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RABIUL AWAL 8, 1447 HJRI

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'Reforms not going beyond report writing'

Members of reform panels voice frustrations at Citizens' Platform event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs and members of several reform commissions yesterday expressed frustration over the lack of visible progress, more than a year after the interim government took office, saying their roles have been mostly limited to submitting proposals, with little sign of implementation.

Besides, they observed, women's perspectives are being sidelined in the reform process.

The remarks came during a dialogue organised by the "Citizens' Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh", where a new initiative titled "Bangladesh Reform Watch" was launched.

Although 11 commissions were set up in two phases -- six in the first and five in the second -- to drive reforms across sectors, the speakers said, outcomes so far remain negligible.

Prof Tofail Ahmed, chairman of the Local Government

- ➊ No visible reforms in police, court, other state institutions
- ➋ Women's affairs reform commission neglected
- ➌ Frequent policy shifts in education sector confusing students
- ➍ Volume of reforms undermines seriousness and focus

Reform Commission, said, "What was in place earlier is still there. Local government, media, health, and women's commissions are in the weakest state. Those who worked hard in the hope of reforms are now disheartened because nothing has moved beyond report writing."

He added that the interim government still has an opportunity to restructure local government, particularly

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping engage in a conversation ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Centre in China's Tianjin yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Xi rejects hegemonism

Pushes a new global order flanked by Putin, Modi at SCO summit

AGENCIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday pressed his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the "Global South", in a direct challenge to the United States, during a summit that included the leaders of Russia and India.

Xi told the SCO leaders that the global international situation was becoming more "chaotic and intertwined".

"We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics, and practise true

multilateralism," Xi said, in a thinly veiled swipe at the United States and President Donald Trump's tariff policies.

"Global governance has reached a new crossroads," he added.

The Chinese leader also slammed "bullying behaviour" from certain countries -- a veiled reference to the United States.

Xi was hosting more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries at a summit in the Chinese port city of Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a China-backed initiative given renewed impetus by the presence

of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Presidents of Iran and Turkey are also attending the summit.

At the summit, Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin took turns to take swipes at the West.

In an image designed to convey a mood of solidarity, Putin and Modi were shown holding hands as they walked jovially towards Xi before the summit opened. The three men stood shoulder-to-shoulder, laughing and surrounded by interpreters.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Afghan men search through the rubble of a collapsed house for their belongings after a deadly magnitude-6 earthquake struck Dara Mazar in Kunar province, Afghanistan, around midnight yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Afghan quake kills over 800

2,800 injured; impassable roads, rough terrain hinder rescue ops

AGENCIES

One of Afghanistan's worst earthquakes killed more than 800 people and injured at least 2,800, authorities said yesterday, as rescuers struggled to reach remote areas due to rough mountainous terrain and inclement weather.

The 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck just before midnight, collapsing homes onto sleeping families in a remote, mountainous region. The shallow tremor rattled buildings from Kabul to neighbouring Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Casualties and destruction swept across at least five provinces, and rescuers were still pulling people from destroyed homes and evacuating the injured by helicopter as evening approached.

"The search operation is still going on. Many people are stuck under the rubble of their roofs," the disaster management head in eastern Kunar province, Ehsanul Ehsan, told AFP, warning the death toll could rise.

Around 800 people were killed and 2,500 injured in Kunar alone, near the epicentre, Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. Another 12 people

were killed and 255 injured in neighbouring Nangarhar province, while 58 people were injured in Laghman province.

The earthquake epicentre was about 27 kilometres from Jalalabad, according to the USGS, which said it struck about eight kilometres below the Earth's surface.

- Death toll expected to rise
- Shallow, midnight tremor traps sleeping people under their own roofs
- Taliban health ministry calls for int'l aid

Relatively shallow quakes can cause more damage, especially since the majority of Afghans live in low-rise, mud-brick homes vulnerable to collapse.

Some of the most severely impacted villages in Kunar "remain inaccessible due to road blockages", the UN migration agency warned in a statement to AFP.

Officials said that many living in quake-hit villages were among the more than four million Afghans who

have returned to the country from Iran and Pakistan in recent years.

"They wanted to build their homes here."

Nangarhar and Kunar provinces border Pakistan, with the Torkham crossing the site of many waves of Afghan returnees deported or forced to leave, often with no work and nowhere to go.

UN chief Antonio Guterres added his condolences to those shared by the Taliban government and several nations.

In a post shared by the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV said he was "deeply saddened by the significant loss of life caused by the earthquake in the area of eastern Afghanistan".

Despite the show of support, no foreign governments have reached out to provide support for rescue or relief work, said a spokesperson of Afghanistan's foreign office.

Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, near the junction of the Eurasia and India tectonic plates.

Since the return of the Taliban in 2021, foreign aid to Afghanistan has been slashed, undermining the impoverished nation's already hamstrung ability to respond to disasters.

Army chief assures govt of full support

Meets chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker Uz-Zaman yesterday assured Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus of full cooperation with the interim government.



He made the pledge during a meeting with the chief adviser at the Jamuna.

At the meeting, Yunus discussed the army's role in assisting the civil administration and thanked the military for its continued contribution to maintaining law and order, according to a statement from the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

He also emphasised the need to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

DUCSU polls stay on schedule

Chamber judge reinstates election on Sept 9 after HC postponed it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from different dormitories took out processions after the High Court postponed the elections to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) yesterday and returned to their halls within an hour and a half after the chamber judge stayed the order.

Candidates of different panels also protested the HC ruling and demanded

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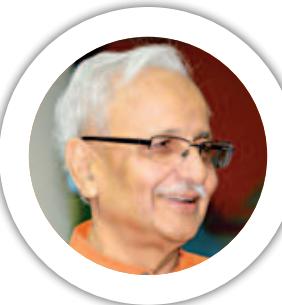
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If reforms are not completed, the election may be in danger, and some people may not participate in it. But what is not clear is which reforms must be carried out."

PROF REHMAN SOBAN, noted economist

"The people whose sacrifices in the uprising made changes possible are excluded today. That is simply unacceptable."

HOSSEIN ZILLUR RAHMAN, former adviser to a caretaker government

"We have held press conferences and even given alternative proposals. But is anyone listening to us? Clearly not. Whenever the chief adviser sits with political parties, not a single woman is present. So, should we only depend on so-called women-friendly men?"

RASHEDA K CHOWDHURY, educationist and a former adviser to a caretaker government

"We must now focus on making this election free, fair, and acceptable. Election reforms must be a priority."

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDER, head of Election Reform Commission

"Although there were many disagreements within the National Consensus Commission, there was complete consensus on one point -- that women shouldn't receive more than five percent additional nominations. This is very disappointing."

SHAHEEN ANAM, executive director, Manusher Jonno Foundation

"I don't think we have heard the word 'reform' so many times in the last 54 years. But what has been the result? Inequality has increased, unemployment has increased, poverty has increased, and violence has increased. The government's position is one of strange indifference."

PROF ANU MUHAMMAD, noted economist

"Discussions were mostly with political figures, leaving out ordinary citizens. As a result, reform proposals could not move forward."

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA, noted economist

'Reforms not going beyond report writing'

FROM PAGE 1

through the Cabinet Division's Reform and Coordination Wing.

Labour Reform Commission Chairman Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed stressed that essential reforms, such as ensuring minimum wage and workers' rights, should already have been implemented. "We didn't expect reforms overnight, but at least some activities should have begun. That hasn't happened, which is deeply frustrating."

Election Reform Commission chief Badiul Alam Majumdar said attention must now shift to the upcoming polls. "Political parties must reach a consensus within two weeks. There can be no further extension for the National Consensus Commission. Either reforms happen within this period or not at all. The government's top priority now should be the election."

Members of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission also voiced dissatisfaction. Nirupa Dewan said, "Among all the commissions, the Women's Affairs Reform Commission is in the weakest state. Over the past year, women's rights have not been established, nor has violence against women declined. In some areas, particularly the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the situation has worsened."

Chairing the event, Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, questioned the current reform discourse, noting that

while the government had referred to dozens of reforms -- later narrowed to 84 -- the public has little knowledge about their content or priority.

"The fact that you [the government] want to implement 84 reforms means that no one is going to take you very seriously," he said, stressing that real reform requires prioritisation, legislation, and effective implementation.

With polls scheduled for February, Rehman expressed doubt about the possibility of substantive reform. "If you had any reforms that you wish to implement, presumably this should have been articulated six months ago."

Recalling CPD's past involvement in reform monitoring, he said that earlier agendas, including those set under caretaker governments before the 2001 and 2006 elections, largely failed to produce outcomes.

He added that the absence of a credible reform process results from parliament's inability to debate, legislate, and monitor reforms. This gap, he said, has forced civil society to assume a role it has never played before.

Rehman urged NGOs and CSOs to break out of silos and mobilise citizens at the grassroots. "Until we demonstrate this capacity for collective action and to mobilise people -- not just to come and participate occasionally in seminars and dialogues but actually in each

district -- I'm not really sure that we'll have delivered what we set out to do."

Drawing on his pre-independence experience, he reminded participants that civil society once played a transformative role in shaping the Six Point Movement.

He called on Bangladesh Reform Watch and civil society to take on this responsibility. "It isn't just about documenting which reforms should be implemented but also about tracking how they are progressing and mobilising citizens to demand accountability."

Former caretaker government adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman mentioned the aspirations behind reform demands: dismantling authoritarian structures; restoring representative politics through free and fair elections; ensuring welfare in education, health, and law enforcement; creating a fear-free, inclusive society; and moving away from an oligarch-driven economy.

He said the number of commissions was not the real measure of progress, as some were poorly conceived while key public concerns were ignored. He also identified two major obstacles: weak assertion of governance and personal biases of reform actors. "Power is not just a legal mandate; it's about asserting authority in society," he said, citing how a police commissioner could block a major road for an hour without consequence.

Zillur criticised the tendency to dismiss ordinary citizens in reform debates, saying the process has become confined within the "walls of Jamuna."

Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad said no meaningful change has come despite repeated talks of reform. While the state exercises extensive surveillance over citizens, people must also create mechanisms of counter-surveillance and accountability. "Without such pressure, no meaningful change will be possible."

He added that there have been no signs of reform in the police, courts, or other state institutions.

CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya questioned why the government's initiatives had stalled, saying committees lacked representation from marginalised groups, minorities, and disadvantaged people. He added that the interim government appears to have "lost its path" amid political events and election preparations.

Describing the situation as a "storm sweeping across Bangladesh -- touching the economy, politics, culture, and social life", he said the country's greatest asset is the anti-discrimination spirit born from the July uprising. "The challenge now is to embed that spirit in the state, society, and politics."

He emphasised citizens' role, saying, "Technical solutions exist,

but without citizens' demand for accountability, they cannot be implemented. That demand must unite the voices of citizens, politicians, and social movements."

Rasheda K Chowdhury, educationist and former caretaker government adviser, said women's voices are being ignored. On education, she said children are being treated like guinea pigs. "Frequent policy changes are confusing students, while coaching centres and guidebooks are replacing ethics, values, and creative thinking."

She also pointed to the struggles of domestic workers, saying many face eviction and insecurity as political groups fight over control of slums.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, asked why children -- particularly street children and child labourers -- remain absent from the reform agenda. She added that Bangladesh is unlikely to meet the SDGs, as inequality, poverty, child abuse, violence, and attacks on minorities are on the rise.

She urged Reform Watch and civic groups to embed marginalised voices in the process, saying climate-induced migration is increasing the number of disadvantaged people with no roadmap to address their needs.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, urged stronger measures to ensure

women's direct participation in politics. "Half of this country's population is women. No party can win elections without their votes, yet when we demand 100 directly elected seats for women, leaders say it isn't possible... Women at the grassroots want to make decisions and participate at every level, but corruption, money, and muscle power block their path."

She added that the election must be about taking Bangladesh forward, not about seat-grabbing. She also called for the inclusion of women from all backgrounds, including those with special needs.

Political scientist Prof Rounaq Jahan said civil society should prioritise a few key reforms, track them closely, and form alliances with reform-minded actors inside politics, business, and bureaucracy. "Our reports shouldn't remain on paper. Without continuous, collective movements, reforms cannot be realised."

At the event, CPD Research Fellow Taufiqul Islam Khan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the newly launched Bangladesh Reform Watch.

Academics, including CPD Distinguished Fellow Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Dhaka University Prof Selim Raihan, leaders of political parties, businesses and marginalised communities, along with tech entrepreneurs, also spoke.

Acting director of hospital sued over rape of employee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

The acting director of Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College Hospital in Kishoreganj was sued yesterday over the rape of an employee.

The victim, who has been working at the hospital temporarily, filed a complaint with Kishoreganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1.

The tribunal directed the officer-in-charge of Kishoreganj Sadar Model Police Station to register the complaint as a first information report and take legal action accordingly, Public Prosecutor of the tribunal Md Jalaluddin confirmed.

On August 26, the accused attempted to rape her again at his office room in the hospital.

According to the FIR, the accused Helish Ranjan Sarker, 50, had been stalking the victim. On August 21, he called her to his house saying he needed to discuss something important with her.

Once she went there, her raped her and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone.

On August 26, the accused attempted to rape her again at his office room in the hospital. But his attempt was foiled when some of the hospital's staffers rushed there hearing the victim's screams, said the case statement.

Contacted, Helish denied the allegation and said he is a victim of conspiracy.

Kishoreganj Sadar Model Police Station OC Abdullah Al Mamun said he would act as per the court's directive.

Xi rejects hegemonism

FROM PAGE 1

Putin used his speech to defend Russia's Ukraine offensive, blaming the West for triggering the three-and-a-half year conflict that has killed tens of thousands and devastated much of eastern Ukraine.

"This crisis wasn't triggered by Russia's attack on Ukraine, but was a result of a coup in Ukraine, which was supported and provoked by the West," Putin said.

"The second reason for the crisis is the West's constant attempts to drag Ukraine into Nato."

After the summit, Modi shared a ride with Putin in the Russian leader's armoured Aurus limousine en route to their bilateral meeting.

"Conversations with him are always insightful," Modi wrote on X. At the bilateral meeting, Putin addressed Modi in Russian as "Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear friend."

In opening comments before their meeting, Modi praised the "special and privileged strategic partnership" with Moscow.

"India and Russia have stood shoulder to shoulder, even in the toughest situations," he said.

China and India are the biggest buyers of crude oil from Russia, the world's second largest exporter. Trump has imposed additional tariffs on India over the purchases, but not on China.

Little known outside the region, the Beijing-headquartered SCO was formed more than two decades ago as a regional security bloc. China, Russia, India, and four Central Asian states are founding members. Later, it was expanded to 10 members. India joined in 2017.

The 10 members are China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. It also included two observer countries -- Afghanistan and Mongolia -- and 14 dialogue partners, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey,

and Sri Lanka.

Despite expectations, Xi yesterday did not set out any concrete measures in what he called his "Global Governance Initiative", the latest in a series of policy frameworks from Beijing geared to promoting China's leadership and challenging the US-dominated international organisations that took shape after World War Two.

Earlier, Xi also pushed for what he described as more inclusive economic globalisation amid the upheaval caused by Trump's tariff policies, touting the SCO's "mega scale market" and economic opportunity.

"This crisis wasn't triggered by Russia's attack on Ukraine, but was a result of a coup in Ukraine, which was supported and provoked by the West."

PUTIN

Putin, whose country has forged even closer economic and security ties with China amid the fallout from the Ukraine war, said the SCO had revived "genuine multilateralism", with national currencies increasingly used in mutual settlements.

"This, in turn, lays the political and socio-economic groundwork for the formation of a new system of stability and security in Eurasia," Putin said.

He added, "This security system, unlike Euro-centric and Euro-Atlantic models, would genuinely consider the interests of a broad range of countries, be truly balanced, and would not allow one country to ensure its own security at the expense of others."

The member states signed a declaration yesterday, agreeing to

strengthen cooperation in sectors such as security and economy, China's Xinhua news agency said.

They also said they oppose trade measures that violate WTO rules and principles. The countries are concerned about measures that disrupt the stability of global supply chain, and call for "dialogue and cooperation among all parties," the statement said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also said that the SCO has agreed to establish a development bank to cater to the development needs of its members. It would be a major step towards the bloc's long-held aspiration of developing an alternative payment system that circumvents the US dollar and the power of US sanctions.

China will also build an artificial intelligence cooperation centre for SCO nations, which are also invited to participate in China's lunar research station.

Xi held a flurry of back-to-back bilateral meetings with leaders, including Modi, who is on his first visit to China since 2018.

Modi told Xi that India was committed to taking "forward our ties on the basis of mutual trust, dignity and sensitivity".

In turn, Xi said that their countries are development partners, not rivals, and discussed ways to improve trade.

The world's two most populous nations are intense rivals. A thaw began last October, when Modi met Xi for the first time in five years at a summit in Russia. Their rapprochement deepened as US President Donald Trump pressured both Asian economic giants with trade tariffs.

Separately, Xi will preside over a massive military parade on Wednesday in Beijing, where he is expected to be joined by Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

That parade -- to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two -- will feature China's latest military technology in a show of force that analysts say will aim to intimidate and deter potential rivals.

Ducusu polls stay on schedule

FROM PAGE 1

that the polls be held on September 9 as scheduled.

Around 3:50pm, the HC bench of Justice Md Habibul Gani and Justice Sk Tahsin Ali, after a primary hearing of a writ petition, stayed the Ducusu election process and final voter list until October 30.

The court directed the writ petitioner, BM Fahmida Alam, Liberation War and democratic movements affairs secretary candidate from the left alliance "Aparajeyo 71, Odommyo 24" panel, to file a complaint with the DU's election tribunal regarding the political background of SM Farhad along with all relevant documents within 15 days.

In the petition, Fahmida alleged that Farhad was involved in the now banned Chhatra League and appealed to stay his candidature.

The HC also issued a rule questioning the legality of allowing Farhad, general secretary candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel, to contest the Ducusu polls.

It ordered the DU's election tribunal to dispose of the complaint and submit a report before the court by October 21.

Lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua argued for the petitioner while lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, assisted by Saddam Hossein, appeared for the DU during yesterday's hearing.

Following the appeal, Justice Farah Mahbub stayed the HC order around 4:30pm. The chamber judge also asked the DU authorities to file a regular petition with this court against the HC order.

The judge said the stay order on the HC directive would continue till filing of the petition by DU authorities. With the SC chamber judge's ruling, there is no legal barrier to holding the Ducusu elections on September 9, said DU's lawyer.

Shibir-backed panel "Oikkoboddho Shikkharti Jote", after learning about the HC order postponing the polls, said the elections should be held on the announced date.

Later, they took out processions

protesting against the HC decision.

By that time, students from different halls brought out processions and started gathering in front of the VC residence. They were chanting slogans like "Ducusu Amar Odhikar, Rukhe Dwar Shaddhyo Kar", "High Court na Ducusu, Ducusu, Ducusu", and "Guest Room na Ducusu, Ducusu, Ducusu".

VP candidate from Boishommo Birodh Shikkharti Sangsad panel Abdul Qader, general secretary candidate Abu Baker Majumder, VP candidate from Chhatra Odhikar Parishad-backed "Ducusu for Change" panel Md Bin Yamin Mollah and independent VP candidate Shameem Hossen were seen there, among others.

Abdul Qader at a briefing said they had fears over the elections over the last couple of days.

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ATTACK ON NUR
Launch judicial probe
within 48hrs
22 parties, including
BNP, tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of 22 political parties, including BNP, yesterday demanded that the government form a judicial inquiry committee within 48 hours to investigate the recent attack on Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur and his party activists.

In a joint statement, the parties called for unity among anti-fascist forces and demanded the trial of the "Fascist" Awami League, Jatiya Party, and their 14-party alliance. They also announced an "anti-fascist solidarity rally" at the Central Shaheed Minar to protest the attack on Nur and his colleagues.

The date of the rally will be announced soon.

While unveiling the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

JULY UPRISING
Police open fired on
journos in Sylhet,
killing Abu Torab

His peer tells ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Sylhet-based photojournalist yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that police opened fire on journalists during the July uprising, despite his pleas not to shoot, leaving Abu Torab wounded.

Torab later died from his injuries.

Md Mohid Hossain said the incident took place on July 19, 2024, when journalists were covering a procession in Sylhet. The procession was part of a BNP nationwide programme protesting the killing of students and people at Madhuban Point.

Both he and Torab, who was Sylhet correspondent of the Daily Naya Diganta, were present there.

"Without any provocation, police opened fire from behind the procession. They also began firing at us," said Mohid, who works for a local daily.

He was testifying as a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her top aides.

"I raised my hands and shouted at ADC Dastogir, saying, 'Brother, we are journalists, please do not fire at us.' But police continued firing. Suddenly, Abu

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Physiotherapy
overlooked in
health system
Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although physiotherapy is a vital part of health services worldwide, it has not been given due importance in Bangladesh's health system, depriving many patients, said experts and professionals yesterday.

Speakers said the number of physiotherapists is very low compared to the country's population and urged the government to take steps to produce an adequate number of such professionals.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "Why Incorporating Physiotherapists is Important for the Development of Health Services", organised by the Alliance for Health Reform Bangladesh at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Ahamadullah Hill Galeb, a clinical physiotherapist at BRB Hospital, said physiotherapists play an important role in comprehensive health services.

However, in Bangladesh, physiotherapy is often provided by medical technologists with only a diploma in this sector, depriving patients of proper care, he said.

There are only about 6,000 physiotherapists with a five-year university approved degree, with around 780 graduates entering the field each year, he also said, adding, "It is not possible to provide proper service with such few numbers."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Speakers at a roundtable, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to prioritise women's full participation in climate decision-making and address gaps in climate finance.

They also emphasised the importance of intersectionality, ensuring that policies consider the diverse experiences of women, including those from indigenous communities and women with disabilities.

The event, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", was jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

UN Women Deputy Representative Navanita Sinha, in her welcome speech, said this is a significant year for gender equality and women's rights.

"We are marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the most comprehensive framework for advancing women's rights. Over these three decades, there have been important gains in some areas, but overall progress has not been as fast or comprehensive as we had hoped," she said.

Sinha said the current year is also pivotal for climate action, as preparations

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure women's participation in climate decisions
- Close gaps in climate finance for women
- Apply intersectionality in policies
- Strengthen Gender Action Plan implementation
- Promote cross-sector collaboration on gender, climate

for COP30 advance. COP29 delivered several milestones, including the endorsement of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the extension of its ten-year commitment to

a Gender Action Plan.

However, significant gaps remain, particularly in climate finance, access to technology, and gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation strategies, Sinha said.

"Recognising this, the work towards COP30 becomes especially important. That is why we organised today's discussion -- to advocate for stronger gender commitments and ensure our collective voice contributes meaningfully to the process," she said.

UN Women Programme Specialist Dilruba Haider highlighted the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP), developed under the Lima Work Programme.

The plan advances gender-responsive climate action through five priority areas: capacity building and knowledge management, women's leadership and participation, coherence across international frameworks, gender-responsive means of implementation, and monitoring and reporting.

Haider identified key challenges, including insufficient focus on climate finance, weak institutionalisation of transformative ambitions, and political debates around gender.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



As the sun dips below the horizon, two fishermen set out on their boat across the tranquil waters of Itna Haor in Kishoreganj. The evening casts a golden glow over the haor, where many locals rely on fishing for their livelihood, working from dusk into the night.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Army to remain on mobile duty

Says home adviser; navy and air force to assist in polls security

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the army, navy, and air force will be deployed to assist in ensuring security during the upcoming national election.

Speaking to reporters in Sylhet after a meeting with administration officials and law enforcement agencies, the adviser said 4,000 police personnel have already completed training, while another batch is undergoing training and a third will begin training soon.

He emphasised the role of Ansar in



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Women's voices must

FROM PAGE 3
 She said ahead of COP30, opportunities lie in preparing clear national priorities, developing a position paper for Bangladesh, orienting negotiators on gender-climate linkages, and building alliances with like-minded countries.

Ainun Nishat, emeritus professor at BRAC University's Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research, warned that many gender action plans remain shelved documents.

"If they are not meaningfully implemented across sectors, they will have little practical impact," she said.

Dr Shamima Nasrin, joint secretary at the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, highlighted the need for stronger gender representation in climate planning.

She called for a new action plan with a clear results framework, including activities, indicators, baselines, targets, and budget allocations, prioritising the most vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous communities.

UNDP Gender Team Lead Sharmin Islam identified three key challenges: the financing gap, persistent data gaps, and underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, particularly at the grassroots level.

"Grassroots women bear the greatest burden of climate impacts, yet their voices are often missing," she said.

ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir stressed the importance of engaging political actors to ensure commitments align with policy and practice.

Md Shamsuddoha, chief executive of the Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), highlighted the need for inter-ministerial and inter-departmental collaboration to implement the Gender Action Plan.

Jacob De Leon, second secretary at the Australian High Commission, said, "We must recognise the unique experiences of women from indigenous backgrounds and women with disabilities. Only by adopting a truly holistic gender approach

can we ensure the effective implementation of gender-responsive plans and policies," he said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of the Manusher Jonno Foundation, also highlighted that gender equality must consider intersectionality across regions and abilities.

"Climate change affects men too, but women face unique challenges in their daily lives -- mobility, safety, reproductive health, disrupted relationships, sometimes leading to divorce. This is why gender justice is essential," she said.

Nayoka Martinez Backstrom, first secretary for Environment and Climate Change at SIDA, highlighted the need for scalable climate financing initiatives that genuinely benefit women and promote collaboration between development partners and national ministries.

Md Khayrul Hasan, additional secretary of the environment ministry, speaking as the chief guest, welcomed the diversity of perspectives and confirmed that the outcomes of the discussion would be taken to Ethiopia, engaging other ministries, NGOs, and civil society to ensure COP30 is meaningful and beneficial for Bangladesh.

Prof Sharmin Neelemani, department of economics, Jahangirnagar University; Jesmin Nahar, deputy secretary, MoEFC; Mohammad Farul Hossain, deputy secretary, MoDMR; Mrittunjay Das, deputy chief of party Naba Pallab; Jannatul Maowa, executive director, Bindu Nari Unnayan Sangathan; Sohanur Rahman, youth climate activist, and Kazi Rabeya Ame, programme analyst, UN Women, among others, spoke at the event.

The discussion was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, NGO and Foreign Mission in charge at The Daily Star.

PRAYER TIMING
 SEPTEMBER 2

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00	
JAMAT	5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers at the Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology construction site carry out their tasks without any safety equipment, exposing themselves to serious risks. A minor slip or error on this multi-story building could have fatal consequences.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Physiotherapy overlooked

FROM PAGE 3
 Galeb said the government approved the establishment of Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy in 1998, but although the foundation stone was laid in 2009, no progress has been made.

M Shahdat Hossain, general secretary of the Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association, said posts for physiotherapists in hospitals are often filled by diploma-holding technologists, depriving qualified physiotherapists

of opportunities.

He said physiotherapists currently receive accreditation from the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council under the Ministry of Social Welfare, but they want to be accredited under the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council as they provide medical services.

Prof Taslim Uddin, former chairman of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at BMU, said physiotherapists should

be incorporated into the health system.

Prof Syed Abdul Hamid, convener of the Alliance for Health Reform Bangladesh, said physiotherapy services involve doctors of physical medicine, physiotherapists, and diploma-holding technologists, but there is a lack of proper integration among them.

Prof Anwar Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association, and public health expert Mostak Ahmed also spoke.

Launch judicial probe

FROM PAGE 3
 demands at the Gono Odhikar Parishad's central office in Paltan, Dhaka, the leaders strongly condemned the incident and urged the immediate arrest of those responsible. On August 29, Nur

and five others sustained injuries after being beaten by police and army personnel. The assault followed clashes between Gono Odhikar Parishad and Jatiya Party activists near the latter's Kakrail office in Dhaka.

The following day, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters at state guest house Jamuna that the government would conduct a judicial inquiry into the attack on Nur and his party members.

US reiterates support

FROM PAGE 3
 After the meeting, Jacobson said, "Since there are so many rumours and conspiracy theories out there, I want to be very clear about the US government's position."

"The US embassy or the government does not support any particular party or person, nor do we support any particular outcome, but we do meet with them to understand their platforms and their goals," she explained.

Meanwhile, after the meeting, Nasir Uddin told reporters at his office that the EC is not willing to take any blame regarding election preparations and is preparing in line with the government's decision on how it wants the election to be held.

The CEC said, "She [Jacobson] just came over to understand the situation

better. She wanted to know what preparations we have made. I informed her about our preparations, as we have spoken of holding elections in February."

"She asked about mob culture. I told her there is still time before the election. Those who create mobs won't be seen during elections. You won't find them then. Dhaka will become empty during polls. They won't be around," he added.

The CEC expressed hope that political parties would reach a consensus before the election.

"In the meeting, the issue of black money came up. We cannot completely stop it. I am hopeful that we will fight to the very end with all our strength. Together with the people of this country, we will try our best to hold a fair election," he said.

On the ACC report about stone looting in Sylhet's Companiganj, the adviser said, "If the allegations are true, those responsible will face justice. If false, legal action will be taken against those within the ACC responsible for it."

On the ACC report about stone looting in Sylhet's Companiganj, the adviser said, "If the allegations are true, those responsible will face justice. If false, legal action will be taken against those within the ACC responsible for it."

Army to remain

FROM PAGE 3
 election duty, adding that their deployment at polling centres will be strengthened. "The army will remain on mobile duty, while the navy, air force, and APBn members will provide support," he said.

On recent unrest in public universities, Jahangir said teachers are capable of resolving the issues through dialogue with students. He assured that the possibility of third-party instigation will be investigated.

He termed the attack on Gono Odhikar Parishad president Nurul Haque Nur "unfortunate" and wished him a speedy recovery.

On the ACC report about stone looting in Sylhet's Companiganj, the adviser said, "If the allegations are true, those responsible will face justice. If false, legal action will be taken against those within the ACC responsible for it."

ACC to sue

FROM PAGE 5
 Solenkhia, Jan Bari Rizvi, foundation vice chairman Prof Pran Gopal Datta, executive committee member Mehraj Jahan, Prof Ruhul Haque, Shirin Zaman Munir, and Helaluddin Ahmed.

The ACC director general said businessmen provided donations to the foundation in exchange for undue advantages.

The accused businessmen are: Hamid Real Estate Chairman Enthekhabul Hamid; former minister and businessman Nurul Islam; former MP and Beximco Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman; Summit Group Chairman Mohammad Aziz Khan; former MP and businessman AKM Rahmatullah; United Group Chairman Moinuddin Hasan Rashid; Meghna Group Chairman Mostafa Kamal and Bill Trade Engineering Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Enayetur Rahman.

July Charter likely

FROM PAGE 3
 suggested a referendum, others preferred parliamentary approval, while some proposed a legal framework.

Several parties emphasised that failure to implement the July Charter could delay national elections and destabilise the country. They stressed the need for expert input and compromise.

The parties that attended yesterday's meeting, included National Socialist Party (JSD), JASAD, CPB, BASAD, BASAD Marxist, Ganoforum, Labour Party, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nezam-e-Islami, Bhasani People's Power Party, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Zaker Party, and National Ganofront.

CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said, "The commission asked our opinion on both the July Charter and its implementation. Within a

few days, the commission will respond, and we can say yes or no. Written suggestions for implementation can also be submitted, and the commission will forward these to the government as recommendations. The charter and its implementation will be treated separately."

B A S A D - M a r x i s t coordinator Masud Rana said, "We suggested that reforms that can be implemented through ordinances or executive orders should be done immediately."

Labour Party Chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran suggested that constitutional matters should be implemented by the elected parliament.

Senior Deputy Amir Maulana Yusuf Ashraf of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis said the charter should have authority above the constitution, laws, and courts.

Police open fired on journos

FROM PAGE 3
 Sadeq Kawsar Dastagir, assistant commissioner Mianur Rahman, and Kotwali Police Station OC Mohiuddin, along with other policemen, opened fire on protesters.

Mohid held Sheikh Hasina, then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, and former home ministry secretary Md Jahangir Alam responsible for the incident.

He submitted two video clips he recorded, one of which was played in court showing a bleeding Torab.

Another journalist, Humayun Kabir Liton, corroborated Mohid's testimony.

Four other witnesses, including three doctors, also testified. They said they were present when the investigation officer seized bullets removed from patients during the uprising.

Car sale

No of Vehicles: 07 Nos

Description of Vehicles:

TOYOTA HIACE, Ambulance 2.7L, 2TR-FE, Octane, 06 seats, RHD Manual transmission, 2017 & 2018 Models. (Available for visit at Ukhia office)	5 Nos	Cox's Bazar
Toyota Avanza, 3SZ-VE, 1.3L, Octane, 07 seats, Manual transmission 2009 Models. (Available for visit at Dhaka office)	2 Nos	Dhaka

Bid form can be collected till 11 September 2025 at the address mentioned below. Updated BIN (for companies) and E-TIN certificate (for individuals) is mandatory to collect bid form.

A 10% deposit should be made by pay order, which is refundable if you are not selected for the tender.

Address: Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

1. Khawaja Palace (5th Floor), Plot# 76/B, Road-11, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
2. Koba twin Cox (5th Floor) (behind Cox's bazar model Thana), Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh

Sealed Bid offer can be submitted till 14 September 2025, 1:30pm. (Sunday to Thursday)



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

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

Website: www.aust.edu, Phone: 8870422 (PABX)

Contact: Architecture - 01712787976, Civil Engg. - 01774848686,

EEE - 01572684902, Mathematics - 01732939789

Registrar Office - 01773500054

ADMISSION IN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

SPRING - 2025 Semester

Program	Duration	Minimum Qualification/ Requirement
Master of Architecture (M. Arch.)	Minimum 1½ year	Minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.0 in B. Arch. and a minimum GPA of 3.50 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C., but GPA not less than 2.00 in the either examination.
Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture (PG. Dip. Arch.)	Minimum 1 year	Minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engg. and a minimum GPA of 3.50 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C., but GPA not less than 2.00 in the either examination.
M.Sc. Engg./M. Engg. in Civil Engg.	Minimum 1½ year	Minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engg. and a minimum GPA of 3.50 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C., but GPA not less than 2.00 in the either examination.
M.Sc. Engg. / M. Engg. in EEE	1 to 2 years	Bachelor Degree in Math/ Statistics/ Physics/ Engineering or equivalent degree
M.S. in Mathematics	1 to 2 years	Bachelor Degree in Math/ Statistics/ Physics/ Engineering or equivalent degree

Online Application opens on 02/09/2025. The address for online application is "<https://iums.aust.edu/pg-admission>". Please contact the respective Department Office or the Registrar Office for further information. The last date of submission of applications/online application is 17/10/2025.

INNOVATION::CREATION::LEADERSHIP

Employment Opportunity

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) is an international joint venture leading Ammonia & Urea Fertilizer manufacturing company in Bangladesh. The plant is located at Rangadia, Anowara, Chattogram with its corporate office at Dhaka.

KAFCO is inviting applications from eligible candidates against the below mentioned position for the Plant Site at Chattogram.

Medical Technologist (Lab)

Requirements:

- Diploma in Medical Technology (Lab) from any Government approved Institute;
- Having Minimum Three years' hands on experience in renowned Pathological Laboratory excluding training period;
- Knowledge on work safety;
- Candidates shall have to demonstrate their skills practically during selection process;
- Maximum 35 years of age as on 31st August, 2025;

Additional Requirements

- Sound health for industrial environment. The offer for job shall be subject to physically fit after medical examination by Company Medical Officer.
- Can work under pressure, self motivated, oriented with company goals.
- Shall have to work directly in field with own hand.
- Job Location - KAFCO Plant, Rangadia, Anowara, Chattogram.

ACC to sue Putul, 35 others over Tk 448cr graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to file a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed Putul, along with 35 others, on charges of collecting bribes in the name of donations under the banner of Shuchona Foundation and embezzling Tk 448 crore.

ACC Director General Md Akhter Hossain informed journalists about the approval of the case yesterday.

According to the ACC complaint, Putul and the other accused established a paper-based entity named Shuchona Foundation and obtained registration from the NGO Affairs Bureau and the Department of Social Services.

Later, they collected bribes from various individuals and organisations under the guise of donations by offering illegal benefits. Instead of spending the money for the welfare of disabled persons, they embezzled Tk 448 crore, it said.

The accused from Shuchona Foundation include trustee Saima Wazed, Prof Mazharul Mannan, former BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon, Saifullah Abdullah

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

BAU SHUTDOWN

Students defy hall vacate order, place 6-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Despite the authorities' order to vacate dormitories following an indefinite closure on Sunday night, most male students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) have refused to leave.

Yesterday morning, students brought out processions on campus wielding sticks and declared they would not leave the halls.

At a press conference at the university's Aamtoola around 11:30am, they placed a six-point demand.

Their demands included the withdrawal of the order to vacate halls, the resignation of the proctorial body within 24 hours, an apology from the vice chancellor for the attack on students, justice against those involved in the attack, including teachers, and the implementation of a single combined degree.

The students gave the authorities until 2:00pm to respond, but when no steps were taken, they blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh rail route around 4:00pm, halting train services for over two hours.

The blockade was withdrawn around

6:15pm, and rail communication resumed, said Md Akter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Government Railway Police Station in Mymensingh.

In the evening, the agitating students held another press conference on campus, where they reiterated their six-point demands and alleged the administration had not responded.



"We want to resolve the ongoing crisis through fruitful discussions. If our demands are not fulfilled shortly, we will go for a movement," said Ahsanul Haque Himel, a third-year student of the Faculty of Animal Husbandry.

Contacted, BAU Proctor Prof Md Abdul Alim said there was no new decision regarding the crisis.

Mymensingh Superintendent of Police

Kazi Akhtarul Alam said law enforcers have been deployed in and around the campus, particularly at the first gate of the university, and remain on alert to prevent any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, many female students began leaving their halls early yesterday, saying the sudden shutdown created difficulties as they live far from campus.

Still, fearing for their safety, they chose to go. "We came here to study, not for violence or vandalism. Attacks on ordinary students by outsiders cannot be tolerated," said one female student.

The university was declared closed indefinitely after an emergency syndicate meeting held online around 9:30pm Sunday. Students were instructed to vacate the halls by 9:00am Monday.

The decision followed an incident earlier in the day when outsiders allegedly attacked protesting students, who had confined over 200 teachers, including the vice chancellor, during an academic council meeting on the demand for a single combined degree.

At least seven students were injured in the attack.

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
BHADRA 18, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

KILLED IN MOB ATTACK Family's hopes shattered with Pradip's death

S DILIP ROY

Grief has engulfed the family of 47-year-old Pradip Lal Robidas, who was beaten to death in a mob attack at Rangpur's Taraganj on August 9.

His 16-year-old daughter, Palashi Robidas, said, "I can't take my SSC exams anymore. My father is gone. He was beaten to death by a mob. He was our only support. Now we struggle even for a handful of rice."

Her elder brother, Dulal Robidas, 19, passed SSC in 2022 but could not afford college. Poverty forced him into work as a day labourer. The youngest, Apon Robidas, 13, a seventh grader, also faces an uncertain future.

The family lives on borrowed land at Khamar Mokimpur village in Mithapukur upazila. While most families there own their homes, Pradip's consisted of only two ramshackle tin rooms.



Once a cobbler, Pradip lost an ankle to illness six years ago. With villagers' help, he received a battery-run van, which he drove to earn a living.

"I must take up my father's trade of mending shoes. Books don't fill empty stomachs," Apon said.

Dulal, now the sole breadwinner, said, "I earn Tk 300-400 a day as a labourer, but it's not enough. The van my father drove is in police custody. If I had it, I could earn more. My brother and sister want to study, but I alone can't manage."

Taraganj Police Station OC MA Faruk said the van was seized as evidence. "If the court decides, it can be handed over to the family."

Retired schoolteacher Jiten Chandra Acharya, 84, on whose land the family lives, said, "Pradip was an honest man. Now, in their home where once a pradip (lamp) glowed, there is only darkness."

On August 9, Pradip was travelling with his relative Ruplal Robidas on a rickshaw van in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila. Around 9:30pm, in the Burtirhat area, a mob stopped them, accusing them of stealing the vehicle. Despite their pleas and explanations, the crowd turned violent and beat them severely.

Ruplal died at Taraganj Upazila Health Complex, while Pradip died the next day at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Two cousins drown in Thakurgaon pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two minors drowned in a pond in Krishnapur village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Saudia Akhter, 5, and her cousin Aysha Akhter, 5.

Quoting family members, Abdul Hannan, chairman of Rahimanpur Union Parishad, told The Daily Star, "Aysha had come to visit her maternal grandfather's house last week. After having breakfast today, the two girls were playing around the house when they went missing."

Family members found their sandals on the bank of a nearby pond and began searching. Neighbours and relatives later recovered the children from the pond in an unconscious state and rushed them to Thakurgaon General Hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Officer-in-Charge Sarware Alam Khan of Thakurgaon Police Station confirmed the incident and said an unnatural death case has been filed.



MANOHARPUR HAAT

A lifeline for 5,000, but lacks facilities

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

At dawn on Fridays and Mondays, the marshlands of Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila come alive with the movement of over a hundred boats carrying fresh vegetables, fish, rice, and other goods to the lone Manoharpur haat.

Traders and farmers navigate narrow canals to reach the market, where buyers haggle, children clamber on boats, and farmers unload produce – a lively scene overshadowed by hardship and neglect.

For at least 5,000 people from six surrounding villages, including Manoharpur, Gaokhali, Padmadubi, and Daulbari, the haat is the central hub of commerce.

Located in Daulbari Dobra union, it operates twice a week, generating weekly transactions worth around Tk 5 lakh. Wholesale buyers also collect vegetables here for distribution to other parts of the country via engine-run boats.

From Nazirpur upazila headquarters, one must travel 17 kilometres and then ride half an hour on an engine-run boat

to reach the market. Visitors disembark on a fragile bamboo makeshift ghat, which becomes dangerously slippery during the monsoon and nearly unusable in winter when water levels fall.

"We risk accidents every week, but as we don't have any other place for business, we come here despite the hardship," said farmer Abdul Jalil.

Market traders echoed similar concerns. "The bazaar is our main business centre, but it lacks even the minimum facilities," said Nazrul Islam.

Bellal Hossain said structures and internal roads are in poor condition. Sanitation facilities are absent, and erosion of the adjacent canal has already reduced parts of the market.

"We had to shift our shops several times to protect them from erosion," said Abul Hossain.

Locals and union parishad member Mohammad Shahin demanded urgent intervention.

Contacted, UNO Sajia Sahnaj Tama said, "We have a plan to construct a concrete ghat and arrange sanitation facilities. Work will begin after the rainy season."

10 acres of forest land recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Forest Department has reclaimed 10 acres of forest land in Satkhaimair mouza under the Barmi union in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila and brought it under afforestation.

The department yesterday planted 10,000 saplings on the recovered land under the initiative of the Sreepur Range, said Mokhlesur Rahman, Sreepur range officer.

According to the department, local resident Sabah Uddin Molla filed a record amendment case against it in 2005, making the department the defendant. The court recently delivered a verdict in favour of the Forest Department.

The market value of the recovered land is around Tk 20 crore.

Sabah Uddin could not be reached for comments.

August sees 39 dengue deaths

UNB, Dhaka

A total of 39 people died from dengue while 10,496 cases were reported in the month of August, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The number of dengue patients in July was 10,684 while the health authorities logged 41 deaths.

Meanwhile, 552 new dengue cases were reported in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of confirmed cases to 32,028 this year.

The number of deaths remained at 122, as no new fatalities were reported during this period.

Currently, 1,584 patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals.

Last year, dengue claimed the lives of 575 people.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project
Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority
Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance
Jibon Bima Bhaban, Front Block (5th Floor)
10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.bisdp.gov.bd; E-mail: pd.bisdproject@gmail.com;

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1. Ministry/Division	Financial Institutions Division (FID)		
2. Agency & Procuring Entity Name	Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project (BISDP)		
3. Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project (BISDP)		
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not used		
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6. Invitation for	<i>Design and building modern cafeteria and associate furniture and Fixing for BIA</i>		
7. Invitation Ref No	53.03.0000.090.07.051.25-516		
8. Date	01 September 2025		
9. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National)		
10. Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GoB)		
11. Development Partners (if applicable)	World Bank (WB)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12. Project/ Programme Code	P156823		
13. Project/ Programme Name	Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project (BISDP)		
14. Tender Package No	G-38		
15. Tender Package Name	<i>Design and building modern cafeteria and associate furniture and Fixing for BIA</i>		
16. Tender Publication Date	02 September 2025		
17. Tender Last Selling Date	29 September 2025 up to 5.00 PM		
18. Last Date and Time of Tender Submission	30 September 2025 at 03.00 PM		
19. Tender Opening Date and Time	30 September 2025 at 03.30 PM		
20. Name and Address of the office Selling, Receiving & Opening Tender Document	The Project Director, Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project (BISDP), Jibon Bima Bhaban, Front Block (5th Floor), 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 02-9514963; E-mail: pd.bisdproject@gmail.com		
21. Last date of queries/ clarification sought by Tenderers (in writing or e-mail)	17 September 2025 by 4.00 PM		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22. Eligibility of Qualifications of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 05 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of Goods and related services. The Tenderer shall have the specific experience of supplying similar Goods of at least 01 contract successfully completed within the last 05 years each with a value of minimum Tk 1,00,000/- (Tk One Crore only) i.e years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facility is Tk 1,50,00,000/- (BDT One Crore Fifty Lac only) The maximum 02 (two) number of arbitrations against the Tenderer over a period of the last 05 (five) years. 		
23. Brief Description of Goods:	<i>Design and building modern cafeteria and associate furniture and Fixing for BIA</i>		
24. Brief Description of Related Services	Details in the Tender Document		
25. Tender Document Price	Tk. 1,000.00/- (Taka One Thousand) only in Pay Order (In favor of Project Director, Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project)		
2			



Director of the Executive Committee of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), Ularbek Sharshev, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian, and SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev pose during a photo session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025, with Chinese President Xi Jinping, at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Centre in Tianjin, China, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Putin defends invasion of Ukraine

Blames West; Kyiv says Russia linked to lawmaker's killing
AFP, Tianjin

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday sought to defend his Ukraine offensive to Moscow's allies, blaming the West for triggering the three-and-a-half year war that has killed tens of thousands and devastated much of eastern Ukraine.

"This crisis was not triggered by Russia's attack on Ukraine, but was a result of a coup in Ukraine, which was supported and provoked by the West," Putin said at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

That is a reference to Ukraine's 2013-2014 pro-European revolution, which ousted a pro-Russian president.

Moscow responded by annexing the Crimean peninsula and backing pro-Russian separatists in the east, triggering a civil war.

"The second reason for the crisis is the West's constant attempts to drag Ukraine into Nato," the Russian president added.

Meanwhile, Kyiv said yesterday that Russia was linked to the weekend assassination of a pro-Western Ukrainian politician after the arrest of a suspect alleged to have carried out the shooting dressed as a courier.

Russia, India stand together 'in difficult times'

Modi tells 'dear friend' Putin during talks on SCO sidelines

REUTERS, Moscow

India's Narendra Modi told Vladimir Putin yesterday that India and Russia stood side by side even in difficult times after the Kremlin chief called the Indian prime minister his "dear friend" and gave him a lift in his armoured limousine.

China and India are the biggest buyers of crude oil from Russia, the world's second largest exporter. Trump has imposed additional tariffs on India over the purchases but there is no sign that India or China are going to stop them.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in China's port city of Tianjin, Modi held Putin's hand as they walked towards Chinese President Xi Jinping. All three smiled as they spoke, surrounded by translators.

Later, Modi posted a picture on X of him and Putin inside the armoured Aurus limousine used by the Russian leader.

Putin often travels with the Aurus on

foreign trips and has occasionally offered rides to fellow leaders - or even gifted the vehicle, as he did to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2024.

"Even in the most difficult situations, India and Russia have always walked shoulder to shoulder," Modi said. "Our close cooperation is important not only for the people of both countries but also for global peace, stability and prosperity."

At the bilateral meeting, Putin addressed Modi in Russian as "Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear friend."

"Russia and India have maintained special relations for decades, friendly and trusting. This is the foundation for the development of our relations in the future," Putin said.

Modi said he welcomed recent efforts aimed at stopping the war in Ukraine, which he hoped would end as soon as possible. On Saturday, Modi reaffirmed his support for a peaceful settlement during a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Modi's office said.

Pakistan govt helicopter crash kills 5

AFP, Khyber

A Pakistan government helicopter crashed in the north of the country yesterday, killing all five people on board, police said.

The helicopter was carrying out "a test landing on a newly proposed helipad" in a mountainous tourist area when it came



down, Abdul Hameed, a senior police officer in Diamer district, told AFP.

"Among the killed were two pilots and three technicians," he said.

The helicopter, which belonged to the Gilgit-Baltistan government, crashed in the region's Diamer district around 10:00 am. It comes weeks after a government Mi-17 helicopter crashed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

India backs Myanmar junta's election plan

Says state-media; Delhi to send teams to monitor polls

REUTERS

India will send teams to monitor a general election in war-torn Myanmar that is scheduled to start in December, Myanmar state media said yesterday, as New Delhi signals support for a vote that has already been derided by critics as a sham.

Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in China, a rare international engagement for the general who had largely been shunned by foreign leaders since leading a coup in 2021.



"At the meeting, they exchanged views on measures to ensure peace and stability in the border regions of both countries, trade promotion, enhancement of friendship and cooperation," the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported.

The military's ouster of an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi 4 1/2 years ago, on a pretext of election fraud, triggered a devastating civil war that has engulfed large parts of the impoverished Southeast Asia nation.

Myanmar plans to hold the initial phase of the first general election since the coup on December 28, as part of voting that a military-backed interim administration is seeking to conduct in more than 300 constituencies nationwide, including areas currently held by opposition armed groups.

In a statement on Sunday, India's foreign ministry said that Modi hoped the upcoming elections in Myanmar would be "held in a fair and inclusive manner involving all stakeholders".

A day earlier, Min Aung Hlaing also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and the two leaders discussed Beijing's support for the preparations for the polls, according to the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The planned election would occur amid a raging conflict that may make it difficult to conduct. During a nationwide census last year to create voter rolls, Myanmar's military-backed authorities managed to survey only 145 of the country's 330 townships.

So far, nine parties have registered to contest elections nationwide and 55 parties have signed up at the provincial level, having secured approvals from military-backed election authorities, according to state media.



University students protest outside the Indonesian Parliament building in Jakarta yesterday, opposing lawmakers' extra pay and housing allowances.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai opposition party fails to back new PM

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's largest opposition party yesterday failed to decide who to back as the nation's next prime minister at a kingmaking summit, after the incumbent was ousted by court order.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra was on Friday sacked as prime minister by Thailand's Constitutional Court after it found she had breached ethical standards during a border row with Cambodia.

The ruling has left Thailand with only an acting prime minister and a caretaker cabinet as minority factions jostle to secure backing to form a new government.

Paetongtarn's Pheu Thai Party and the conservative Bhumjaithai Party -- which abandoned her coalition over the border row -- are both now courting the People's Party's stronghold of 143 parliamentary seats.

But People's Party spokesman Wacharasindhu told reporters a summit to weigh their options yesterday ended with no decision, and would resume today.

Chinese cluster now world's top innovation hotspot: UN

AFP, Geneva

Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou has overtaken Tokyo-Yokohama to become the world's top cluster for innovation, the United Nations said yesterday.

The UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said the Chinese cluster had leapfrogged its Japanese rival in its 2025 Global Innovation Index.

The change at the top of the world's 100 leading innovation clusters was down to WIPO broadening the criteria to include venture capital investments to formulate the annual rankings.

The UN agency dealing with patenting and innovation previously only used patent filing and scientific publishing data to identify local concentrations of world-leading innovation activity.

"Venture capital investment

activity helps capture how scientific and technological knowledge translates into start-up creation and, ultimately, new goods and services in the marketplace," WIPO said.



The agency said Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou and Tokyo-Yokohama "make a massive contribution to global scientific publications and patenting outputs", together accounting for nearly one in five patent applications filed globally.

The new ranking showed that San Jose San Francisco has now overtaken

Beijing, Seoul and Shanghai-Suzhou to grab the third place.

London has shot up from 21st to eighth place, while Bengaluru has likewise jumped from 56th place to 21st on the back of venture capital deals.

"Innovation clusters form the backbone of strong national innovation ecosystems, helping to anchor and strengthen the journey from ideas to market," said WIPO chief Daren Tang. The recalibrated rankings "highlight which clusters are turning scientific research into economic results".

Overall, the change in methodology has seen East Asian clusters drop while US clusters have made gains.

The change boosted Indian clusters, while those in the EU -- where the venture capital markets are sometimes less vigorous than in the US -- have tended to see a decline.

এডিসিউ ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

ইউনিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত ছানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলনোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে :-

ক্রম নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনেক মানি	দরপত্র লিভিটেডের মূল্য (অফেরহারে)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খেলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইউনিসিএল/জ্যো/ছানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৩৪১ তারিখ ০/০৯/২০২৫ ইং	০৫ (পাঁচ) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড প্রিস্টার বক্স {০৫ (five) kinds of Printed Blister Box} (সিডিউল মোডাবেক)	৫,৫০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি মেট	১৪/০৯/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকা	১৪/০৯/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১১.১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইউনিসিএল/জ্যো/ছানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৩৪২ তারিখ ০/০৯/২০২৫ ইং	১০ (দশ) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড প্রিস্টার বক্স {১০ (ten) kinds of Printed Blister Box } (সিডিউল মোডাবেক)	৮,৮০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি মেট	১৪/০৯/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকা	১৪/০৯/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১১.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল জরুর করা যাবে। উপরোক্ত যে, যাদের ড্রাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অবশ্যই করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

সরবরাহ খেলার সিডিউল করার পরিপূর্ণ বিবরণ দেখানো হচ্ছে।

(৪" x ৬)

টপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, প্রক্রিয়ার মেটে (জ্যোতি দার্শন)

প্রক্রিয়া ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিবালক।

Country's stability relies on timely polls

All parties should unite behind Yunus's stance on February elections

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's firm re-commitment on Sunday to holding the 13th national election in the first half of February comes as a necessary anchor in Bangladesh's turbulent political landscape. His declaration that "there is no alternative to election" provides both clarity and leadership, and should serve as a guiding principle for all political actors concerned. While the concerns of political groups such as Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP) are understandable in the broader context of reforms, their push to prioritise a constituent assembly election risks complicating the planned transition to democracy.

There's no denying that the path to a stable future for Bangladesh runs directly through a timely and credible election. Any delay or detour—whether through calls for a constituent assembly or other mechanisms—will only deepen uncertainty. As Professor Yunus warned, "If anyone thinks of any other alternative, that would be disastrous for the nation."

For one thing, prolonged uncertainty is very damaging for business. Investment decisions—from capital expenditure to hiring—are often frozen when a country's political trajectory is unclear. This hesitation suppresses economic activity and stalls growth. Data from the Bangladesh Bank illustrates the cost of the present uncertainty: industrial term loan disbursement in the January–March quarter of FY2024–25 fell to its lowest point in seven quarters.

The strain on the private sector is further evident in credit flow and import data. Private sector credit grew by only 6.49 percent in June, the weakest pace in at least three years. Such sluggishness reflects entrepreneurs' reluctance to commit resources when stability is lacking. The opening of letters of credit for capital machinery fell by a staggering 25 percent in FY25, marking the second consecutive year of decline. These figures reveal a dismal picture for domestic investment and underscore how political paralysis is directly stifling the real economy.

Foreign investors, who constantly weigh risks against rewards, are equally cautious. Political uncertainty undermines confidence, while a timely and free election would send a powerful message that Bangladesh is returning to a predictable environment. That said, recent data also offer some grounds for optimism. FDI inflows have shown signs of a rebound, with net inflows reaching \$1.71 billion in FY25, an increase of nearly 20 percent from the previous year, after hitting a three-year low in FY24 amid heated political conflict. It will be deeply counterproductive if a political stalemate jeopardises this fragile but important momentum.

The aspirations embodied in the July Charter and other reform initiatives remain important, but the proper path to meaningful, lasting change is through the establishment of a new government with a clear mandate from the people. Then, constitutional and institutional reforms can be pursued on a solid foundation. So Professor Yunus has correctly identified alternatives to a timely election as "disastrous". All relevant parties must set aside maximalist demands and unite behind the commitment to the February polls, as the stability of Bangladesh depends on it.

Rise in school dropout rate concerning

Govt must take proper measures to reverse this situation

We are deeply concerned by the surge in the school dropout rate after a steady decline over 14 years. According to the Annual Primary School Statistics (APSS) 2024 released by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), the primary school dropout rate increased to 16.25 percent in 2024, up from 13.15 percent in 2023. The report also revealed that dropout rates tend to increase as students advance to higher grades, indicating that many face escalating challenges as they progress through the school education cycle. Another concerning finding is that the dropout rate is high among boys, which surged to 19.02 percent in 2024 from 14.12 percent in 2023, while the rate for girls rose slightly to 13.36 percent from 12.32 percent. The authorities need to address the root causes of this sudden turnaround, otherwise we may lose the progress made over years in boosting primary school enrolment and reducing dropout rates.

In 2010, nearly four in 10 students reportedly failed to complete the primary education cycle. Since then, Bangladesh has made notable progress through measures such as free textbook distribution, expanded stipend coverage, and mid-day meals. By 2020, the rate fell to 17.02 percent from 39.8 percent in 2010, which further dropped to 13.15 percent in 2023, a remarkable improvement. However, political unrest during and after the July uprising last year caused major disruptions across the education sector, including schools and colleges. The DPE report identified several other factors behind the rise in dropout rates. It noted that rising inflation and living costs may have eroded the real value of student stipends, making education less affordable for many families. Additionally, seasonal migration, household economic shocks, and climate-related hardships intensified these challenges, particularly among the disadvantaged communities.

At a time when the country is expected to advance towards universal education as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, we cannot afford to backtrack on our hard-earned progress in this regard. We urge the government to address the issue by taking targeted interventions, such as introducing inflation-adjusted stipends, reviving the school feeding programme, and providing students with free or subsidised educational materials such as exercise books, pens, and pencils. Experts believe that investing more in primary education is crucial to keeping students in school and ensuring quality education. We hope the government will act on these suggestions properly.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Great Fire of London

On this day in 1666, the Great Fire of London began accidentally in the house of the king's baker. It burned for four days and destroyed a large part of the city, including Old St Paul's Cathedral and about 13,000 houses.

EDITORIAL

A stronger, fairer tax system is the need of the hour



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

Bangladesh has persistently lagged behind regional peers and in global standards in terms of the tax-GDP ratio. Indeed, the country's tax-GDP ratio remains among the lowest in the region, with only marginal improvement over the past decade. According to a recent OECD report, Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio was 7.2 percent in 2023, which was below the Asia-Pacific average of 19.5 percent. In FY2024, the ratio was 7.38 percent.

Understandably, a low tax-GDP ratio has several implications for the country's economic growth and social progress. First, it limits the government's fiscal space to invest in infrastructure, social services, climate resilience, and long-term development priorities, which has repercussions in various forms. Employment generation has been low due to low investment. Limited spending for social safety nets and climate resilience measures increases vulnerability of the poor and low-income households.

Second, it exacerbates inequalities in the tax system. When a significant number of high-income individuals and profitable companies evade taxes, the burden falls disproportionately on lower-income groups. The government relies on indirect taxes, such as value-added tax (VAT), which are paid at the same rate by everyone, irrespective of their income. Since VAT is applied on consumption, poor households spend a relatively higher share of their income on VAT compared to the higher income groups as they spend a larger share of their income on basic needs.

Third, Bangladesh's access to trade-related incentives and subsidies will diminish following its graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category in November 2026. This will further constrain revenue sources in the country. Several studies have indicated that countries with low tax compliance often face compounded fiscal challenges during structural transitions, including the cessation of preferential trade benefits.

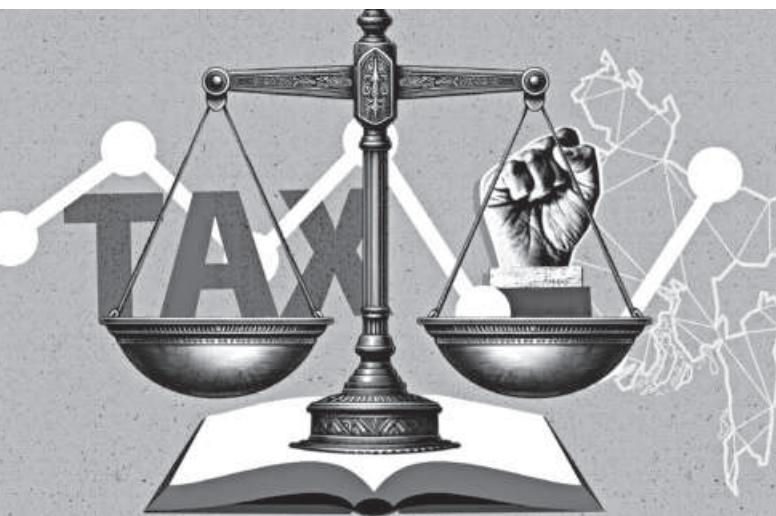
To make revenue mobilisation more efficient and improve the government's capacity to fund public services and investment, some measures are critically important. First, automation and digitisation of tax administration can enhance transparency, reduce harassment by tax officials, and make compliance easier. Adopting a comprehensive electronic tax system that integrates filing, payment, and tracking processes will attract more taxpayers. Such a system can also

facilitate cross-checking between the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and other agencies, such as the Bangladesh Bank and the customs directorate. This will minimise avenues for underreporting and evasion.

Second, simplifying the tax process is critical. Currently, the multiplicity of taxes, rebates, and sector-specific exemptions not only complicates compliance but also creates opportunities for selective evasion. Streamlined tax structures with clearly defined rates, reduced exemptions, and targeted incentives aligned with developmental priorities can simultaneously enhance revenue

audits to encourage businesses and individuals to participate in the formal tax system. Additionally, leveraging third-party information, such as financial institutions and utility payments, can assist the NBR in identifying unregistered taxpayers. Addressing corporate tax evasion is equally essential. NBR must focus on monitoring high-risk sectors such as banking, telecommunications, and large-scale manufacturing to detect and prevent sophisticated evasion techniques.

Another important task is to reduce informal incentives and tax exemptions that disproportionately benefit certain sectors. While these policies are often intended to stimulate investment, they have also led to substantial revenue leakage. For instance, the textile sector, a major contributor to the country's export earnings, enjoys multiple exemptions and rebates under existing policies. It is time to rationalise these incentives. These should be time-bound and coupled with productivity-oriented support for the genuine cause, so that they can maintain



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

and promote investment. This is particularly important in the context of LDC graduation, as the removal of preferential access to the export markets must be faced with higher domestic revenue mobilisation efforts.

Third, broadening the tax base is essential. In Bangladesh, a substantial number of potential taxpayers remains outside the formal system, including high-income individuals, small-scale entrepreneurs, and emerging businesses in the digital economy. Evidence from many developing countries, such as India and Indonesia, demonstrates that integration of informal businesses into the formal tax system, coupled with supportive measures such as simplified tax regimes and incentives for compliance, has helped enhance revenue collection. NBR should conduct targeted awareness campaigns, incentives for voluntary disclosure, and periodic compliance

competitiveness while broadening the tax base. Similarly, exempting VAT on goods and services should be carefully calibrated to prevent misuse or leakage. In Bangladesh, there are many exemptions and special rates, which are often granted due to lobbying by powerful interest groups. As a result, the effective VAT base is limited. Hence the VAT system cannot capture the full revenue potential. A recent CPD study indicates that Bangladesh may have lost around Tk 188,081 crore in FY2023 due to such exemptions and evasion in the VAT system.

Administrative capacity remains a persistent bottleneck. The NBR is under-resourced, understaffed, and often criticised for inefficiency and corruption. Building a skilled, merit-based, and well-incentivised workforce within the tax administration is essential. Continuous training, technological upskilling, and clear career incentives would improve morale

and reduce rent-seeking behaviour. Moreover, taxpayer services must be improved to encourage voluntary compliance. Lengthy bureaucratic procedures, harassment, and lack of grievance redress discourage honest taxpayers and breed distrust. Establishing taxpayer service centres, strengthening e-filing, and creating fair dispute resolution mechanisms would help restore confidence in the tax authority.

Improving taxpayers' trust and compliance is also critical. Behavioural economics suggests that taxpayers respond not only to enforcement but also to perceptions of fairness and efficiency in the tax system. Studies show that countries that invest in taxpayer services, education, and grievance redress mechanisms achieve higher compliance even without drastic increases in audit intensity. In Bangladesh, reports of harassment, delays, and opaque procedures discourage voluntary compliance. Establishing a transparent and responsive taxpayer service framework, including digital communication channels, prompt grievance resolution, and public awareness campaigns, can enhance trust and participation.

Transparent public consultations and parliamentary oversight in tax policy formulation can counterbalance vested interests. Citizens are more likely to accept tax obligations when they perceive that revenues are used efficiently for public goods and social development. Publishing reports on tax expenditure, project-specific revenue use, and outcomes can strengthen social accountability, trust, and legitimacy. Input from think tanks, professional bodies, and civil society should also be institutionalised to ensure that policy design is guided by fairness and efficiency rather than short-term expediency.

The role of political economy cannot be ignored when improving the tax system. Taxation in Bangladesh has long been influenced by vested interests that lobby for exemptions, tax holidays, and amnesties. These practices not only reduce revenue but also erode public trust in fairness. Tax amnesty has been used repeatedly, allowing individuals to legalise undeclared wealth with minimal penalty, thereby rewarding evaders and discouraging honest taxpayers. Moving forward, the government must commit to phasing out discretionary exemptions and amnesties. A uniform application of tax laws can enhance fairness and efficiency.

Bangladesh has already entered a phase where concessional foreign aid has begun to decline. At the same time, its development needs have intensified. This requires decisive action in making the tax system fairer, more efficient, and more progressive. Such a tax system is not just an economic imperative—it is the foundation of democratic governance.

Faith-led messaging can mitigate plastic pollution



Parvez Uddin Chowdhury
is a development worker and climate enthusiast.

Plastic pollution, particularly from single-use items such as plastic grocery bags and various food packaging, persists despite ongoing awareness campaigns and regulatory efforts. In Dhaka city alone, we generate around 646 tonnes of plastic waste daily, much of which remains unmanaged. In districts and upazila towns, markets and municipalities, the problem is more severe.

We could not properly implement the single-use plastic ban, mostly due to the lack of alternatives in the market. The National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management remains elusive, and public awareness is insufficient. Moreover, the lack of a regular and effective waste collection and management system continues to worsen the problem in many places.

In fact, Bangladesh is among the top 20 mismanaged plastic waste-generating nations. A review, published in the *Lancet*, warned that plastics are a "grave, growing and under-recognised danger" to both

human and planetary health, causing at least \$1.5 trillion global health-related damage a year. Current global plastic production is about 450 million tonnes annually and only nine percent of plastic waste is recycled; the rest mostly goes to landfills and oceans.

Last month, the United Nations plastic treaty talks in Geneva failed again as representatives from over 183 countries could not reach a consensus towards a legally binding agreement to tackle plastic pollution.

However, the solution to plastic pollution is nuanced because plastic, due to its versatility, durability, and low cost, has improved modern daily lives in numerous ways. Therefore, stopping plastic pollution cannot be the solution per se; rather, the focus should be on the management of plastic waste.

For example, single-use plastics, such as thin grocery bags, wrappers, and disposable containers, are often used for a short time. They have no

post-consumer value and hence are difficult to integrate into circular plastic waste management systems. These items often end up in rivers and oceans, polluting the environment. On the other hand, plastic items with post-consumer value are mostly collected and recycled.

Therefore, the challenge is to bring about public behavioural change by making people aware of the pollution caused by single-use plastic items. This calls for consistent messaging, social influence, and a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach and, ultimately, the personal commitment of every citizen. Media continue to publish and broadcast reports addressing this issue; national and international NGOs are also actively conducting research and running awareness campaigns to increase plastic literacy and promote sustainable practices.

Yet, a meaningful shift in people's behaviour seems like a distant goal. In this context, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan called upon religious scholars to leverage their influence in raising public awareness about noise and plastic pollution. Community-based solutions are often inherently sustainable and effective ways to bring about change. We have over 300,000 mosques in Bangladesh. Each one occupies a central place in community life. People gather in large numbers for weekly congregational

or Jumma prayer. Within Islamic teachings, there are many Quranic references and prophetic teachings on cleanliness, *khalifah* or stewardship of the Earth, and the responsibility to protect the environment. If our imams and faith leaders dedicate a few minutes during every weekly congregation sermon or other religious gatherings to speak about the public health and environmental concerns caused by plastic pollution, they can inspire behavioural change at the grassroots level.

To save the environment around us and for healthy living, we cannot overlook problems such as plastic and pollution. Neither can we wait for the world to reach a consensus to end plastic pollution. While inadequate waste management capacity across the country is one of the biggest challenges, with the responsibility lying mostly with government and non-government entities, the general public can also play a part here. Effective public awareness can largely mitigate this crisis. For example, people can be encouraged to reduce the use of thin plastic polythene bags by carrying reusable ones and being cautious about discarding plastic waste irresponsibly. Blaming others for plastic production and waste generation will never solve the current problem. Education, awareness, personal commitment and collective efforts will do.

Where do Indigenous peoples belong in the new Bangladesh?



Syeda Shagufta Hossain
is a Canada-based Bangladeshi rights
advocate.

SYEDA SHAGUFTA HOSSAIN

Just over a year after the historic July uprising that once again split Bangladesh into a before-and-after timeline, the country finds itself at a critical juncture where we ask ourselves, "Who are we?" This search for identity in a new Bangladesh feels urgent. Yet, in this national reimagining, another pressing question remains: whose histories will be remembered, and whose will be erased?

I was reminded of this tension while facilitating a session organised by Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities (SPaRC), where 24 youth from 16 Indigenous communities came together to explore questions of culture, belonging, and power. The experience forced me to confront the privileges of my own identity as a Bangladeshi Muslim woman that merits its own deeper delve, but maybe another time.

What stayed with me from that day and what I want to reflect on today is a moment that cut through the abstractions of dialogue and made the stakes of belonging painfully real—one that asks that I approach this topic with as much humility as I can muster, given the privilege I hold in relation to the identities I am about to discuss.

In one of the exercises, where participants were asked to present what culture is "ours" and what is "theirs," a young Oraon man made the claim that nakshi kantha—the iconic embroidered quilt so often celebrated as "quintessentially Bangladeshi"—is indigenous to their community. Whether historically accurate or not, his assertion made me reflect on how the cultural fabric of Bangladesh is not uniform but rather stitched together from multiple threads, some of which have been systematically denied, an erasure that can be both cultural and material. Later that



To deny Indigenous peoples the right to their own language, culture, freedom, and dignity would be to betray the foundation of the nation.

FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

night, Coke Studio Bangla released its now-controversial song *Baaji*, further deepening my discomfort as discussions on cultural appropriation, tokenism, and the politics of representation emerged within activist communities.

The Oraon, Chakma, Marma, Santal, Garo, Mro, Bawm, and other Indigenous peoples carry histories older than this state. Their languages, rituals, and oral traditions have survived in the hills and plains, but in our national imagination, they are often rendered invisible, or reduced to a choreographed view comprising embroidery motifs, staged

dances, or smiling faces in the tourism brochures. Culture becomes consumable for the masses while the real people disappear. The violence on lands and bodies is mirrored by the violence of forgetting.

According to a report published in *The Daily Star*, which quoted the Kapaeng Foundation's 2025 report, 295 individuals were impacted by 15 land-related incidents during the first seven months of this year.

21 deaths, 119 houses and shops burned or looted, and 2,314 acres of land forcibly occupied, confirming that dispossession and violence remain disturbingly routine.

And as usual, women with Indigenous identities bear the brunt of this systemic aggression—through rape, intimidation, and targeted attacks that are rarely addressed. Even documentation or media coverage remains fraught and inadequate. According

Kuki Chin National Front (KNF), as reported by Amnesty International. Latest reports say many of the detainees, including women and children, remain under arrest for over 500 days and counting. Their prolonged detention constitutes a disproportionately harsh and unjust response, targeting an entire community for the activities conducted by a small group.

Official documents continue to label Indigenous peoples as "ethnic minorities," thereby denying them rootedness and legitimacy. This denial is systemised. Indigenous languages disappear under the weight of Bangladeshi (and western) dominance; oral histories fade without institutional support; school curricula erase the stories of Indigenous resistance. What remains is often appropriated and repackaged within the national narrative to fit the sensitivities of the majority.

So, going back to my uncomfortable moment of reflection when I listened to the young Oraon man claim the nakshi kantha as theirs. Maybe his claim wasn't so much an attempt at reclaiming ownership, but an act of resistance against the machinery of cultural appropriation. Maybe it was meant to serve as a reminder that promises of equity have repeatedly excluded Indigenous peoples. That their homes were seized, their practices commodified without credit, and their demands for self-determination dismissed as threats. Maybe it was a way of insisting that their histories and identities, too often invisible, cannot simply be highlighted when convenient and ignored when inconvenient.

So, where do they fit in the changing narrative of a new Bangladesh?

Bangladesh was born out of a struggle for the right to one's own language, culture, freedom, and dignity. To deny Indigenous peoples any of these rights would be to betray the foundation of the nation. If a new Bangladesh is to emerge—one that is whole, not fractured—it must honour Indigenous belonging. That means proper land restitution, accountability for violence, and respect for Indigenous rights and identities. Otherwise, the story of this nation will remain incomplete.

Hope and despair cloud the prospect of February polls



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SABIR MUSTAFA

Bangladesh appears to be getting pulled in opposite directions by two political currents, creating a contradictory mood about the immediate future of the country. At the centre of this apparent tug of war is the timing as well as purpose of the next election.

The source of one of the currents is the optimism generated by the announcement of a February date for the election, with the Election Commission recently unveiling a "roadmap" to finish all preparations beforehand. With the polls less than six months away, a lot of people are hopeful that the uncertainty that has hung over the country for the past year or so will dissipate once an elected government assumes power.

The other, pessimistic current derives its strength from the apprehension that a chain of events may be unleashed to derail the election or make it so controversial as to ignite yet another period of chaos and agitation. Such apprehensions are just as legitimate as the reasons for optimism, as they are rooted in the behaviour and pronouncements of some key political players. These raise doubts about the interim government's ability to

stick to its declared timetable.

Even though about 50 parties are currently registered with the Election Commission (with 147 more having applied for registration ahead of the upcoming polls), in reality, the opinion of no more than three or four parties matter to any great extent. These parties are engaged in a battle of wills, each seeking to shape the election to their advantage, thus contributing to the ebb and flow of the contradictory currents.

The biggest of these parties, of course, is the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). It has always been vocal about elections under a neutral, caretaker government, for which their leaders and workers suffered enormous repression for over a decade. They appear most keen among the major players to ensure that the election takes place in February, but they are also acutely aware of the obstacles ahead.

"We have extended all cooperation to the government, did not create any obstacles anywhere," BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a meeting at the National Press Club on August 27. "Unfortunately, some

political circles today are purposefully raising some new demands in an attempt to hamper the elections... They are raising such demands with which the people of the country are not familiar."

It is not difficult to figure out which political circles or demands Mirza Fakhrul was talking about. In recent weeks, two other major political forces have been increasingly vocal about what they see as the inadequacies of an election in February: Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP).

There is no doubt that Jamaat has emerged as a key player in post-Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh. It has been one of the major beneficiaries of the anti-Hasina movement's success. In principle, Jamaat does not seem to have anything against a February date for polls. In fact, its leaders were among the first to suggest a "pre-Ramadan" election. But lately, their public uttering has cast doubt about their sincerity. During a major rally in Dhaka on July 19, Jamaat tabled a list of seven demands, which were headed by a call for the next election to be held under a proportional representation (PR) system—something the BNP flatly refuses to support. Jamaat also wants implementation of reforms before the polls.

It is not clear whether Jamaat would boycott the polls if they are not held under a PR system, but they have created enough uncertainty about their intentions by threatening a "movement" if their demands are not met.

The NCP, which was formed by student leaders who were at the forefront of last year's movement against Hasina, has gone a few

steps further in creating uncertainty about the elections. At various times, NCP leaders have demanded that the next election be held to elect a constituent assembly, whose role would be to draw up a new constitution. This raises many questions. The demand for a constituent assembly could be seen as a tactic to prolong the lifetime of the current interim regime. In the unlikely event that the election is indeed held to elect a constituent assembly, Prof Muhammad Yunus and his council of advisers would likely remain in charge until a new constitution is promulgated and the election is held under the provisions of that constitution to elect a new parliament and government.

No other party supports, at least publicly, such a demand. But the NCP's apparently belligerent position increases pressure on the Yunus government. Although NCP's support among the population is still unknown and untested, their influence in the interim government and in the wider political scene cannot be overestimated. The NCP, which can't shake off the "King's Party" label, believes that the July Charter—which is basically a list of the major reform proposals that have been agreed upon during deliberations by the National Consensus Commission—should be given "legal basis" before any election.

Most recently, the party has suggested holding simultaneous polls for the parliament and a constituent assembly, after granting "legal basis" to the July Charter. "If this task can be completed by February, we are ready for elections in February," NCP leader Nahid Islam told reporters at Dhaka airport on August 27. This leaves their intention about

the election shrouded in a smoke of doubt. The NCP evidently does not want the fate of constitutional reforms to be left to an elected parliament. They want the July Charter to be the basis for a new constitution, which cannot even be challenged in a court of law. That in itself is likely to sow the seeds of future unrest.

For its part, the BNP has made it clear that it has no problem with the interim regime implementing legal reforms through ordinances, but all reforms requiring amendment to the constitution should be left to the elected national assembly. They see the demands for a PR system or elections for a constituent assembly as mere manoeuvres. "Demanding PR or a constituent assembly is a political tactic, and these statements are aimed at stirring up the field," senior BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters on August 26.

The question now is, to what end are these demands being made? And how likely are they to push back the date for the election?

Any deviation from the February deadline would serve to prolong the life of the interim regime. This may please a section within the government and their allies, but further delays to holding the election would breed the same kind of frustration that the nation observed once Sheikh Hasina abolished the caretaker system in 2011. It is important for Prof Yunus to understand that his task at this critical juncture is to hold a free and fair election in February, and peacefully transfer power to the elected government. The task of implementing reforms is best left in the hands of the elected representatives, and not to commissions he appointed.

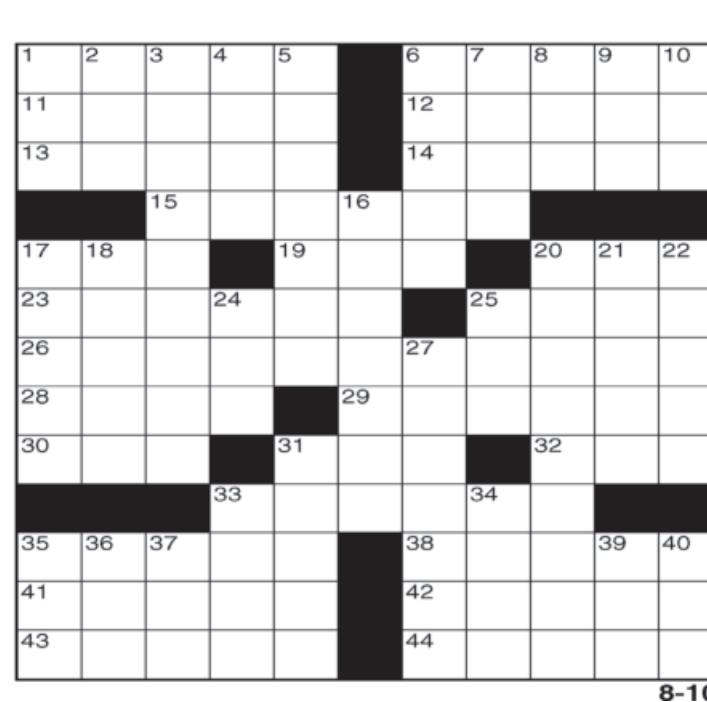
CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Viking of the comics
- 2 " your loss!"
- 3 Reclining seat
- 4 Eminem collaborator
- 5 Wanderer
- 6 In the know
- 7 Desert spots
- 8 Principle
- 9 Pulls along
- 10 Mechanic's place
- 11 relief
- 12 One or more
- 13 Whale group
- 14 Unbroken
- 15 Face feature
- 16 "Licensed to Ill" hip-hop group
- 17 "Top-notch"
- 18 Brown songbird
- 19 "Top-notch"
- 20 Mess up
- 21 Add up
- 22 " your loss!"
- 23 "Hotline Bling" rapper
- 24 "Survival Kit" hip-hop duo
- 25 "Mass Appeal" hip-hop duo
- 26 "Region"
- 27 "Take back"
- 28 "Potentially dangerous"
- 29 "Steak choice"
- 30 "High - kite"
- 31 "Tapped item"

- 10 Snaky shape
- 11 Island near Barbuda
- 12 Preacher's book
- 13 "Lend - (hear out)
- 14 "Survival Kit" hip-hop group
- 15 "Fails miserably"
- 16 "Very serious"
- 17 "DOWN"
- 18 Derby or boater
- 19 Reverent wonder
- 20 "Mass Appeal" hip-hop duo
- 21 "Skip the ceremony"
- 22 "Fails miserably"
- 23 "Inquire"
- 24 "Magic org."
- 25 "White weasels"
- 26 "Throws off"
- 27 "Beach crawler"
- 28 "Song for one"
- 29 "Bit of ointment"
- 30 "Lookalike"
- 31 "Rep.'s rival"
- 32 "Zoo beast"
- 33 "German article"



SUNDAY'S ANSWERS



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

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Noakhali 250 bed District Hospital, Noakhali
E-mail- Noakhali@hospi.dgbs.gov.bd

Ref No.NGH/2025-26/e-GP Notice/14020

Date: 01/09/2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), for more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Superintendent Noakhali 250 bed District Hospital, Noakhali for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal I Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1144795	PROCUREMENT OF NON EDCL MEDICINE (TABLET, CAPSULE, OINTMENT & SOLUTION) FY : 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:00	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:00
1146470	PROCUREMENT OF NON EDCL MEDICINE (INJECTION, SYRUP) FY : 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:00	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:00
1146478	PROCUREMENT OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENT FY : 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:05	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:00
1146482	PROCUREMENT OF LINEN ITEMS FY 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:00	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:10
1146483	PROCUREMENT OF GAUZE, BANDAGE, COTTON FY 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:15	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:00
1146484	PROCUREMENT OF CHEMICAL RE-AGENT FY 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:15	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:15
1146557	PROCUREMENT OF FURNITURE FY 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:20	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:20
1146567	PROCUREMENT OF RASAYONIK DROBBADI FY: 2025-2026	02-Sep-2025 10:25	29-Sep-2025 16:00	30-Sep-2025 14:30

* e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

* e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Mohammad Farid Uddin Chowdhury
Superintendent

Noakhali 250 Bed District Hospital, Noakhali

GD-1919



Chief Adviser's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Jashore Export Processing Zone Project
BEPZA Complex
House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.

**e-Tender Notice (04/2025-26)**

Reference No. 03.06.4104.325.14.102.24-04

Date: 27 August 2025.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) under Development Budget of Jashore Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA.

Sl	Tender ID	Description of Works	Package No.	Publication Date	Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	1145347	Construction of 06-Storied Officers Dormitory Building at Jashore EPZ Project	JEPZ W-13	7 Sep 2025 15:00	7 Oct 2025 17:00	8 Oct 2025 14:00
2	1145351	Construction of 06-Storied Security Barrack for Jashore EPZ Project	JEPZ W-15	7 Sep 2025 15:00	7 Oct 2025 17:00	8 Oct 2025 14:00
3	1145355	Construction of 06-Storied Ansa Barrack for Jashore EPZ Project	JEPZ W-16	7 Sep 2025 15:00	7 Oct 2025 17:00	8 Oct 2025 14:00

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

(MD. YOUSUF PASHA)
Project Director
Jashore Export Processing Zone Project
Phone: +8802-41060425
Email: pdjepz@bepza.gov.bd

GD-1920

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Companiganj Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet
Email: companyganj@uhfpo.dgbs.gov.bd

Ref No: UHCCS/Tender/2025-26/485

Date: 31-08-2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by DR. MD. ARIFUR RAHMAN NAYAN, UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Companiganj, Sylhet. for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1145689	Procurement of Medicine for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet.	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00
1145690	Procurement of Medical Equipment for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet.	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00
1145691	Procurement of Gauze Bandage & Cotton for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet.	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00
1145692	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00
1145693	Procurement of Chemical Re-agent for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet.	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00
1145694	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y. 2025-2026 at Upazila Health Complex Companiganj, Sylhet	15-Sep-2025 10:00	15-Sep-2025 14:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer. e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

(DR. MD. ARIFUR RAHMAN NAYAN)
Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Companiganj, Sylhet.

GD-1914

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

"Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country" Project



Directorate General of Food

16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.

www.dgfood.gov.bd**Corrigendum No. : 01**

Memo No-13.01.0000.366.38.065.25-1962

Date: 01-09-2025

Subject : Supply and Installation of Mechanical Ventilator for New Food Godowns at Different Districts of Bangladesh with Given Technical Specification for the Project of "Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country" under Directorate General of Food.

IFT Reference No. : 13.01.0000.366.38.065.25-1962, Date : 12-08-2025

The undersigned is directed to carry out the following amendments against subject mentioned in Tender Notice (IFT)/Tender Documents :

ITT Clause No.(TDS)/IFT	Provision as per Existing Tender Notice (IFT)/Tender Documents	Amended Provision
ITT 14.1(a)	The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer as Mechanical Ventilation manufacturing and/or installing in the supply of Similar equipment & Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 10(Ten) years.	The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer as Mechanical Ventilation manufacturing and/or installing in the supply of Similar equipment & Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 10(Ten) years in Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous body.
ITT 14.1(b)	The tenderer must have experience for successful supply and installation of Mechanical Ventilations valuing at least Tk. 2700 (Two Thousand Seven Hundred) Lac each for minimum two (2) contracts within last five years, i.e. years counting backward from the date of opening tender.	The tenderer must have experience for successful supply and installation of Mechanical Ventilations/ Godowns Related Equipment's valuing at least Tk. 2700 (Two Thousand Seven Hundred) Lac each for minimum two (2) contracts within last five years, i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.
ITT21.1(l)-(4)	Mechanical Ventilation supply/ Installation Completion Certificate.	Mechanical Ventilation/ Godowns Related Equipment's supply/ Installation Completion Certificate.
IFT SL No-15	The Tender Last Selling Date and Time : 10-09-2025 at 5:00 PM	The Tender Last Selling Date and Time : 17-09-2025 at 5:00 PM
IFT SL No-16	The deadline for submission of Tenders is : 11-09-2025 at 12:00 PM	The deadline for submission of Tenders is : 18-09-2025 at 12:00 PM
IFT SL No-17	The Tender opening Date & Time : 11-09-2025 at 12:30 PM	The Tender opening Date & Time : 18-09-2025 at 12:30 PM

Mohd. Aminul Islam
Project Director
Tel: +880 2-41050154
e-Mail: pdcnfg@dgfood.gov.bd

GD-1917

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Food Safety Testing Capacity Development Project (FSTCDP)

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

BSL Office complex (Building-2)

119, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000

Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)

1	Ministry	:	Ministry of Food
2	Agency	:	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA)
3	Name of Procuring Entity	:	Project Director, Food Safety Testing Capacity Development Project (FSTCDP)
4	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	:	Consultancy Services for Detail Design, Tender Assistance, Construction Supervision, and Technical Assistance Consultant (PS-1)
6	EOI Ref. No. & Date	:	13.02.0000.001.000.07.0007.25-13 Date: 01/09/2025

Key Information:

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of Food Safety Testing Capacity Development Project (FSTCDP) ("the Project") and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the loan towards payments under the contract for consulting services for Design, Supervision, and Technical Assistance Consultant.
- The objective of the Project is to improve the food safety testing capacity of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) through Bangladesh by establishing one (01) food safety reference laboratory in Dhaka & two (02) divisional laboratories in Chattogram and Khulna, along with office building, training building and providing necessary capacity development. The Project thereby contributes to promoting the food processing industry, diversification and high value-adding of the industry, and prevention of diseases caused by unsafe food.
- A consultancy firm

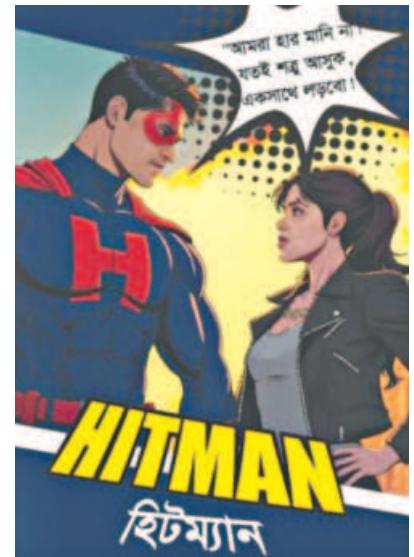


Comic series 'Hitman' to feature Niloy and Heme

Popular actor Niloy Alamgir and actress Heme will be seen together in the upcoming drama *Hitman*. The project is inspired by a new comic series of the same name, where Niloy takes on the lead role and Heme portrays Sohani, the cartoonist behind the character.

The story follows Rakib (Niloy), who, on his way to a job interview, finds himself entangled in a street altercation. Sohani, stuck in traffic, notices his fiery outburst, photographs him, and later casts him as the central figure of her comic.

Produced by Rangon Entertainment and directed by Tariq Mohammad Hasan, the drama will soon premiere on the company's YouTube channel.



PARSA is back

SHARMIN JOYA

Upon her return from the United States, actress and dancer Parsa Evana brought back more than just fond memories of a lovely holiday with her mother. She also gained valuable training in both acting and dance.

The actress participated in a course at The Freeman Studio, a highly regarded acting school in the US known for its focus on "proper technique and camera performance." She enrolled in the intensive eight-week programme, which helped polish her craft.

"After the short selection, I was called for the online interview, where they liked my performance and invited me to join the course. I've never had formal training in acting, so I wanted to fully immerse myself in the craft. Apart from that, I also took a dance course, where I learnt more about hip-hop, modern, and contemporary dance."

"I am looking forward to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, as I will be performing with Mofassal Alif and team, and we will do the opening performance. I am very excited and looking forward to it."

A gold medallist in Bharat Natyam and champion of *Shera Nachiyé* (2014), Parsa shares that dance is the art form through which she best expresses her emotions. "For me, dance is the ultimate stress reliever. My mother also wants me to continue dancing."

For the first time, the young artiste will perform at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards. She expressed her excitement, saying, "This year I performed at the CJFB Awards, which marked my first performance at any award ceremony. I am looking forward to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, as I will be performing with Mofassal Alif and team, and we will do the opening performance. I am very excited and looking forward to it."

She has been active on social media, sharing posts and dance videos, where fans often ask her when she will be returning to acting. "This comment really makes me sad, as I feel blessed that the audience has showered me with so much love. "The problem is, I often get roles I have already done. I keep looking for variations, which sadly I don't get. I won't work until I get roles that my audience will truly appreciate," she concludes."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

Srijit Mukherji brings Sarat Chandra's 'Pather Dabi' to screen with 'Emperor vs Sarat Chandra'

West Bengal director Srijit Mukherji has announced *Emperor vs Sarat Chandra*, a new film inspired by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and his iconic novel *Pather Dabi*. The project coincides with the novel's centenary in August 2026. First published on August 31, 1926, the book intensified anti-British sentiment and was banned the following year.

The film will explore the political climate of that period, the banning of *Pather Dabi*, and figures such as Rabindranath Tagore and Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. Produced jointly by SVF and DAG Creative Media, shooting begins in November, with a release set for May 1, 2026.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

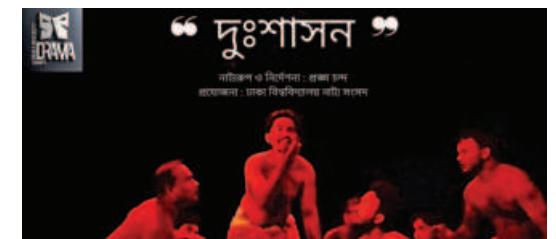
'DUSHASHON'

Based on Narayan Gangopadhyay's short stories *Dushashon* and *Pushkara*, this play explores the timeless clash between myth and history, oppression and resistance, belief and disbelief. With a blend of music, choreography, and layered psychological conflict, director Progga Chanda crafts a performance that promises both intensity and hope.

Date: Wednesday | September 3, 2025

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS

BNP pledges cooperation with govt

FROM PAGE 14

repeatedly to restore democracy. Many attempts were made to destroy the BNP. But with the ideals of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia, BNP has risen like the phoenix."

Fakhrul added that if the party comes to power with public support, it will bring political change under the leadership of BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, and ensure economic growth to take the country forward.

Highlighting Ziaur Rahman's role, the BNP leader said, "The main

ideology of Bangladesh Nationalist Party is Bangladeshi nationalism, which brought significant changes in the country's politics.

"In a short time, Ziaur Rahman brought qualitative changes. He ensured the freedom of the media, the basic rights of the people, and the independence of the judiciary. At the same time, he introduced the free market economy, as a result of which the country's economy saw a big change."

In another development, BNP yesterday announced a voluntary

canal and drain cleaning campaign in Dhaka North and South starting from today, cancelling its previously scheduled rally in the capital to mark its 47th founding anniversary.

In a video message, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said the rally schedule was revised considering traffic congestion and public inconvenience.

He said the leaders and workers of the party's other organisations and associate bodies will also participate in the cleaning drive.

campaigns on social media. "Some groups are spreading false information. We informed the administration, and they instructed BTRC to act. But these groups keep changing names and continue spreading lies. If not controlled, questions will remain over the election atmosphere."

"We were oppressed before, and we still are," Abidul added. "We openly did Chhatra Dal politics, and for us, the campus was hostile. But we played a major role in this mass uprising. We're still fighting on the streets for democracy and human rights. This struggle will continue."

On the election environment, he raised concerns over misinformation

Want to inspire women

FROM PAGE 14

Udyan, right next to the campus, rallies are held every few days, and then outsiders enter and harass female students. The administration cannot control this. I want the proctorial team to be more active and, if necessary, to involve students," she said.

Expressing concern over the accommodation crisis, Sabina said, "Due to insufficient dormitories for female students, six to eight people often have to live in one room. The quality of food is poor. I want students' living spaces to be healthy. We will work to ensure this. For that, we can implement the 'One Student, One Bed, One Table' policy."

She also pledged to work on students' health issues. "In a large campus like Dhaka University, there is no dispensary. I want medicine corners at different points and sanitary vending machines for female students," she said.

She further raised concerns over the academic and research environment. "The research budget is insufficient. There are not enough seats in the library. As a result, students' studies are being disrupted. We want the administration to ensure our basic rights, including education. If necessary, we will act as a supportive force for the administration," said the GS candidate.

Regarding the overall electoral atmosphere, Sabina complained that some organisations had put up posters in violation of the code of conduct, but the administration did not take timely action. She urged the authorities to ensure equal opportunities for all parties.

Japan loosens gun rules as bear attacks rise

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday eased gun rules making it easier for hunters to use rifles in built-up areas following a rise in attacks by bears.

More and more wild bears have been spotted in residential areas in Japan due to factors including a declining human population and climate change.

Shibir-backed panel

FROM PAGE 14

also pledged to reduce the number of male staffers in female dormitories and recruit female members for the proctorial team.

Under the manifesto, non-resident female students will be allowed to enter their allotted dormitories using their ID cards, while hall regulations will be relaxed.

The panel further vowed to establish a paperless system in the registrar's office to eliminate bureaucratic red tape.

It promised to organise research-related workshops and an inter-university research fest, along with soft skills training, career workshops, and job fairs.

The manifesto includes plans to provide appropriate prayer spaces for female students, especially around Curzon Hall, and to develop the central mosque and hall mosques as well as temples and prayer houses of other religions.

For students with physical disabilities,

Jamaat threatens

FROM PAGE 14

The party said it wants the election to be held under the PR system out of its commitment to equal opportunities for all political parties.

Later in the day, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said no one would participate in a staged election.

"If a managed, staged election like before is forced on the country after so much blood and struggle, why should the people participate?" he asked during a roundtable discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

To remove doubts about the PR system, he also called for a national political dialogue under the leadership of the chief adviser with participation from all parties.

"From today's roundtable, I demand that, if needed, PR provisions be added to the July Charter and put to a referendum so the people can decide. We'll accept the verdict."

"If you argue PR isn't in the constitution, then what about the election being held in 2026? The last election was already held in 2024. If you respect the constitution so much, elections should only be held in 2029. On what constitutional basis is an election happening in 2026? On what basis is Yunus Sahib here?"

the panel pledged to introduce an "Adommo Medhabi Shikharthi Briti" (Indomitable Meritorious Student Scholarship) stipend.

The panel's vice president candidate Md Abu Shadik Kayem said, "We've already prepared a one-year work-plan, under which we'll bring reforms through monthly activities."

General secretary candidate SM Farhad said they split the academic year into quarters to bring three reforms per month.

"We can implement 36 reform proposals in a year if we follow this plan. Through these reforms, a massive transformation will take place on campus."

Finland jails Biafra separatist leader for terrorism offences

AFP, Helsinki

A Finnish court yesterday sentenced a Nigerian separatist leader to six years in prison for terrorism offences for promoting the Biafra region's independence by "illegal means".

Simon Ekpa, a 40-year-old dual Finn-Nigerian national, was found guilty of supplying armed groups with weapons and explosives and inciting others to commit crimes.

The Paijanne-Tavastia district court said he was a key figure in the organisations and groups pushing for the independence of Nigeria's southeast region where a 1967-70 civil war left hundreds of thousands dead.

In a statement, the court said it had convicted Ekpa of "participating in the activities of a terrorist group, (and) public incitement to commit a crime for terrorist purposes."

He was also found guilty of aggravated tax fraud.

The crimes were committed in the Finnish city of Lahti between 2021 and 2024.

"He used social media to gain a politically influential position and took advantage of the confusion in a key separatist movement in Nigeria to take a significant role in it," the court said.

Fear sends off-campus students

FROM PAGE 14

dorm because I don't think I'd be safe in my rented house. Like me, many students have also moved to the dorms."

Prof Taslim Uddin, provost of AF Rahman dormitory, said, "We've accommodated around 50 to 100 non-residential students in this dorm. Despite there being limited hall seats, the students have been sharing their beds. We're trying to ease the tension."

CU currently operates 15 residential halls: 10 for male students and five for female students. Together, these halls accommodate approximately 7,000 students: around 4,500 males and 2,500 females.

While the number of students currently enrolled is over 27,550, only about 25 percent of them reside on

campus in the wake of students' demands.

After the meeting, CU Pro VC Dr Kamal Uddin said the authority has decided to file a case with the police over the series of attacks on CU students. "Apart from a committee will be formed to ensure treatment of the injured students."

Dr Kamal also said a decision has been taken to immediately install a police outpost at the Railway Crossing Gate to maintain law and order.

A total of 14 students are currently undergoing treatment in two port city hospitals. In Parkview Hospital, eight students are admitted, with two of them in the ICU. Six others are under treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. One more student was referred to Dhaka for better treatment.

A visit to the areas where the clashes took place revealed a sense of eerie calm. Most cottages and residential buildings were found locked, with only a handful of students seen in the vicinity.

Later in the day, the CU authorities convened a meeting and took a few

A GUIDE FOR GEN Z FOUNDERS

Navigating Bangladesh's unfriendly, orthodox startup ecosystem

NOMROTA SARKER

Gen Z founders are building companies in an age of abundance - information at their fingertips, communities a click away, and a 'second brain' in their pockets. Rejection rarely paralyses this generation. They process it quickly and move on, drawing perspectives from Reddit threads, ChatGPT exchanges, and peer networks that stretch across borders.

In Bangladesh, though, promise collides with a different set of frictions. Many Gen Z founders carry more self-awareness than spatial awareness; they can read a room emotionally but still misread how power, process, and patience work in this market. Young founders report the same recurring hurdles: difficulty communicating with investors and partners, ideas dismissed as naive, and the reality of operating at seed or early stage, where patience is not a virtue but a requirement.

Bangladesh's startup reality check

By 2025, Bangladesh counts more than 2,500 active startups, a steep rise from roughly a hundred a decade ago. Cumulative funding has crossed US\$1bn, but a disproportionate share has flowed to a handful of large players such as ShopUp and Pathao. The first half of 2025 illustrates the imbalance starkly: startups raised US\$119.9m, a twelvefold jump on the same period in 2024, yet about 92% of that total came from a single merger transaction involving ShopUp and Sary. Early-stage rounds from seed to Series A together amounted to less than US\$10m, underlining how hard it still is for young teams to secure meaningful capital.

Domestic investment has begun to thicken. Bangladeshi investors deployed about Tk190bn in 2024, up from Tk80bn in 2018, reducing (but not closing) the dependence on foreign capital. And there are signals of what is possible for Gen Z-led firms. Consider Sakib Hossain of Fashol, named to Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2025, which raised US\$2.2m while working directly with more than 10,000 farmers. The numbers point to an ecosystem growing in breadth, but they also reveal its faultlines: early money remains scarce, mentorship is inconsistent, and governance lapses still derail promising companies.

The Gen Z difference

For decades, Bangladeshi entrepreneurship normalised survival by attrition: stumbling forward, tolerating



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

red tape, adapting to corruption, and absorbing the bruises. Gen Z breaks that trajectory. They are less willing to accept opaque processes or casual corner-cutting as the price of progress, and more inclined to seek clarity, community, and code - whether through public playbooks, open-source tools, or AI copilots. The ecosystem will need to adapt to their energy and standards rather than asking them to conform to an outdated Bangladesh 1.0 playbook.

Housekeeping rules for navigating a changing landscape

Start with documentation. What is not documented cannot be defended if your integrity is questioned. Use AI notetakers such as Fireflies, Read AI, Fathom, or Tactiq to capture virtual meetings faithfully, and for high-stakes, in-person conversations, bring a co-founder or trusted colleague to observe, take notes, and confirm agreements. Protect your integrity in every setting by creating a clear record of what was discussed and decided.

Match your channel to your message. For introductions and professional updates to mentors, partners, and investors, lead with email. It signals professionalism, creates an audit trail,

and makes it easy to forward or file. As relationships progress, polite, occasional follow-ups on WhatsApp are appropriate but keep anything formal on email so that key decisions, obligations, and timelines are captured in one place.

Treat compliance as a shield, not a chore. If you intend to raise investment, register as a private limited company in Bangladesh and keep the basics current: trade licence, certificate of incorporation, memorandum of association, and Form 12. If your company is more than a year old, prepare audited financial statements. These artefacts are not box-ticking for investors; they are armour against future disputes, delays, and doubts about your governance.

Ask questions, even if it feels uncomfortable. Confusion at an early stage is normal. Make a habit of asking direct, respectful questions when you see misalignment - whether with a mentor, an institution, or an investor. Challenge assumptions, request clarifications, and repeat back what you have heard. Growth lives in curiosity; obedience without understanding is how young companies drift into trouble.

For female founders, be precise about what you want and how you want it delivered, and learn to say "no" more

often than "yes". A clear, polite refusal beats a reluctant compromise every time. Build or join a female founder collective so that shared experiences, referrals, and pattern-spotting shorten your path through the maze. The stories, warnings, and playbooks of women who have navigated similar rooms will become your strongest support system. Your voice is the clearest proof of your intent and effort - use it calmly, consistently, and on your terms.

The path ahead

Bangladesh's startup scene is expanding in number but not yet in depth. The capital stack is top-heavy, the mentorship layer is patchy, and the rules of the game are still being contested. Yet Gen Z founders arrive with exactly the instincts the ecosystem needs: transparency, tempo, intolerance for the opaque, and a willingness to learn in public. If enablers and investors adjust to those instincts - and if young teams adopt rigorous documentation, disciplined communication, simple compliance, curious questioning, and principled negotiation - the next decade can look very different from the last. The task is not to quieten the toddler; it is to channel the questions into better companies.

Why soft skills could be your strongest career asset

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

When we talk about preparing for the world of work, it's easy to picture a checklist of technical abilities. Coding languages, accounting standards, engineering expertise - the kinds of things you can write on a CV and neatly demonstrate in a test. But new research suggests that what really matters for long-term success may not be these job-specific skills at all. Instead, it's the more flexible, often overlooked abilities - the so-called 'soft skills' that help people adapt, grow, and thrive in a rapidly changing workplace.

A recent article in Harvard Business Review aptly titled 'Soft skills matter now more than ever' argues that skills like collaboration, adaptability, problem-solving, and even basic mathematical reasoning are more predictive of career success than the highly specialised expertise people often chase. The article, based on a recent study published in Nature, titled 'Skill dependencies uncover nested human capital', takes an even closer look at the structure of skills themselves. Analysing a vast dataset of over 1,000 occupations and hundreds of skills, including 70 million career moves, the researchers found that most advanced technical skills actually rest on a bedrock of broader, more general abilities. In other words, the more solid your foundations are, the higher you can build.

This 'nested skill structure', as the study calls it, explains a lot about how careers unfold. People who focus too narrowly on niche skills may find themselves stuck when industries evolve, technologies shift, or entire jobs disappear. On the other hand, those who invest in developing adaptable, general strengths - such as communication, teamwork, or analytical thinking - can more easily pick up new expertise and move into fresh opportunities.

Think about it like learning a language. If you have a strong grounding in grammar, vocabulary, and sentence

structure, it becomes much easier to pick up new expressions or even another language altogether. Without that foundation, every new phrase is a struggle. Work is similar. Someone who knows how to collaborate effectively, ask good questions, or think critically can plug those abilities into different industries, tools, and contexts.

The shift matters because workplaces are changing faster than ever. Generative AI, for example, is already reshaping whole industries, taking over routine tasks while creating new opportunities

in the HBR article notes, when Google looked into what made its best managers effective, technical brilliance wasn't at the top of the list - it was skills like coaching, listening, and supporting team development.

Of course, technical skills still matter. Nobody would want to board a plane flown by a pilot who only knows how to "collaborate well" but has never mastered flight controls. The point isn't that expertise is irrelevant, but that it's fragile without a solid foundation underneath. Specialised knowledge is what gets you

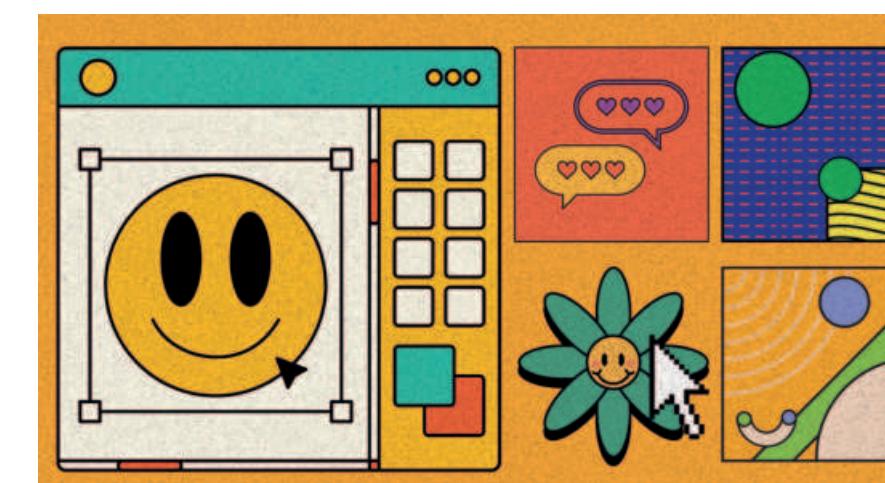


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

that didn't exist a few years ago. Jobs that once seemed safe can suddenly vanish, and careers are no longer the steady, linear journeys they were for earlier generations.

Employers increasingly value people who can adapt and learn on the go - qualities rooted in soft skills rather than a single hard-earned certificate.

It's not just individuals who benefit. Companies, too, are recognising that their long-term success depends on building teams with strong foundational strengths. A workforce that can communicate, share knowledge, and adapt together is better positioned to weather technological change or shifts in the market. As one of the examples

started in a role; foundational skills are what carry you forward when the role itself changes.

Another important insight from the Nature study is how inequalities can play out in the labour market. Because general and foundational skills open the door to so many opportunities, people without strong access to them often end up trapped in narrower roles with fewer prospects for growth. Over time, this contributes to wage gaps and stalled careers, especially for underrepresented groups. For young professionals, this is a reminder that building flexible strengths isn't just smart for career growth - it's also part of what levels the playing field in a competitive job market.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

SAJIDA Foundation

Coordinator, Data Specialist/ Data Analytics

Deadline: September 7

**Eligibility:**

• B.Sc.in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) or Graduation in MIS.

Minimum experience: 3 years

Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited

Brand Manager

Deadline: September 6

**Eligibility:**

• M. Pharm degree from a recognised university, with prior experience in similar marketing roles within a reputable pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

Minimum experience: 3 years

United Commercial Bank PLC

Audit Officer

Deadline: September 10

**Eligibility:**

• Master's/Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, or a related field, with experience in Risk Management, Operations, Compliance, or other related business functions.

Minimum experience: 2 years

Damien Foundation

damien foundation

Programme Specialist

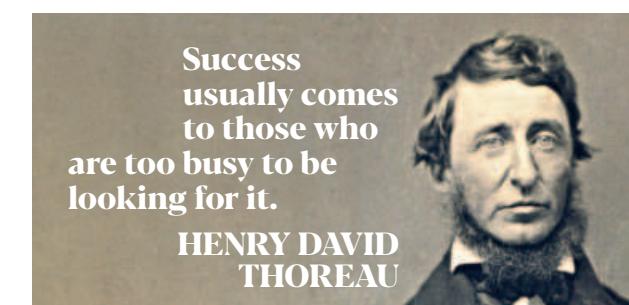
Deadline: September 13

Eligibility:

• MBBS with Master of Public Health (MPH), with prior experience in the Public Health Sector.

Minimum experience: 4 years

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



Cisco and Oracle to cut hundreds of jobs

NEXT STEP DESK

US tech companies Cisco and Oracle are set to eliminate hundreds of jobs in the San Francisco Bay Area, according to a San Francisco Chronicle report based on recent state filings.

Cisco will cut 221 positions across its Milpitas and San Francisco offices, including 157 in Santa Clara County and 64 in San Francisco, with layoffs effective October 13. Oracle plans to lay off 101 employees at its Santa Clara location on the same date, says the report.

The job reductions come despite strong financial results for both companies. Cisco reported \$14.7 billion in revenue for the fourth quarter, up 8% from a year earlier, and \$56.7 billion for the full year, while Oracle posted more than \$12 billion in profit in its last fiscal year, further adds the report.

The Chronicle notes that these layoffs follow previous workforce reductions. Cisco cut over 9,000 jobs in two rounds last year, while Oracle recently laid off nearly 200 workers in the Bay Area and more than 160 in Seattle. The latest cuts come as Cisco expands its push into AI infrastructure, which has generated over \$2 billion in orders this year.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A series won, an opportunity missed

SPORTS REPORTER

When it comes to guessing which side of a tossed coin will come up on top, Bangladesh T20I captain Litton Das' track record isn't too great.

In the 18 T20Is he has captained Bangladesh, including the second T20I against Netherlands in Sylhet on Monday, Litton has won the toss only six times.

In the ongoing series, however, Litton called correctly in both matches so far – winning two tosses in a row in a bilateral series for the first time.

Arguably, his toss winning streak came in a series where toss was hardly a factor in the outcome as just like the opening game, which the hosts had won by eight wickets, the Tigers mauled the Dutch in the second T20I, winning by nine wickets and taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

On Monday, Nasum Ahmed, named player-of-the-match, picked up 3-21 while Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed claimed a couple of wickets each to wrap up the Dutch for just 103 in 17.3 overs. In reply, Tanzid Hasan Tamim hit an unbeaten 54 off 40 as the hosts completed a

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh vs Netherlands, 2nd T20I

Netherlands: 103 all out in 17.3 overs (Dutt 30, Vikramjit 24; Nasum 3-21, Mustafizur 2-18, Taskin 2-18)

Bangladesh: 104 for 1 in 13.1 overs (Tanzid 54 not out, Parvez 23, Litton 18 not out; Klein 1-20)

Result: Bangladesh won by nine wickets and lead the three-match series 2-0

Player of the match: Nasum Ahmed

clinical nine-wicket in just 13.1 overs.

The dominating victories against the Dutch, on the back of consecutive T20I series wins over Sri Lanka and Pakistan, should bolster the confidence of Litton and Co heading into the Asia Cup, which begins on September 9 in the UAE.

However, as this series is a preparatory series for the Asia Cup, where Bangladesh would likely have to put up bigger scores to be competitive, choosing not to bat first in both matches made little sense.

Before the series, Litton and head coach Phil Simmons had talked about not being worried about criticism if they lose to the Dutch. But during the series, after winning the toss, Bangladesh made the choice that would aid them most in winning the contest.

"Scoring 200-250 is a matter of habit," Litton had told the media before the series. But will chasing paltry totals against a weaker opponent help instill this habit, is a question the team's think-tank should ask themselves.



Bangladesh left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed celebrates picking a wicket as the Tigers rout the Netherlands in a nine-wicket win in the second of three T20Is at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. [Inset] captain Litton Das and opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim run between the wickets during their unbeaten 64-run stand, giving the home side an unassailable 2-0 lead.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'To go to the next level, Dutch cricket needs investment'

Netherlands pacer Paul van Meekeren has been a constant thorn in Bangladesh's way at ICC events. Meekeren has played one match each against Bangladesh in the 2016, 2022 and 2024 editions of the ICC T20 World Cup and picked up two wickets in every appearance. Moreover, the 32-year-old pacer claimed 4-23 during the 2023 ICC World Cup match in Kolkata, handing the Tigers a humiliating defeat. Meekeren has also played a season in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). In a recent conversation with The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan, Meekeren spoke about cricketing infrastructure in Netherlands, his performance against Bangladesh and his BPL experience. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): The series against Bangladesh was a last-minute arrangement. Are you guys underprepared for the series?

Paul van Meekeren (PVM): We've come off quite a bit of cricket. We have been playing in the ICC Cricket World Cup League and also the T20 World Cup qualifiers in the last few months. Then we had a couple of weeks off, which we probably wouldn't have really had if we knew that the series was happening. We had two or three weeks of training. We had a little bit of weather around, so it wasn't the ideal preparation, but it is what it is.

Unfortunately, we have a few guys missing due to unavailability, and then the weekend before we came here, we lost another couple of players when they ran into each other. So, we had to call up a few guys, some coming back into the team who haven't played for a while.

DS: Netherlands have been an Associate nation for a long time. What is keeping them from making the jump to full membership?

PVM: Getting sponsors could elevate the game back home. We don't have grounds like this [Sylhet Cricket International Cricket Stadium] in the Netherlands. Most clubs at the highest level play on a mat wicket. Some clubs in the highest league play on an artificial field – two football fields next to each other and then the cricket wicket in the middle. That's how most of us learned our cricket in Holland. That's how I learned my cricket.



Most of the grounds we train at have volunteer groundsman. To get professional groundsman who can prepare good wickets, you need money. To get more money, you need to become a full member. But for that, you need to put in performances and have the infrastructure.

And if the infrastructure needs to be put in, you need to have respect for the money and sponsors.

I think for us to get to the next level, we need to get a sponsor who wants to go on a journey with us for 3-4 years, who wants to invest in Dutch cricket.

DS: How do you always manage to do well against Bangladesh at ICC events?

PVM: The night before the first T20I, I realised that whenever I've played against Bangladesh, I've done well. I hope I can come back to that level in the last two T20Is and be the Bangladesh killer again and maybe win a game.

DS: You have played in many franchise leagues, including a season for Khulna Tigers in the BPL. Where do you rate the BPL compared to other tournaments?

PVM: It's a fantastic tournament to play in. You see the passionate fans. It's a beautiful country. There may be a few off-field things that need to be sorted out, but there's a lot of potential in the tournament.

When I played here, we had the ADRS system, not the proper DRS. I believe that's in place now. So, some changes are being made. If they can get the off-field issues sorted out with the players, it could be one of the best franchise leagues in the world here.

DS: Has the negative media attention made overseas players like you reluctant to play in the BPL?

PVM: For us [Dutch players], not at all. It's not the only league in the world that has these issues. There are more leagues in the world that have these issues. If you ask any player here if they want to come to the BPL, they will say, "Yes, please." I don't think any player would avoid playing in the BPL. I think it's the other way around. They really, really want to play in it.

Record Isak deal headlines D-day

STAR SPORTS DESK

Liverpool have agreed a British record fee of £125 million to land Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak, ending the summer's longest-running transfer saga.

BBC reports suggest the deal could rise to £130m with add-ons, with the Swedish forward expected to sign a six-year contract at Anfield.

The Reds had already shattered their own transfer record earlier this summer by signing German playmaker Florian Wirtz for an initial £100m, rising to £116m with add-ons.

Liverpool also swooped in for Crystal Palace captain Marc Guehi for £35m, taking their spending to a staggering £451.2m (excluding add-ons) – the highest single-summer outlay in Premier League history. This makes them only the second English side to surpass the £400m mark in one window, after Chelsea's £401.2m spree in 2023.

City get Donnarumma
Manchester City are on the verge of signing out-of-favour PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma for £30.3m, with Ederson set to join Turkish side Fenerbahce. Ederson, 32, won six Premier League titles plus the



Champions League and FA Cup after joining from Benfica for £35m but has been sidelined this season and will move to the Turkey for £12.1m.

Villa close in on loan deals for Sancho, Elliot

Aston Villa are close to signing season-long loan deals for Manchester United's Jadon Sancho and Liverpool's Harvey Elliot. United winger Sancho, turned down a move to Roma earlier in the window, while there was also strong interest from fellow Italian side Juventus but will now join English midfielder Elliott at Villa Park. Villa have also signed Sweden captain Victor Lindelof on a free transfer from Manchester United.

Newcastle sign another forward

With the departure of Isak, Newcastle boss Eddie Howe strengthened his forward line with the club-record signing of Nick Woltemade from Stuttgart for £63m and now has followed it up by bringing in Brentford forward Yoane Wissa for a deal worth £55m.

DJOKOVIC ADDS TO GRAND RECORDS



Novak Djokovic made Grand Slam history at the age of 38 on Sunday with a commanding 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jan-Lennard Struff.

His win over Struff was his eighth in as many attempts.

The victory moved Djokovic into his 64th Grand Slam quarterfinal, extending his all-time record.

Djokovic advanced to the last eight at Flushing Meadows for the 14th time.

Their combined age of 73 years and 60 days made this the oldest U.S. Open men's singles match in the fourth round or later during the professional era.

Djokovic now has a 36-0 record against qualifiers at Grand Slams.

What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 5
England vs South Africa
1st ODI
Live from 6:00 pm
T SPORTS
UAE T20I Tri-series

Pakistan vs Afghanistan
Live from 9:00 pm
STAR SPORTS 1 AND 2
US Open
Live from 9:00 pm

Women's WC prize money to eclipse men's

REUTERS, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council announced a bumper hike in the prize money for this year's women's 50-over World Cup on Monday, making it financially more lucrative than the 2023 edition of the men's event held in India.

The winner's purse of \$4.48 million is significantly higher than the \$1.32 million awarded to Australia when they won the 2022 World Cup and exceeds the \$4 million their men's team pocketed after lifting the 2023 World Cup in India.

The overall tournament prize money of \$13.88 million is a considerable jump from the \$3.5 million in 2022 and eclipses the \$10 million at the 2023 men's World Cup.

Each of the eight participating teams is guaranteed \$250,000.

The 13th edition of the women's World Cup will kick off in Guwahati on September 30.

The tournament, which culminates with the final on November 2, will be played across five venues in India, while Pakistan will play their matches in Colombo.



TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: \$13.88 million

WINNER'S PURSE: \$4.48 million

RUNNERS-UP'S PURSE: \$2.24 million

PARTICIPATION MONEY: \$250,000

BCB polls in first week of October

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will hold its elections in the first week of October, and a new probe committee has been formed to assess last season's Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) corruption-related reports and other issues, confirmed BCB director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim after a board meeting in Sylhet yesterday.

Key decisions from the meeting:

Elections: To be held in the first week of October; a three-member election commission will finalise dates and schedule.

Umpiring reform: Simon Taufel appointed for two years to assess, train and grade umpires, and build capacity among local officials. "We hope to become somewhat self-sufficient in future," BCB director Fahim said.

Coaching boost: A Level 3 coaching programme will be launched this month under BCB's initiative, with Ashley Ross leading sessions. "This will also be a very high-profile programme".

BPL consultancy: New York-based International Management Group (IMG) appointed on a three-year deal as marketing consultants for the BPL, in a move that could "take the league to a new level commercially".

BPL corruption review: A four-member team formed to study the independent inquiry report on corruption and mismanagement in the last BPL; recommendations due by September 7.

Novak Djokovic made Grand Slam history at the age of 38 on Sunday with a commanding 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jan-Lennard Struff. His win over Struff was his eighth in as many attempts. The victory moved Djokovic into his 64th Grand Slam quarterfinal, extending his all-time record. Djokovic advanced to the last eight at Flushing Meadows for the 14th time. Their combined age of 73 years and 60 days made this the oldest U.S. Open men's singles match in the fourth round or later during the professional era. Djokovic now has a 36-0 record against qualifiers at Grand Slams.



BSRM
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GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025



BNP pledges cooperation with govt in holding polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said his party will extend full support to the interim government in holding the upcoming national election scheduled for February.

"Our challenge ahead is to give full cooperation and ensure the election's proper completion," he told journalists after paying homage to BNP founder and martyred president Ziaur Rahman.

Earlier in the day, Fakhrul and other top party leaders placed wreaths at the grave of Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, marking BNP's 47th founding anniversary.

Stating that his party has been repeatedly targeted, Fakhrul said, "To wipe out BNP, false cases were filed against 60 lakh leaders and activists, about 20,000 people were killed, and 1,700 leaders and activists were forcibly disappeared or murdered."

"Even then, BNP has fought

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, along with other party leaders, placing wreaths at the grave of BNP founder and president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday, marking the party's 47th founding anniversary.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Will create on-campus job opportunities
VP candidate Abidul Islam tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

If elected vice president of Ducusu, Abidul Islam Khan, candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal backed panel, has pledged to turn the campus into a safe and inclusive space for all students.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abidul, joint general secretary of Chhatra Dal's DU unit, recalled his experience of political harassment. "In 2016, I couldn't bear the torture and had to leave the hall. I had little knowledge of politics then, but the persecution and culture of abuse made me vow to fight against these injustices. That was the beginning of my struggle."

He said he didn't stop after fighting to transform the quota reform movement into a broader anti-autocracy movement. "After the fall of the government on August 5 last year, I guarded mosques, temples, and streets to help keep order. For years, I've stood up for students' rights and raised my voice against political malpractice. My upbringing has been shaped by protests."

Abidul stressed that Ducusu has national significance. "Ducusu is not just a Dhaka University issue; it is a national issue. At this crucial moment, I'm running to lead Ducusu in the interest of the state. Students will choose those who stood by them, who fought for their rights, and whose courage helped uphold Bangladesh's sovereignty."

On whether Ducusu polls would influence national elections, he said the outcome would not directly affect it if the vote is free, fair, and credible. He added,



SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Want to inspire women to join politics
GS candidate Sabina Yasmin tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Sabina Yasmin, a general secretary candidate from the 'Ducusu for Change' panel, is contesting the Ducusu elections to make the campus more women-friendly and inspire more women to enter politics following last year's uprising.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sabina, a leader from the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, said, "Despite the huge participation of women in the July uprising, there has been a tendency to sideline them. I feel that in the democratic environment created by the July movement, it is very important to ensure female participation."

She added, "Women can easily identify women's issues. So, it is natural that they can also solve them better than men. That's why I feel that female students should be in the Ducusu Super-Three," she said, referring to the vice-president, general secretary, and assistant general secretary posts in Ducusu.

Sabina, a student of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (2018-19 session), said, "Even before the July movement, I had been active in various protests, including the separation of seven colleges, the PSC reform movement, and others. I was vocal about holding the Ducusu election, even joining hunger strikes."

If elected, she said her top priority will be to build a safe and women-friendly campus. "Women are often victims of harassment on campus. The unrestricted entry of outsiders creates insecurity. At Suhrawardy



SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Shibir-backed panel vows decent food, safe campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Oikkobodh Shikkharthi Jote panel unveiled its manifesto, with 36 pledges to reform Dhaka University, at a press briefing in front of the Ducusu Bhaban yesterday.

The panel said it aims to create a safe campus; solve the accommodation crisis; ensure security for women, better health facilities, healthy food and modern transport; and provide sufficient information and services on career development.

Speaking on behalf of the panel, Md Mohiuddin Khan, candidate for the assistant general secretary post, said they will work to abolish authoritarian politics; repression and violence; the "guestroom-gon room culture"; discriminatory policies and behaviours; drugs, mugging and extortion; the culture of instructing students to "Come after Lunch" for dialogue -- often imposed by university officials; as well as cyberbullying.

The panel also pledged to free the campus from the collaborators of "fascists", and work to prevent the regeneration of such structures, systems, and cultures within the university.

It promised to incorporate Ducusu polls in the academic calendar to ensure regularity.

The manifesto pledged to ensure legal seats for every student from the first year. Till then, the panel will work for temporary accommodation in hostels, or a monthly allowance. It

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Fear sends off-campus students into CU dorms

SIFAYET ULLAH and SM MAHFUZ AHMED

A large number of Chittagong University students who had been living in private lodgings in nearby areas have temporarily moved to on-campus dormitories, citing safety concerns following recent back-to-back clashes between students and locals in the adjacent Jobra village.

The sense of insecurity and panic led many students to also go to their relatives and friends in the city yesterday.

Though the university authority has tried to reassure students, the lingering tension is yet to subside with the extension of Section 144 around the clash sites.

Tahsif Khan, a student of the economics department, said he moved to the Farhad Hall from his rented cottage near Gate No-2 of the campus. "After Section 144 was imposed, I had gone back to my cottage. But the way some of the locals were looking at me made me feel unsafe. So, I decided to move into my friend's dormitory for the time being."

Mahthir Rahman, a student of the physics department who lived on Imam Bukhari Madrasa Road near Gate No-2, said, "During the clash Sunday noon, the window glass of my room was shattered. I was so scared that I locked myself inside and stayed in for nearly four hours. I saw a student get hacked with sharp weapons on the streets."

"After the army arrived in the afternoon, I packed my things and left for the campus. I've now moved into a dorm, as I no longer feel safe staying off-campus."

Abir Ahmed Piyas, a student of the IR department, echoed the same concern. "I've shifted to my friend's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Jamaat threatens demos for PR-based polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami plans to launch a tougher movement, if necessary, to press for the next national election to be held under the proportional representation (PR) system and in accordance with the July Charter, having first ensured that the document is made legally binding.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of its Central Executive Council, held at the residence of Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman in the capital's Bashundhara R/A yesterday with him in the chair.

The meeting was attended by nayeb-e-ameers, the secretary general, assistant secretary generals, and other council members.

The party also outlined several strategic actions, including increased engagement with like-minded parties, and seminars and discussions to build public support for its demands.

"We hadn't met with our ameer for about a month due to his recovery from open heart surgery. We presented various party-related and national issues for his guidance," said Jamaat Assistant Secretary

We intend to participate [in polls] only after its [PR system] implementation. The election must be timely and conducted under the PR system.

Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair,
Jamaat Assistant Secretary General

General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair.

He added that the ameer provided directives on the party's position regarding the July Charter and the PR system.

"As part of our strategy, we've been holding a series of stakeholder meetings to mobilise public opinion," Zubair said. "We're prepared to escalate our movement on the streets if our demands are not met."

Asked whether Jamaat would contest the 13th parliamentary polls without the PR system in place, Zubair responded, "We intend to participate only after its implementation. The election must be timely and conducted under the PR system."

He added that while the party is preparing for the polls, it believes its demands must be met to reflect the people's aspirations.

In a statement, Jamaat said the country's political situation was discussed in detail during the meeting.

Leaders stressed the importance of making the July Charter legally binding and conducting the election in line with it to ensure a free, fair, and credible process.

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ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

গুলশান সেন্টার প্লায়েন্ট, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা-১২১২
"আমনার শহর সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কৃত রাখুন। আমনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।"

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, "দেয়াল লিখন ও পোষ্টার লাগানো নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন, ২০১২" এর ধারা ৩ ও ৪ মোতাবেক সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন ব্যতীত দেয়াল লিখন ও পোষ্টার লাগানো নিষেধ। এ আইনের ধারা ৬ মোতাবেক অর্থ ও কারাদণ্ডের বিধান রয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান বা ব্যক্তি অবৈধভাবে দেয়াল লিখনে বা পোষ্টার লাগিয়েছেন তাদেরকে নিজ দায়িত্বে ও খরচে আগামী ১০/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে সকল দেয়াল লিখন ও পোষ্টার অপসারণ করে দেয়াল পুনরায় রং করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। রাস্তায় ময়লা ফেলবেন না। যত্রতত্ত্ব ময়লা ফেলা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

১০/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখের পর যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান বা ব্যক্তি দেয়াল লিখন বা পোষ্টার লাগানো অথবা যত্রতত্ত্ব ময়লা ফেলার সাথে সম্পৃক্ষ পাওয়া যাবে তাদের বিকলক্ষে যথোচ্চ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হবে।

তারিখ: কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
গুলশান-২, ঢাকা

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
গুলশান-২, ঢাকা