of rules for all industry players.



sustains glass and lightweight tiles over traditional heavy materials, reducing the structural load and overall resource consumption. Internally, the shift from solid wood to engineered boards significantly reduces the need for deforestation.

We must also prioritise the use of recycled and locally sourced materials. Recycled materials reduce environmental waste, while local sourcing minimises the carbon footprint associated with transportation and supports the local economy. Our company is actively exploring technologies such as thin tile manufacturing (as thin as 4-5 mm), which reduces material use without compromising durability or aesthetics.

Furthermore, eco-friendly innovations in brick production, like

sustainability standards. These include tiles, sanitaryware, faucets, eco-friendly boards for interiors, high-efficiency glass solutions and kitchenware produced through advanced, energy-efficient methods. Each product is selected or developed with a clear focus on reducing environmental impact without compromising on quality or design.

In tiles, we are the best brand for the last 6 years in a row. We mainly focus on large tiles that are visually appealing and enhance spaces. We use European

We are particularly focused on materials that reduce the weight of structures, which not only lowers construction costs but also reduces the consumption of raw materials and energy throughout the building's lifecycle.

favours glass and lightweight tiles over traditional heavy materials, reducing the structural load and overall resource consumption. Internally, the shift from solid wood to engineered boards significantly reduces the need for deforestation.

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The Daily Star

BUILD WISE



DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 26, 2025, BHADRA 11, 1432 BS

S2



Shaping the Structural Development of Bangladesh

AKS' greatest strength lies in the trust built through its widespread distribution network. This reliability has transformed AKS from merely a steel manufacturer into a true partner in Bangladesh's infrastructure development.

Around the globe, construction steel is produced using advanced methods, including the Blast Furnace and the Electric Arc Furnace. These processes produce consistent, high-quality steel that is able to stand up to the tough requirements of modern infrastructure. In Bangladesh, however, Induction Furnace technology continues to be widely used—a method that has long served the industry but now lags behind the pace of development and the growing demand for higher-quality, safer materials.

In 2015, Abul Khair Steel (AKS) made a landmark decision by becoming the first company in Bangladesh to implement Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology in steel production. This was not merely a technological upgrade for the country; it represented a pivotal shift in the trajectory that the steel industry should follow, marking the start of a new era in which local steel products could meet international standards and provide engineers and

builders with greater confidence in the materials they used.

AKS also introduced a 22 stand Horizontal Vertical Rolling Mill equipped with the latest Meier-drive technology, a cutting edge system that had only recently entered the market. This nearly doubled output, allowing the company to meet ever-increasing

nor strength.

The AKS TMT B500DWR Bar has emerged as the preferred choice for architects, engineers, and safety planners nationwide. Especially in regions of high seismic activity, these bars provide enhanced safety. They combine high ductility with excellent load bearing capacity and strong bonding with concrete. The B500DWR, which meets international BDS ISO standards, ensures structures perform well under stress.

Apart from its individual products, AKS' greatest strength lies in the trust built through its widespread distribution network. Consistent availability of materials across the country has reassured contractors and builders, as delays or substandard materials can derail projects. This reliability has transformed AKS from merely a steel manufacturer into a true partner in Bangladesh's infrastructure development. Every ton of steel delivered represents not just metal,

but also confidence in safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness.

By ensuring that builders everywhere have access to uniform, high-strength products, AKS has contributed to more efficient and economical RCC structures nationwide. In many ways, its role goes beyond manufacturing; AKS actively supports the architects of Bangladesh's growth by ensuring they always have the right tools to realise their vision. This combination of accessibility and quality has been central to the company's enduring leadership in a highly competitive industry.

AKS' story is part of the larger journey of the Abul Khair Group. Founded in 1953 through the vision of the late Mr. Abul Khair, the company has grown from humble beginnings into a diversified conglomerate. Today, the Group spans industries from steel, cement, ready-mix concrete, marble, and sanitary ware to consumer products, baby food, tobacco, and shipping, serving millions of customers

at home and abroad.

Another element of AKS' vision is sustainability. They operate a modern green factory that meets international environmental criteria. Their facilities include advanced treatment plants that reduce waste and minimise environmental impact. For AKS, it isn't enough to be a leader in steel production—they believe progress should not come at the expense of future generations.

As Bangladesh experiences rapid urban growth and industrial development, the demand for quality construction materials will only rise. With its technical expertise, proven distribution network, focus on sustainability, and strong track record, AKS is well equipped to rise to that challenge. At its core, AKS is doing more than producing steel: it is building the foundation of the country's future, project by project, through innovative solutions.

AKS
100% REFINED STEEL

demand. At the same time, AKS expanded its product portfolio. The AKS TMT B700C-R rod stands out as a true industry leader in Bangladesh—the only one of its kind. AKS also added Square Bars and Rings, offering materials that sacrifice neither quality

First 100% Refined Steel of Bangladesh

AKS
100% REFINED STEEL





SUPPLEMENT

The Daily Star

BUILD WISE



DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 26, 2025, BHADRA 11, 1432 BS

S3

MANUFACTURING SAFE, sustainable and energy-efficient products

Razu Ahmed, CBO, Cable, Super Enamel Wire & Brass, Walton Hi-Tech Industries



The Daily Star (TDS): What key measures do you recommend to ensure the sustainability of construction materials during the building process, and which areas require the most urgent attention?

Razu Ahmed (RA): We always aim to demonstrate 'sustainability' through contemporary, high-technology

relying primarily on virgin natural compounds for insulation; employing calcium-based stabilisers instead of lead-based ones; implementing anti-rodent technologies rather than anti-termite technology; and using low-smoke, zero-halogen materials for insulation—all of these choices have a direct effect on everyday safety. When life safety is at stake, it is not merely a recommendation—it is a clear warning to stakeholders to prioritise sustainable building materials, especially for electrical applications.

As a leading group in electronics and appliances, we have always prioritised the manufacturing of safe and energy-efficient products. Each of our product lines has a dedicated R&D team, focused on innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies. We are very proud that Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC has been awarded the Green Factory Award 2025 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in Bangladesh.

TDS: What types of products does your company offer, and how do you ensure they are both fit for purpose and aligned with sustainability priorities?

RA: In Bangladesh, we were the first to introduce highly energy-saving air conditioners and BLDC fans, and our other products—including

refrigerators, TVs, compressors, and all home and kitchen appliances—are designed to be competitive in energy efficiency.

A key differentiator is that the electrical control systems of all these products are powered by our energy-efficient cables. The secret behind these cables is our use of LME Grade 99.99% pure Australian mine-based copper, along with other premium virgin materials, manufactured strictly in accordance with international standards.

This commitment ensures that



every product we deliver is safe, reliable, energy saving, and aligned with sustainability priorities, reinforcing our leadership in responsible and high-quality electronics manufacturing in the region.

TDS: What technological advancements have you adopted to enhance the quality and efficiency of your products? What future plans do you have for innovation

and sustainability?

RA: Being a recent entrant in the industry has given us the advantage of incorporating the latest technologies from the outset. The modern definition of smart and latest technology emphasises on efficiency and 'go green' concept. All our manufacturing machines—from the UCR plant to the auto-coiling units—are designed to minimise carbon footprint while maximising efficiency.

Even the forklifts we use on the factory floor are electric. Our process integration is carefully designed to ensure a seamless, loop-free, and faster manufacturing workflow. Automated production lines and precision machinery maintain consistent product quality and minimise human error. All our products undergo rigorous testing for electrical performance, fire resistance, and mechanical reliability.

Real-time monitoring systems help reduce defects and waste, enhancing both efficiency and sustainability. These advancements enable us to deliver products that are safe, durable, energy-efficient, and environmentally responsible.

TDS: What forms of policy reform or government support would help make sustainability efforts in the construction sector more effective and long-lasting?

RA: In the local market, some companies are artificially lowering material prices (especially for copper, which accounts for approximately 75% of the BOM cost) by taking advantage of reduced VAT and tax facilities. In doing so, they often mislead customers during sales and purchases, creating an uneven playing field for honest businesses and causing significant financial losses to the state.

It is therefore crucial that the government strictly enforces existing rules and regulations to ensure fair competition. Simultaneously, efforts should be made to raise public awareness so that customers can make informed decisions and choose quality, compliant, and sustainable products.

We are proud to share the good news that our cables are already being exported to many countries, reflecting the global trust in our quality and reliability.

To expand further and compete with international brands, we now look forward to government support in the form of export incentives, uniform VAT and tax policies, and recognition for sustainable manufacturing practices. With these facilities, we can strengthen our presence worldwide while contributing more to the national economy through foreign exchange earnings and green industrial growth.

Building the Dream of a Sustainable Bangladesh

FROM PAGE S4

Over the past few years, we have introduced several groundbreaking green technologies that make our lifts both smarter and more efficient.

One of our biggest achievements is the adoption of the gearless traction system. Compared to conventional systems, this technology saves between 30 to 40 percent of electricity. When you think about the number of lifts in a city like Dhaka, that saving becomes enormous—not just in cost, but in reduced energy demand for the entire country.

Another major advancement is our IoT-based Smart Control System. This system allows for real-time monitoring and optimisation of lift performance. It can detect problems before they become serious, ensure smooth operation, and provide building managers with valuable data to manage energy use more effectively.

We've also introduced the energy-regenerative drive technology, which is one of the most exciting innovations in this field. Essentially, when a lift goes down with a heavy load, it creates energy—our system captures that energy and sends it back to the building's grid, instead of wasting it. This way, the lift itself becomes a source of reusable energy.

Looking into the future, our plans are even more ambitious. We are working on solar-powered lift systems that can make buildings less dependent on the grid. AI-driven predictive maintenance that will use artificial intelligence to detect faults in advance, and electric battery-powered home lifts, which will make vertical movement in residences more accessible, especially in areas with unstable electricity supply.

Our vision is to create lifts that are not only energy-independent and user-friendly but also perfectly aligned with the urban needs of tomorrow.

TDS: What forms of policy reform or government support would help make sustainability efforts in the construction sector more effective and long-lasting?

MJUI: The government has a very important role to play in making sustainability a reality. Private companies like Walton can bring technology and innovation, but for



large-scale adoption, we need policy support and public awareness.

Firstly, we recommend the introduction of green standards and certifications for energy-efficient lifts. This would encourage both developers and consumers to choose environmentally friendly solutions. Secondly, tax exemptions and incentives for companies adopting eco-friendly technologies would make it easier for the industry to scale up green innovations.

Equally important are public-private partnerships in areas such as




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BUILDING THE DREAM of a Sustainable Bangladesh



Md. Jenan-Ul-Islam, Chief Business Officer, Walton Lift

The Daily Star (TDS): What key measures do you recommend to ensure the sustainability of construction materials during the building process, and which areas require the most urgent attention?

Md. Jenan-Ul-Islam (MJUI): When we talk about sustainability in the construction sector, it's important to understand that it's not something that can be "added on" at the end—it has to begin from the very first stage of planning a building. If we embed sustainability early, the impact stays with us throughout the entire lifecycle of the project.

Take lifts, for example. A sustainable lift is not only about saving electricity when it runs, but also about how it is designed, the materials used, and how it integrates with the entire building. For true efficiency, we must choose energy-efficient lift models, ensure that recyclable and durable materials are used, and carefully match the capacity and speed of the lift with the actual needs of the building. If the wrong lift is installed—too large or too small—it leads to either overconsumption or underutilisation of resources, both of which are wasteful.

Another critical point is system integration. Modern lifts should not work in isolation. They should be connected seamlessly to the building's smart systems, such as

power management and Building Management Systems (BMS). This integration ensures that energy use is optimised in real time, and it also makes the building safer and more responsive.

If you ask me what areas require the most urgent attention, I would say three things: energy efficiency, recyclability of materials, and smart integration with buildings. These are the pillars that will make the biggest difference in the sustainability journey of construction materials.



TDS: What types of products does your company offer, and how do you ensure they are both fit for purpose and aligned with sustainability priorities?

MJUI: At Walton Lift, our philosophy goes beyond just selling a lift. We like to say that we offer a long-term, safe, reliable, and sustainable vertical mobility solution. To us, a lift is not just a machine that carries people up and down—it's a part of everyday life that has to be safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible.

SEE PAGE S3

Our product portfolio is diverse. We provide Passenger Lifts, Cargo Lifts, Hospital Lifts, and Home Lifts. Each category is designed keeping in mind international safety standards and energy efficiency benchmarks. For example, hospital lifts are made with special attention to smoothness and reliability, because in a medical environment, every second counts. Cargo lifts, on the other hand, are built with strength and durability, so they can carry heavy loads without consuming unnecessary power.

But where we truly stand out is in our commitment to lifecycle sustainability. This means that our responsibility does not end after installation. From maintenance to modernisation, we ensure that our lifts remain energy-efficient, safe, and up-to-date with technology. For older buildings, we also offer modernisation services—replacing outdated components with advanced, eco-friendly systems that extend the lift's life and drastically cut down on energy consumption. This not only saves money for our clients but also reduces the carbon footprint of the building.

In short, whether it's a high-rise apartment, a busy hospital, or a private residence, our lifts are designed to be fit for purpose, environmentally responsible, and future-ready.

Reliable Experience

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FORGING A GREENER FUTURE

Sustainable Practices and High-Strength Innovations in the Steel Industry

Green Practices in the Steel Industry

As Bangladesh advances toward its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2030 goals, industries must adopt practices that balance growth with environmental responsibility. The steel sector, long considered energy- and resource-intensive, is now embracing sustainability through innovative technologies and eco-friendly approaches. These initiatives not only align with global climate commitments but also set benchmarks for others to follow.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Industrial emissions, particularly from steelmaking, have historically contributed to air quality deterioration. Modern steel plants now use advanced off-gas treatment systems and high-efficiency baghouse

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION
The steel industry is steadily reducing its reliance on fossil fuels by adopting solar photovoltaic systems and exploring wind energy and green hydrogen options. These transitions not only cut carbon footprints but also contribute directly to affordable and clean energy goals under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Beyond production, industries are engaging in large-scale tree plantation drives and developing artificial lakes and green belts around their facilities. These initiatives serve as carbon sinks, reduce noise pollution, and create thriving habitats for local wildlife—proving that

The Future of High-Strength Rebar - 600

As urbanization accelerates, the need for safer, stronger, and more sustainable construction materials is greater than ever. Modern steelmakers are adopting advanced technologies to deliver not only superior quality but also environmentally responsible products. Among these innovations, the production of high-strength rebar, such as 600-grade steel, represents a major leap toward building structures that last longer, use fewer resources, and offer enhanced safety.

WHY HIGH-STRENGTH REBAR MATTERS

High-strength rebar offers exceptional tensile strength compared to conventional grades. Using 600-grade rebar allows for fewer reinforcement bars in a structure without compromising safety or durability. This reduction leads to cost savings in both material and labor while ensuring

like paint, dust, and coatings before melting begins. The result is purer steel produced with lower environmental impact.

SIPHONIC TAPPING FOR PURITY

Another critical advancement is the siphonic tapping system, which ensures that only pure molten steel is collected from the furnace. Traditionally, impurities like slag can mix with molten steel during tapping, compromising quality. By using a special refractory barrier and minimal furnace tilting, siphonic tapping prevents slag contamination. The process enables the production of cleaner, liquid steel—essential for manufacturing high-strength rebar with uniform properties.

HIGH-SPEED CONTINUOUS CASTING

After refining, molten steel undergoes high-speed continuous casting to

reduce sulfur ratios, reducing the negative impact of sulfur on steel's mechanical strength. The entire process is closed and controlled to prevent re-oxidation, preserving the purity achieved during earlier stages.

WINLINK TECHNOLOGY: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS QUALITY

One of the most remarkable innovations in modern steelmaking is Winlink technology. This system directly connects the casting and rolling processes, allowing billets to move from the caster to the rolling mill without intermediate cooling. By maintaining optimal billet temperatures and avoiding full-scale reheating, Winlink technology significantly cuts energy consumption and emissions. At the same time, in every stage of rolling, it ensures proper control of temperature, rolling speed & water parameter simultaneously.



filters to capture harmful particles before they reach the atmosphere. By integrating cutting-edge furnace technologies and stringent monitoring, emissions can be dramatically reduced—protecting public health and the environment.

WATER STEWARDSHIP

With water scarcity emerging as a critical global concern, rainwater harvesting and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technologies are becoming standard practices. Industrial units are creating artificial reservoirs to store rainwater while ensuring that no untreated wastewater leaves the premises. Every drop is recycled and reused, preserving natural resources and safeguarding ecosystems.

industrial zones can coexist with nature.

COMMUNITY AND CRISIS SUPPORT
On-site oxygen plants, primarily used in steel production, have also served communities during emergencies, such as supplying medical oxygen during the COVID-19 pandemic. This demonstrates how industrial infrastructure can support both economic and humanitarian needs.

A HOLISTIC ROADMAP

By integrating air pollution control, water stewardship, renewable energy, biodiversity initiatives, and zero discharge systems, the steel industry sets a clear path toward sustainable growth—showing that industrial progress and environmental care can advance together.

earthquake resilience and longer service life for buildings, bridges, and other critical infrastructures. Moreover, high-strength rebar contributes to sustainability by minimizing the use of raw materials and optimizing structural efficiency.

SCRAP PREHEATING TECHNOLOGY

The journey toward sustainable, high-strength steel begins with raw materials. Scrap preheating technology plays a vital role here. Instead of feeding cold scrap directly into the furnace, modern systems use the heat from furnace off-gases to preheat the scrap before melting. This approach reduces electricity consumption, cuts down greenhouse gas emissions, and ensures the removal of surface impurities

produce billets—the raw material for rebar. High-speed casting ensures the use of automatic mold level sensor (AMLS), closed casting practice, enhanced Mn/S ratio, the actual use of EMS, close & optimal superheat temperature control in the process. Advanced features like electromagnetic stirring break, harmful dendritic structures, while automatic mold level sensors maintain consistent casting speed. This leads to billets with exceptional internal refined grained structure properties, forming the foundation for world-class 600-grade rebar.

Moreover, high-speed continuous casting systems maintain high manganese content with the help of SCADA-based PLC automation system which ensures better surface quality and mechanical properties for the final rebar product.

A CALL TO THE INDUSTRY

The adoption of these advanced technologies demonstrates that producing high-quality, sustainable, and high-strength steel is not only possible but essential. Steel manufacturers across the industry should embrace similar practices to reduce environmental impact, improve resource efficiency, and deliver materials that meet modern construction demands. By doing so, the entire sector can move toward a future where sustainability and strength go hand in hand.