



DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2025



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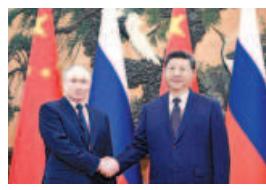
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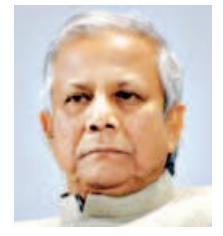
Access to  
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## Stay vigilant as there'll be bid to foil election

Yunus says at meeting with 7 parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said certain quarters are making every effort to foil the election and expressed his resolve to have the polls held as scheduled in early February.

"Those who do not want the interim government to reach the stage of election will obstruct the process in every possible way," he said during a meeting with the leaders of seven political parties and one platform at his official residence, Jamuna.

"Some signs of these are already visible," the chief adviser said, warning, "more will follow."

"We have to be more vigilant," he told the leaders.

"They will hinder the very process of shaping Bangladesh's sovereign identity. Their utmost effort will be to foil the election and create such a situation that the election cannot be held," CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam quoted Yunus after the meeting.

The chief adviser told the leaders that obstacles would be created at every step in arranging the polls.

"They will try to sow discord in everyone's minds. We have to stay on the path, remain calm and united," Yunus said.

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

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Diggers are being used to fill a part of the Dhaleshwari river with sand in Hemayetur of Savar. Such blatant river encroachment goes on with the authorities turning a blind eye. The photo was taken this week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Hasina, Kamal ordered shooting of July protesters

Ex-IGP Mamun tells ICT,  
apologises for mass killing



SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

In a dramatic testimony before the International Crimes Tribunal 1 yesterday, former inspector general of police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun said the mass killings during last year's July uprising were carried out on direct orders of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina and home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

"I apologise to the victims' families, the injured, the nation, and the tribunal," Mamun said, appearing as an approver in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed during the uprising.

Besides him, Hasina and Asaduzzaman are also accused in the case.

Mamun had earlier pleaded guilty and sought permission to become an approver. The tribunal accepted his plea on the condition that he would make a full and true disclosure of information regarding the charges brought against him.

USE LETHAL FORCE

Mamun testified that on July 18, 2024, Asaduzzaman relayed Hasina's directive to use lethal weapons against protesters. Mamun shared the order with then additional DIG Proloy Kumar Joarder, who then passed it on to then DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman and others nationwide.

"From that day, the use of lethal weapons began. Habibur and DB chief Harun were overenthusiastic about the decision. The home minister's instruction was clear: suppress the protest at any cost."

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## NILPHAMARI EPZ

One killed  
as workers  
clash with law  
enforcers

A CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A worker was killed, and at least seven others were injured in a clash with law enforcers at the Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Nilphamari yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Habib, 21, an employee of Equ International -- a knitting factory. He was a resident of Sangolsi village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

His brother Rashidul Islam claimed that Habib was shot and killed by law enforcers, but police and doctors did not confirm this.

According to EPZ Executive Director Abdul Jabbar, for the last few days, the workers of Evergreen Products Factory (BD) Ltd -- a wig factory -- have been demanding termination benefits after authorities laid off around 50 employees.

Yesterday, factory authorities suddenly announced a two-day holiday.

Enraged by the sudden closure, the workers blocked the nearby Nilphamari-Saidpur highway.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Palestinians displaced by the Israeli military offensive take shelter in a tent camp in Gaza City yesterday, as Israeli forces intensify operations in and around the area. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Star ROUNDTABLE 3

Simpler rules key to  
smooth transition  
from LDC

Say business leaders, seek action  
for stable policies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading

entrepreneurs  
yesterday  
urged the  
government to  
create an  
environment  
more  
conducive to  
doing business  
as Bangladesh  
prepares  
to graduate  
from the UN's  
least  
developed  
country

(LDC) category  
next year.

At a roundtable titled  
"Policy and Regulatory  
Challenges in the Private  
Sector", they warned that  
bureaucratic inefficiencies,  
regulatory red tape, and  
inconsistent policymaking  
could undermine competitiveness after graduation. The event was the  
third in a series of discussions organised by The Daily Star to examine  
private sector challenges and chart a roadmap for the economy.

Speakers stressed the need for streamlined procedures, deregulation of excessive compliance requirements, and policy overhaul to align with international standards. Policy consistency, they said, is critical to fostering investor confidence, both local and foreign, and to attracting  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Ensure consistent tax, regulation policies
- 2 Shift incentives from exports to manufacturing
- 3 Provide targeted support for SMEs
- 4 Improve port, customs efficiency

## Afghan quake death toll now over 1,400

Aid group says 3,124 injured; new  
quake of magnitude 5.5 shakes  
devastated region

AGENCIES

The death toll from Afghanistan's most severe earthquake in years rose to over 1,400 yesterday, with thousands more injured, according to an aid group.

Rescue efforts were hampered by the rugged terrain and the remoteness of villages in the country's mountainous eastern region.

At least 1,411 people have died, 3,124 have been injured and over 5,400 houses have been destroyed, said the Afghan Red Crescent Society, a humanitarian group working in the region, adding that more people are feared trapped under rubble.

The UN coordinator in Afghanistan said the toll was likely to rise, as rescuers desperately searched for survivors in the rubble of homes. Meanwhile, an earthquake of magnitude 5.5 shook southeastern Afghanistan yesterday, sparking fears of further damage.

Afghanistan is prone to deadly earthquakes, particularly in the Hindu Kush mountain range, where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 6, struck around midnight local time on Monday, at a shallow depth of 10 km (6 miles), with the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar being the worst hit.

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SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## PEEKING AT THE CITY tales told by Dhaka balconies

JANNATUL BUSHRA

Step out onto any rooftop in Dhaka and take a slow spin. You'll notice that almost every building in this urban jungle has one thing in common: balconies or verandas, whatever you want to call them.

From Banani's sleek glass railings to Old Dhaka's rust-stained iron grills, each balcony here is a stage, a diary, a confessional — and Dhaka's residents perform, scribble, and gossip on them like nobody's watching. Except, well, we are.

Because we Dhakaites are nosy or, in better words, curious with a capital C. Even as I write this, I catch myself peeking outside, not for fresh air (let's be real, this is Dhaka) but for stories. And balconies? They're the perfect theatres for the absurd, the mundane, and the gloriously ridiculous.

You never really know what you'll find on a Dhaka balcony. One could be doubling as a yoga studio, complete with gym instruments abandoned in the corner, now repurposed as climbing frames for the house cat. Another could be the scene of an all-out laundry war, where bed sheets and curtains wrestle over sunlight like gladiators who forgot their swords but somehow remembered the drama.

Some balconies are simply outdoor storage units masquerading as living space. You'll see precarious towers of



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

broken furniture that defy both logic and the laws of physics, or piles of boxes that, judging by the smell, should probably be declared hazardous waste.

Then there are the adventurous households taking "urban farming" too literally, raising chickens in cages, as though testing how far "farm-to-table" can be stretched in Dhaka apartments. Balconies, in short, are where the city's quirks hang out to dry.

And yet, not all balconies scream chaos. Some soothe. Bougainvillea vines curl around grills, little ferns

compete politely for sunlight, papaya trees rise from clay pots with optimism. Fairy lights, wind chimes, and dreamcatchers signal the presence of girls quietly rebelling in aesthetic ways.

But perhaps the most poignant balconies belong to our elderly. For them, these small slabs of concrete are not extras — they're boundaries. The farthest they can go.

Take Sahura Khatun, a 60 something, diabetic. Her doctor insists she walk forty minutes daily.

Walk where, exactly? Dhaka's sidewalks are either occupied by vendors, dug up by construction, or a minefield of open drains. So, she walks on her treadmill, on her sixth-floor balcony, sipping tea between steps and watching traffic as though it were a storm — fascinating to observe, but too dangerous to step into.

Then there's Mohammad Ali, 85. Once a man of the land in Mymensingh, he now rules a kingdom of pigeons from his Jigatola balcony. He reads the newspaper there and surveys the road. "It feels like the traffic can hit me at any time," he says. And so, like many others, his balcony becomes his promenade, his park bench, his lifeline. It's his personal theatre, except everyone is part of the audience, whether they want to be or not.

Balconies, in other words, are where Dhaka resists. This city has long been accused of choosing cars over people. Pavements vanish, green spaces shrink, pollution thickens. And yet, tilt your gaze upward and you'll see something stubbornly human. People carving out space, however small, for plants. For birds. For gossip. For tea with grandchildren.

It is where Dhaka pushes back against being dismissed as one giant traffic jam. It's where human stories leak through the concrete, reminding us that we were never designed to be boxed into these cells.

## Stay vigilant as there'll be bid to foil election

FROM PAGE 1

Leaders of the AB Party, Ganosamhati Andolan, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Nagarok Oikya Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Jatiya Gono Front, and Islamic outfit Hefazat-e Islam Bangladesh attended the meeting.

"The election will be held in the first half of February. We will transfer power to an elected government," Yunus said.

According to the press secretary, Yunus said the election is a test of Bangladesh's ability to stand independently and govern on its own terms.

"We have to make sure that no country can interfere," Yunus said.

With everyone's support, the chief adviser hoped that this would be a landmark election. "This election belongs to all political parties, not to the interim government. We want your all-out support in arranging it,"

Yunus told leaders.

Speaking to reporters, Islami Andolan Bangladesh presidium member Ashraf Ali Akon said the chief adviser raised concerns about the election at the meeting.

Asked about his party's demand, he said, "We demanded that the Awami League, Jatiya Party, and the 14 party alliance all be banned."

Ashraf described law and order as "out of control". If the violence cannot be stopped now, how will it be contained during elections to 300 constituencies?" he asked. He also called for a proportionate representation system.

Hefazat-e Islam Bangladesh Joint Secretary General Azizur Rahman said they had demanded that the July Charter include the Shapla Square massacre, as well as the arrest of identified criminals and collaborators of the Awami League government.

Ganosamhati Andolan Chief

Coordinator Zonayed Saki said Yunus had sought advice and cooperation from political parties regarding the upcoming polls. "We have proposed forming a committee with representatives from parties in the Consensus Commission talks to coordinate the electoral environment."

AB Party Chairman Mojibur Rahman Monju highlighted concerns over governance and law enforcement. "The Chittagong University incident revealed a lack of coordination between the government and law enforcement agencies. Unless this is fixed, doubts about the election will persist."

Quoting the chief adviser, Monju added, "He himself said there is no one in his team with experience in conducting a neutral election. We recommended appointing those with such experience, even on a contractual basis. The chief adviser

has said any election is a challenge, and there is no alternative to facing it together."

LDP Secretary General Redwan Ahmed urged that the administration must take measures to remain neutral during the polls.

Meanwhile, Yunus directed the health ministry officials concerned to send Nurul Haque Nur, president of Gono Odhikar Parishad, abroad for better treatment. Nur was injured as security forces beat him up during a clash between supporters of his party and Jatiya Party on Friday night.

The directive was given in the presence of Nur's wife, Maria Akhter, party General Secretary Rashed Khan, and senior joint general secretary Hasan Al Mamun at Jamuna.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said a one-member committee led by Justice Ali Reza is being formed to investigate the attack.

## Hasina, Kamal ordered shooting of July protesters

FROM PAGE 1

Mamun added that drones and helicopters were deployed to locate protesters, following advice from then Rab DG Harun Ar Rashid. Block raids and mass arrests also began.

"Countless students and civilians were killed. Pro-Awami intellectuals, journalists, cultural figures, and business leaders encouraged Hasina to crush the movement."

Mamun named several influential figures who, according to him, pressed Hasina on the use of lethal weapons, including Anisul Huq, Fazle Noor Taposh, Salman F Rahman, Obaidul Quader, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mohammad A Arafat, Mirza Azam, Hasanul Haq Inu, and Rashed Khan Menon.

**STUDENT LEADERS' DETENTION**

Mamun told the tribunal that after the uprising began in July 2024, core committee meetings were held from July 19 onwards at Asaduzzaman's Dhamondi home. Chiefs of law enforcement and intelligence agencies attended those meetings.

"At one core committee meeting, the decision was made to detain the coordinators of the Student Against Discrimination movement. This

proposal came from the DGFI. I opposed it but later agreed following the home minister's order," Mamun told the tribunal.

He added that the responsibility was assigned to DB chief Harun or Rashid, who, along with the DGFI, picked up the coordinators and kept them in DB custody. Their family members were also brought in and the detained leaders were forced to announce the withdrawal of the movement in televised statements.

"DB chief Harun played a leading role in this," Mamun said, adding that the home minister used to call him "Jinn" because of his efficiency in executing any government order.

**COORDINATION, SUPPRESSION**

On August 4, 2024, a Security Coordination Committee meeting at the Gono Bhaban, attended by 27 top officials, including military and intelligence chiefs, planned to block the "March to Dhaka" scheduled for the next day.

Mamun said the police and army were instructed to coordinate operations, with DMP forces deployed at city entry points.

Later that night, a second meeting was held at the Gono Bhaban with Hasina, Sheikh Rehana, and senior security

officials. The meeting reconvened inside the cantonment to finalise deployment plans, he said.

As protesters poured into Dhaka on August 5, Mamun learnt that Hasina would resign. He was later airlifted by army helicopter to Dhaka Cantonment with other senior officers, including SB chief Monirul, DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman, DIG Amena Begum, additional DIG Proloy and additional IGP Lutful Kabi.

Mamun's appointment as IGP was revoked on August 8, and he was arrested on September 3.

**2018 BALLOT BOX STUFFING**

Mamun also told the tribunal, "During the 2018 elections, the then IGP Javed Patwary advised Sheikh Hasina to keep 50 percent of the ballot boxes stuffed the night before the polls. Following that advice, the government instructed the local administration, law enforcement agencies, and party leaders and activists to implement the decision..."

He said the force had become politicised since 2014, especially by Gopalganj based officers, with officers with many prioritising party agendas over regulations. Since there was a tussle between officers over who would succeed him, he was kept on as IGP on

a contractual basis.

**RAB ABUSES, SANCTIONS**

During his tenure as Rab DG (April 2020-September 2022), Mamun said the Task Force Interrogation (TFI) cell routinely abducted, tortured, and secretly detained dissenters.

He said directives for enforced disappearances and crossfire killings came from the Prime Minister's Office via defence adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique.

"I was aware of these abuses but lacked authority to intervene. The US sanctioned me, Rab, and its former DG for these actions."

**GUILT, REMORSE**

In an emotional conclusion, Mamun said his decision to become an approver stemmed from guilt over the mass killings.

"Hearing victims' testimonies and seeing footage of corpses being burnt shook me deeply. If this full account reveals the truth, I may find some peace."

"I served 36 years and a half in the police. There were never any allegations against me. But this massacre happened under my watch. I accept responsibility."

Mamun is scheduled for cross-examination today.

## Afghan quake death toll now over 1,400

FROM PAGE 1

Rescue operations were carried out in four badly hit villages in Kunar on Monday and efforts will now be focused on reaching more remote mountain areas, said Ehsanullah Ehsan, the provincial head of disaster management.

"We cannot accurately predict how many bodies might still be trapped under the rubble," said Ehsan. "Our effort is to complete these operations as soon as possible and to begin distributing aid to the affected families."

Access for vehicles along narrow mountain roads was the main obstacle, said Ehsan, adding machinery was being brought in to clear roads of debris.

"Damaged roads, ongoing aftershocks, and remote locations of many villages severely impede the

delivery of aid," the World Health Organization said, adding that over 12,000 people had been affected by the quake.

So far, Britain has allocated 1 million pounds (\$1.35 million) to support the efforts of UN and the International Red Cross in delivering critical healthcare and emergency supplies, reports Reuters.

India delivered 1,000 tents and was moving 15 tonnes of food supplies to Kunar, with more relief materials to be sent yesterday.

Other nations such as China, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union, Pakistan and Iran have pledged help but aid is yet to arrive.

Yesterday, a line of ambulances was on the damaged mountain road trying to reach Kunar villages, as helicopters flew in, bringing aid supplies and taking

the injured to hospitals, according to a Reuters witness.

Some of those injured have been transferred to hospitals in Kabul and the adjacent province of Nangarhar, said Ehsan. Thousands of children were at risk, the United Nations Children's Fund warned yesterday.

Unicef said it was sending medicines, warm clothing, tents and tarpaulins for shelter, and hygiene items such as soap, detergent, towels, sanitary pads, and water buckets.

Taliban soldiers were deployed in the area, providing help and security. The disaster has further stretched the war-torn nation's Taliban administration, already grappling with a sharp drop in foreign aid and deportations of hundreds of thousands of Afghans by neighbouring countries.

Rescue teams and authorities are

trying to dispose of animal carcasses quickly so as to minimise the risk of contamination to water resources, a UN official said on Monday.

Food and tents were desperately needed, said Safiullah Noorzai from Aseel, a humanitarian tech platform with networks around Afghanistan. With their houses in ruins, many people were living in the open amid a fear of aftershocks, Noorzai added.

The rescue and relief work has struggled in the face of tight resources in the war-torn, impoverished nation of 42 million people and limited global help in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Afghanistan has been badly hit by US President Donald Trump's decision in January to cut funding to its humanitarian arm USAID and reductions in other foreign aid programmes.

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Rescue teams and authorities are

## VIOLENCE AROUND CU Banned BCL men among 1,095 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University authorities yesterday lodged a case accusing 1,095 people, including activists of the banned Chhatra League, over a clash between students and villagers, which left at least 240 injured on August 31.

Abdur Rahim, Deputy Registrar (security) of the CU, filed the case with the Hathazari Police Station naming 95 accused, said Abu Mohammed Kawsar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

Apart from that, the CU security department lodged a general diary (GD) with the police station in connection with looting sharp weapons, which were seized from different halls after August 5 last year, from its security lockers during the violence.

Apart from them, 800-1,000 unidentified people were also accused, the OC said.

He said, "The university administration lodged case of attempted murder ... Police registered the case and have started an investigation. However, no one has been arrested in this connection so far."

The OC declined to disclose the political affiliation of the accused, but campus and police sources said names of local Jubo League and BCL leaders and activists were mentioned in the FIR.

CU Gate No 1 area's Jubo League leader Md Hanif, 40, and his three brothers — Iqbal, Rezaul, and Sarwar — who are also affiliated with BCL and AL, were named in the FIR, they said.

Hanif and his brothers used to control the broadband internet business in the university area until October last year.

Another FIR accused, Suman Mamun, is a former BCL leader of CU, said campus sources.

At least 240 people were injured during two rounds of clashes between villagers and the students. The violence was sparked by an alleged assault on a female student

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## Adopt gender-responsive policies for stronger disaster resilience

Speakers tell workshop



**It's crucial to ensure representation so that vulnerable groups are heard and women can actively participate in preparedness.**

Rezwanur Rahman,  
DG of Department of Disaster Management

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

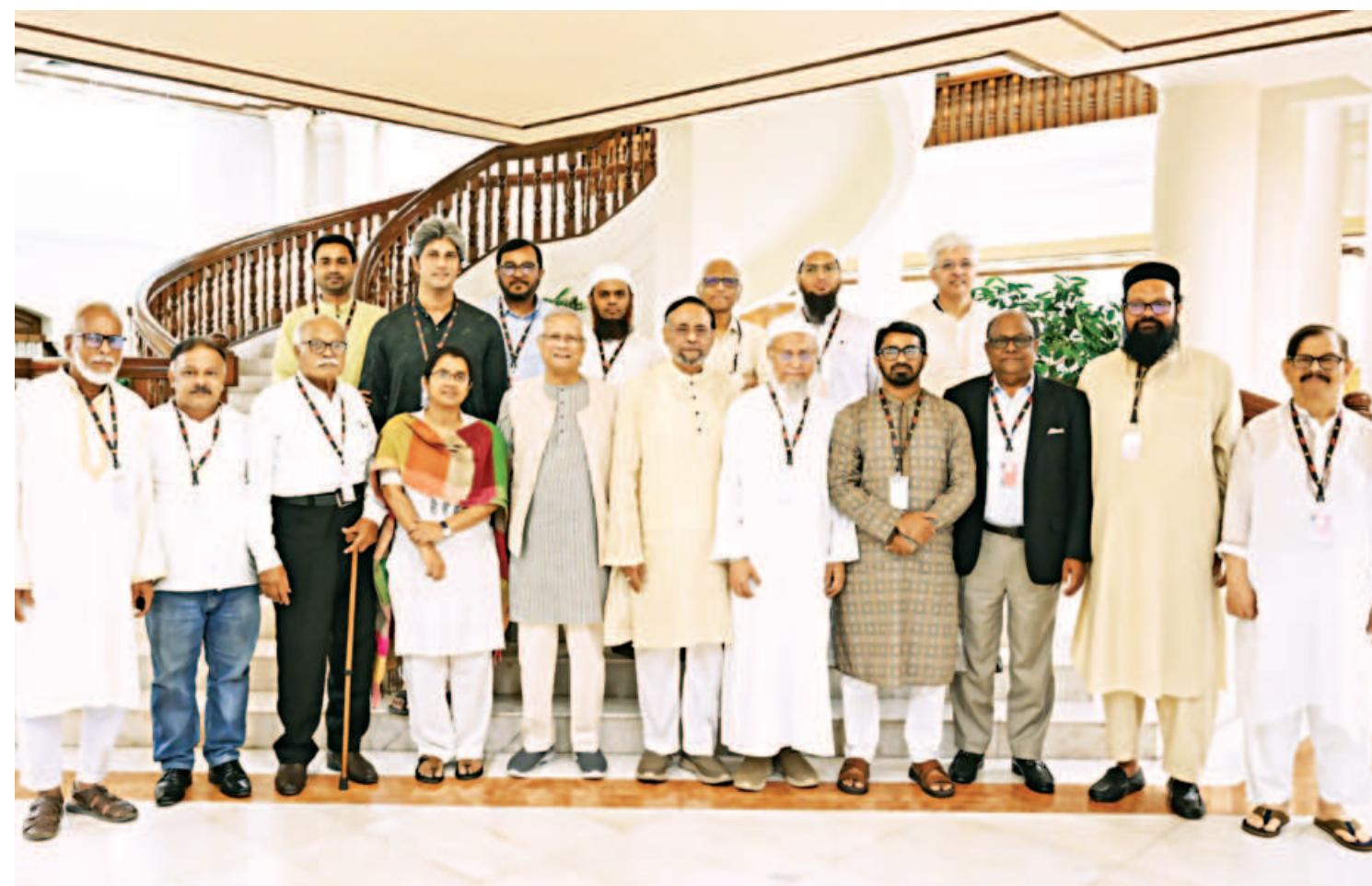
Women and children remain the most vulnerable in disasters in Bangladesh, a reality laid bare by Cyclone Remal last year, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They said social norms delaying women's evacuation, combined with family care responsibilities and overcrowded shelters lacking privacy and sanitation, leave women exposed to insecurity and gender-based violence.

Empowering women in disaster preparedness and response, they stressed, is key to reducing these risks.

They called for stronger awareness, preparedness, early warning systems, funding, and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction policies to ensure equitable management

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Leaders of seven political parties and one platform met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his official residence, Jamuna, in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed the issue of the upcoming national elections. The chief adviser warned of attempts to foil the February polls, urging vigilance, unity, and support from political parties.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING



Abul Mansur  
Ahmad's  
127th birth  
anniv today

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 127th birth anniversary of renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad. On September 3, 1898, he was born in Dhanikola village of Mymensingh.

He died on March 18, 1979, in Dhaka.

One of the leading satirical writers of Bangla literature, he also had an illustrious career as a journalist and a politician.

In 1946, he was the founding editor of the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

### DUCSU ELECTIONS

Teachers' network issues 13-point call for fair polls

#### DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Network yesterday placed a 13-point observation for the upcoming Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) elections, calling upon the election commission and the university authorities to ensure a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

The Ducusu election is scheduled for September 9.

At a press conference held at Madhur Canteen, network members Associate Professor Tahmina Khanam of the management department and Associate Professor Moshahida Sultana of the accounting department read out the statement.

They recalled their monitoring role in the 2019 Ducusu polls, which

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## ATTACK ON POLICE IN ADABOR

## Cops now on the edge

Officials wary of responding to emergencies

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and  
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

On Monday night, Adabor Police Station received a call through the National Emergency Helpline 999.

Around 10:30pm, the caller informed police that a youth had been confined in the Shyamoli Housing area and urged them to rescue him.

Following the call, the station dispatched a four-member team to Road-10 in Adabor.

When the team attempted to rescue the youth, a group of eight to 10 people attacked them, stabbing Constable Al Amin with a machete and vandalising the police van.

The incident has sparked fear among law enforcers, who are now wary of responding to such emergencies.

Speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, a Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official said, "Discussions are now going on within our force about how to respond to emergency calls, as fear is prevailing after Monday's incident. The patrol team usually has no more than four to five members, sometimes even fewer. Who will guarantee our safety if something like this happens again?"

**Discussions are ongoing within our force about how to respond to emergency calls, as fear is prevailing after Monday's incident. The patrol team usually has no more than four to five members, sometimes even fewer. Who will guarantee our safety if something like this happens again?**

A DMP OFFICIAL

"The patrol team usually has no more than four to five members, sometimes even fewer. Who will guarantee our safety if something like this happens again?"

Fear has crept into our minds," he added.

Such fears have persisted since August 5 last year, following the July uprising

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

102 rounded up in retaliation  
15 sent to jail; families claim innocence

#### STAR REPORT

Autorickshaw driver Alamgir Hossain, 35, had just moved into a one-room flat in Adabor's Balur Math area with his wife and two daughters on Monday.

Exhausted from shifting household belongings all day, he went to bed early, said his wife, Julefa Begum.

Around 1:00am, the family was woken by knocks on the door. "When I opened it, I saw several policemen. They asked my husband to get dressed, saying he was needed for questioning, and then took him away," Julefa told The Daily Star.

Around the same time, 45-year-old mason Habibur Rahman was also detained from a nearby house, along with his two sons - Nazmul Hossain, 18, and Mohammad Nadim, 22.

They were among 102 people rounded up in overnight police drives in Adabor.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## Govt mulls ICT-3 to speed up trials

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government may constitute a third tribunal to expedite trials for enforced disappearances and other international crimes, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has said.

He made the remarks after inspecting the renovation work of the main building of International Crimes Tribunal 2 in the vicinity of the Supreme Court premises yesterday morning.

**Asif Nazrul's comments on the possibility of forming ICT-3 came after the ICT chief prosecutor on Saturday said they were being forced to rush the trials of crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.**

Once ICT-2 shifts to the main building, ICT-3 could be housed in the tin-shed building where ICT-2 has been working, he said.

"If tribunal-3 is set up, it will significantly speed up the trials related to disappearances and other international crimes. We are also prioritising the prosecution of crimes against humanity," the adviser said.

Emphasising the government's commitment,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

### RETURNING AFTER 11:00PM

RU hall scraps notice on 91 female students amid outcry

#### STAR REPORT

Authorities at Rajshahi University's (RU) July 36 Hall have withdrawn a notice summoning 91 female students for returning to their dormitory after 11:00pm, following widespread criticism from students and on social media.

The original notice, signed by hall provost Prof Lovely Nahar on Monday night, instructed students listed under serial numbers 1-45 to appear at her office on September 9, and numbers 46-91 on September 10.

The move quickly sparked a debate online, with many terming it "illogical" and "discriminatory". A fresh notice was issued yesterday afternoon, announcing the withdrawal.

Students said the publication of their names exposed them to humiliation and safety risks. "Our personal information is now out in the open. I was marked for returning late one night, but I had only stepped out briefly to collect food. Now others are making indecent remarks about us," said a resident.

Another student said, "This was done in the name of security, but instead it put us in danger. With the upcoming Rucusu polls, such information can easily be misused. The administration acted unprofessionally."

The controversy also drew attention from student

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Women wait for nearly four hours under the scorching sun in Mohammadpur yesterday for a TCB truck that was scheduled to arrive at 9:00am but had yet to come even by 1:00pm. For many, these trucks are the only way to buy essentials at affordable prices.

**PURBACHAL GRAFT**  
Six more testify in 3 cases against Hasina

#### STAR REPORT

Six more prosecution witnesses testified yesterday in three graft cases filed against 23 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

The witnesses are Delwar Hossain, Lutfor Rahman, Rezaul Haque, Abu Taher, Gautam Kumar Sikdar, and Shoriful Islam.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of Dhaka's Special Judge's Court-5 recorded their statements and set September 17 for the next hearing.

According to the prosecution, the six testified in the three separate graft cases - one against 12 accused; another against 18, including Putul; and a third against 17, including Joy.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Noel Mendes passes away

STAR REPORT



Noel Gregory Mendes, a celebrated Chattogram businessman and former member of the legendary 1960s band "Lightnings", passed away on Monday morning. He was 71.

He breathed his last at 5:10am at the Apollo Imperial Hospital.

His funeral mass and burial ceremony was held on Monday at 3:30pm at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Patharghat in Chattogram.

Noel Mendes was a beloved member of the Mendes family, which has made contributions to Bangladesh's logistics, shipping, and freight forwarding industry through the Enem Omni Group, founded in 1958 by J Lawrence Mendes.

Noel Mendes was not only a prominent businessman but also a celebrated musician.

He was part of the legendary pop band Lightnings, formed in the 1960s in Bangladesh, then East Pakistan.

## BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

## Rail passengers suffer as students continue blockade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh rail route for nearly six hours yesterday following a dispute with the university authorities, causing immense suffering to passengers.

The students have been demonstrating since Sunday after an attack by outsiders left seven of them injured.

Although the university ordered students to vacate dormitories following its indefinite closure on Sunday night, most male students refused to leave.

On Monday afternoon, the protesters blocked the railway line on the campus for two hours. Yesterday, they resumed the blockade around 11:30am, said Md Akhtar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Government Railway Police (GRP) in Mymensingh.

The OC said seven trains, including Dhaka-bound Balaka Commuter, Jamalpur Commuter Train and Teesta Intercity, were waiting at Mymensingh Railway Station around 5:30pm. Meanwhile, Mymensingh-bound



Commuter, Aghnibina Express, Jamalpur Express and Mohanganj Express were stranded at different stations in Gafargaon.

Altogether, 24 pairs of trains travel this route every day, carrying about 30,000 passengers. The blockade therefore caused severe suffering to rail commuters, the OC added.

Ali Hossain, a Dhaka-bound passenger on the Balaka Commuter from Jaria in Netrakona, said his train reached Mymensingh station

around 1:30pm but had been stuck there since.

"While we are already facing serious suffering under the scorching heat, the blockade has added salt to our wounds," said Ahmed Shafiq, a trader from Jaria.

Samia Akter, who was traveling to Dhaka on the Balaka Commuter, said the heat and the long wait at Mymensingh had been extremely difficult for her five-year-old child.

Aysha Khatun, a house help, said

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

## Adopt gender-responsive policies

FROM PAGE 3

and resilience.

The remarks were made during the inception workshop of the "Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (GRDRRB)" project, organised by BRAC and UN Women with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency at a city hotel.

The workshop marked the official launch of the project, which will continue until December 2026 across 12 disaster-prone districts. The workshop marked the official launch of the project, which will continue until December 2026 across 12 disaster-prone districts.

At the event, K M Abdul Wadud, additional secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, said while the number of deaths during disasters has decreased, economic losses remain high.

He called for greater emphasis on awareness, preparedness, and acceptance of the inevitability of disasters, guided by early warnings and forecasts.

He stressed the need for adequate funding to strengthen capacity, develop preparedness systems, and introduce disaster risk insurance to mitigate economic losses.

Md Liakath Ali, director of BRAC's Disaster Risk Management programme emphasised integrating climate considerations and projections into all projects to help communities build back better.

He also highlighted the importance of stakeholder feedback, local context, and indigenous knowledge in making gender-responsive disaster risk reduction projects successful.

The workshop began with a welcome address by Dilruba Haider, programme specialist for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Humanitarian Actions at UN Women, and included a keynote presentation on the GRDRRB project by the project's lead Abdul Latif Khan.

She added that while local women are already driving action on the frontlines, their leadership must be further strengthened.

Matilda Svensson, first secretary of the Embassy of Sweden, said gender equality is essential for disaster resilience.

She stressed that intention must turn into

action.

Tasin Khan, a candidate for the vice president post, suggested that the provost be removed if she cannot ensure security after 11:00pm.

Amid mounting criticism, Prof Nahar apologised.

"We issued the notice on a committee's advice to speak with the students. But considering the situation, we have withdrawn it. We sincerely regret the difficulties it caused," she said.

## RU hall scraps

FROM PAGE 3  
leaders. Rucusu AGS candidate Shah Poran questioned the apparent double standard, saying, "We also return late to our halls. Will there be notices against us too, or is it one country with two sets of rules?"

Tasin Khan, a candidate for the vice president post, suggested that the provost be removed if she cannot ensure security after 11:00pm.

Amid mounting criticism, Prof Nahar apologised. "We issued the notice on a committee's advice to speak with the students. But considering the situation, we have withdrawn it. We sincerely regret the difficulties it caused," she said.

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## চাঁদপুর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

চাঁদপুর-৩৬০০



মুক্ত প্রকল্প/প্রিয়াজি/খণ্ড-০২/২০২৫-২৬/ক্যাম্পাস-বন ভাঁড়া-০২/১৩২

তারিখ: ০২/০৯/২০২৫

## চাঁদপুর আবশ্যিক

চাঁদপুর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্রদের জন্য 'ছাত্র হল' বাস্তবায়নের জন্য ভবন ভাঁড়ার নিমিত্ত অত্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের চাঁদপুর ক্যাম্পাস (হোল্ডিং নং-০১০৩৭-০২, খলিমাতুলী, ওয়াগন পেইট, কুমিল্লা রোড, চাঁদপুর-৩৬০০) সংগ্রহ এলাকায় ০১ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ৮০০০-১০০০০ বর্গফুট আয়তনের আইনগত জিল্লাতাৰিদেশ ভবন ভাঁড়া প্রয়োজন। ভবন ভাঁড়া প্রদানে আগ্রহী মালিকদের আগামী ১৬/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটকার মধ্যে ভবনের বিজ্ঞারিত বর্ণনা, ভাঁড়ার পরিমাণ এবং নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত পূরণ সাপ্তে নিম্নোক্ত টিকানায় আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের অনুরোধ করা হবে।

## শর্তসমূহ:

- ১। ভবনের নিচ তলায় খোলা জায়গার (কমন স্পেস) সুবিধাসহ ভবনের মোট আয়তন ৮০০০-১০০০০ বর্গফুট হতে হবে।
- ২। অবশ্যই পোরসভা কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ডিজাইন ও কোরের প্লান সরবারাহ করতে হবে।
- ৩। ভবন/ফ্ল্যাটের মালিকের নিজের নামে বিদ্যুৎ বিলের কাগজ ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র থাকতে হবে।

আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের টিকানা:

নেটিজন্স

চাঁদপুর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
হোল্ডিং নং-০১০৩৭-০২, খলিমাতুলী, ওয়াগন পেইট, কুমিল্লা রোড, চাঁদপুর-৩৬০০।

(4x3)

GD-1934

## YOUNGONE

BANGLADESH

Sungnam Apparels (BD) Limited

Youngone Complex, Plot # 28 & 30, Gausul Azam Avenue  
Sector-13, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh.Phone : 0241340051-55,  
09612005511  
E-mail : hasan70@youngonectg.com

## EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) OF THE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS OF SUNGNAM APPARELS (BD) LTD. PURSUANT TO THE DIRECTION OF THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court issued by Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel on 19th August, 2025 in Company Matter No. 1456 of 2025, an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Shareholders and the Creditors of **Sungnam Apparels (BD) Ltd.** ("the Company") will be held in the following manner:

Particulars	Date	Time	Venue
Shareholders	23rd September 2025	10:00 am	Plot # 28 & 30 Gausul Azam Avenue, Sector 13, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka - 1230
Creditors	23rd September 2025	11:30 am	

## AGENDA of the EGM Shareholders and the Creditors:

Approval of the Scheme of Amalgamation **Sungnam Apparels (BD) Ltd.** ("Transferor Company") with **Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Ltd.** ("Transferee Company") to consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as Special Resolution with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT draft Scheme of Amalgamation of **Sungnam Apparels (BD) Ltd.** ("Transferor Company") with **Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Ltd.** ("Transferee Company") be and is hereby approved subject to the sanction of the Scheme by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in accordance with the provisions of sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994, and approval of the same Scheme by the Shareholders and creditors of **Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Ltd.** in the similar manner, Let the Transferor Company be amalgamated with the Transferee Company in terms of the Scheme.

Dated: 1st September 2025

(Hasan Md. Ibrahim)  
Company Secretary

**Notes:**  
Draft Scheme of Amalgamation of **Sungnam Apparels (BD) Ltd** with **Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Ltd** shall be kept open in the registered office of the Company for inspection by all concerned during office hours.

## Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)

Mirpur Cantonment, Dhaka-1216

## Invitation for Tenders

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Defense (MoD)

Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)

Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)

N/A

Dhaka

Invitation for Tender

Tender

Invitation Ref No. OTM-01/MIST/ICT Dte/IBW/2025-2026/01

24 Aug 2025

## KEY INFORMATION

9 Procurement method OTM (NCT) (Framework Contract)

## FUNDING INFORMATION

10 Budget and source of funds Revenue Budget (GOB)

11 Development partners (if applicable) N/A

## PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12 Project/program code (if applicable) N/A

13 Project/program name (if applicable) N/A

14 Tender Package No. N/A

15 Tender package name Procurement of dedicated full duplex internet bandwidth for MIST LAN with 24/7 LAN maintenance and user level support services for FY 2025-2026.

16 Tender publication date 01 Sep 2025

17 Tender last selling date 21 Sep 2025

18 Tender closing date and time 22 Sep 2025 1200 Hrs

19 Tender opening date and time 22 Sep 2025 1230 Hrs

20 Name &amp; address of the office(s)

- Selling tender document Procurement Section, Office of Director Administration, MIST

- Receiving tender document Procurement Section, Office of Director Administration, MIST

- Opening tender document Procurement Section, Office of Director Administration, MIST

21 Pre-tender meeting 14 Sep 2025

## INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22 Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer a. The tenderer must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years of general experience in supplying Internet bandwidth and related services.

b. The tenderer must submit at least two work completion certificates for similar works involving the supply of 1 Gbps or higher Internet bandwidth to an educational institution, government, or banking sector within the last three (3) years.

## Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 73 Palestinians

13 more died due to starvation; Belgium to recognise Palestinian state at UNGA

### AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that Israeli strikes across the enclave killed at least 73 people, including five individuals seeking humanitarian aid.

Spokesman Mahmud Bassal said in a statement to AFP that Israeli warplanes hit the top floor of a residential building in southwestern Gaza City, killing 10 people.

Bassal said Israeli helicopters also struck an apartment in the west of the city, killing three and wounding several others.

Tens of thousands of reservists started to report for duty yesterday ahead of a new Israeli offensive in Gaza



Firefighters work at the site of car garages damaged by a Russian drone strike in Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

- ➊ Thousands of Israeli reservists report for duty
- ➋ Israel currently holds about 75pc of the enclave
- ➌ Death toll in Gaza rises to 63,557

City, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to speed up, despite warnings from senior ranks.

Israeli Army Radio said that some 40,000 reservists would report for duty for the Gaza City offensive. The military said it was readying logically for the intake of reservists ahead of the offensive.

Israel currently holds about 75 percent of the Gaza Strip, reports Reuters.

At least 63,557 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's air and ground war in Gaza since the offensive began on October 7, 2023, according to Gaza health officials.

Meanwhile, Belgium will recognise the State of Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly in September, its foreign minister announced yesterday.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday urged the United States to "revise" its decision to deny visas to members of the Palestinian Authority to attend the UN General Assembly this month.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Rajbari PWD Division, Rajbari  
E-mail: ee\_rjbri@pwd.gov.bd  
Phone No. 02-478807642

Memo No. e-Tender/PWD/Raj/25-26/1885

Date: 02-09-2025

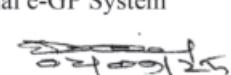
### e-Tender Notice (OTM) Amendment/Corrigendum

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

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time
1142418	Construction of Ground Floor & 1st Floor Kalukhali Police Station (Including Civil, Sanitary, Sentry Box, Electrification, Flag Stand and Site Development) having 06-Storied Foundation in Rajbari District.	10-09-2025 5:00pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System.

The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guide are available in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

  
Md. Saifuzzaman  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Rajbari

GD-1928

### ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ

প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিডিএল ভবন (লেভেল ১৪-২১), ৮, রাজ্যিক একাডেমি, ঢাকা।

### “দ্বিতীয় কারণ দর্শনো” বা চূড়ান্ত নোটিশ

নং-৫৩.১৩.১০০০.০৫৮.২১০০.০২৫/৬৭৪  
তারিখ: ০১.০৯.২০২৫  
যেহেতু, আপনি জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিয়ন্ত্রণ অফিসার, আইডি নং ২০১০০০২৪, আপনার জীবনের নিমিত্ত ভারত সরকারের জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিয়ন্ত্রণ অফিসারকে ০৪ (চার) ধোল ১০ দিনের বাইরের কালেশে ছুটি মুক্তি করা হয় এবং উক্ত ছুটির মেয়াদ ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২২ তারিখে শেষ হওয়ার ০৩ (তিনি) দিন পর আপনি আরও ৫১ (একান্ন) দিন ছুটি বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে জন্ম পাত করেন যা, তারিখ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃপক্ষ অনুমতি দেন যাতে আপনি আইডি নং ২০১০০০২৪ তারিখে প্রেরণের মাধ্যমে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে জন্ম পাত করেন যা, যিনি মোটাবেক ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষক অনুমতি দেন যাতে আপনাকে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে জন্ম পাত করা হয়, কিন্তু আপনাকে কর্তৃপক্ষ অনুমতি না দেওয়ার আলাদা কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আপনাকে প্রদান করা হয়, কিন্তু আপনি আইডি নং ২০১০০০২৪-এর প্রেরণের অনুমতি দেওয়ার আলাদা কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আপনাকে প্রদান করা হয় এবং উক্তকার্য অভিযন্তে গত ৫ মে ২০২৪ তারিখের ৫৩.১০০০.০৫৮.২১.০০.২১/৪১(গ)।/৪১৬ স্থারের মাধ্যমে আপনার নিয়ন্ত্রণে আপনি আইডি নং ২০১০০০২৪-এর প্রেরণের অনুমতি দেওয়ার আলাদা কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আপনাকে প্রদান করা হয়।

  
Md. Saifuzzaman  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Rajbari



## US seeking regime change Says Venezuela's Maduro after US naval build-up

REUTERS, Caracas

The US is seeking a regime change in his country with a naval deployment in the Caribbean, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Monday in a rare press conference.

Tensions between the US and Venezuela have risen in recent weeks amid a large US naval buildup in the Southern Caribbean and nearby waters, which US officials say aims to address threats from Latin American drug cartels. US President Donald Trump has made cracking down on drug cartels a central goal of his administration, part of a wider effort to limit migration and secure the US southern border.

But Maduro, Venezuelan Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello and other officials have said the US is threatening their country.



## 20 missing after deadly Indonesia protests

AFP, Jakarta

At least 20 people are missing after violent protests, sparked by lavish perks for Indonesian lawmakers that have widened to include anger against police, a rights group said yesterday.

At least six people have been killed since protests rocked Southeast Asia's biggest economy last week, intensified by footage spreading of the killing of a young delivery driver by a paramilitary police unit.

The unrest emerged in cities across Indonesia, forcing President Prabowo Subianto into a U-turn on lawmaker perks after the worst protests since the ex-general took power last year. The KontraS said 23 reports of missing persons had been received by Monday.

## 1,000 killed in Sudan landslide Says rebel group as entire village wiped out

REUTERS

An armed group that controls part of western Sudan yesterday pleaded for international help recovering bodies and rescuing residents from torrential rain, after at least 1,000 people were killed in a landslide that wiped out a mountain village on Sunday.

Only one person survived the destruction of the village of Tarseen in the mountainous Jebel Marra area of the Darfur region, said the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army.

SLA, which has long controlled and governed an autonomous portion of Jebel Marra, appealed to the United Nations and international aid agencies to help collect the bodies of victims, including men, women and children.

Tarseen, famed for its citrus production, has now been completely levelled to the ground, the group said in a statement. Residents of al-Fashir and nearby areas have sought shelter in Jebel Marra.

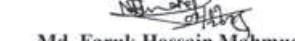
## UN warns scenes in Myanmar mirror 2017 atrocities

AFP, Geneva



The humanitarian situation in Myanmar is worsening, the UN said yesterday, decrying scenes reminiscent of the 2017 atrocities committed against the Rohingya minority that some countries deemed a genocide.

UN rights chief Volker Turk warned that both the military and local ethnic fighters from Arakan Army "have acted with near complete impunity enabling the recurrence of violations in an endless cycle of suffering for the civilian population".

Padma Oil PLC		
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)		
Strand Road, Shadaghant, Chattogram		Date: 01/09/2025
Corrigendum Notice		
FOR		
"Procurement of 3 Nos. x Aircraft Refuellers for POCL Aviation Refuelling Facilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh"		
Ref. E&P/BPC Budget/HSLA/F-10/P-20/25-26		
This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made.		
SI No.	Existing	Amended
18	Tender last selling date 15/09/2025 upto 12:00pm	Tender last selling 06/10/2025 upto 12:00pm
19	Tender closing date and time 16/09/2025 at 02.00pm	Tender closing date and time 07/10/2025 at 02.00pm
20	Tender opening date and time 16/09/2025 at 03.00pm	Tender opening date and time 07/10/2025 at 03.00pm
All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document shall remain unchanged.		
(3"x3) GD-1930		
 Md. Faruk Hossain Mahmud Deputy General Manager (E&P)		

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জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়

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### উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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## Is the reform drive being derailed?

Parties must resolve disputes over July Charter implementation

It is a telling reflection of our turbulent times that Bangladesh is as close to getting a July Charter (finally) as it is far from securing any political assurance of its implementation post-election. That is because while the National Consensus Commission reportedly plans to hand over a final draft to political parties within this week, it has opted to exclude its implementation process from the draft itself, as previously expected, fearing this may deter some parties from signing the charter. This cautious approach seems practical as parties still widely differ on the route to its implementation. Among the suggested routes are approval by next parliament, a referendum, presidential proclamations, and even a constituent assembly. Nearly all parties agree that some reforms can be enacted by ordinance right away, but beyond that, consensus breaks down into competing procedural preferences, especially on questions of constitutional reforms.

This state of affairs only underscores the fragility of a political patchwork that has been repeatedly strained by bitter divisions during the past months of NCC consultations. Beyond the debate on implementation, some parties also think that reforms on which there is disagreement should not even be incorporated in the charter. They have even warned that if the final draft includes anything beyond the unanimously agreed reforms, they may not sign it. This is deeply disturbing. To see this charter, in which so much time, effort, and emotion have been invested, still being dragged through such technicalities and calculations only heightens fears about the future of the reform drive.

During a recent event, the chiefs and members of several reform commissions have rightly expressed frustration at the lack of visible progress in the reform drive. Although 11 commissions were set up in two phases post-uprising—six in the first and five in the second—to drive reforms across various sectors, their outcomes so far remain negligible. The lack of progress in the 84 reform proposals earmarked for NCC consultations could be understandable, as they required broader political consensus, but how to explain the slow or zero progress on the dozens of other proposals that were not discussed and could easily be implemented? When will those proposed reforms be put into effect?

The interim government cannot blame political indecision alone for this stagnation. Bureaucratic inertia, lack of collaboration and coordination among relevant state agencies, and the absence of clear timelines and accountability mechanisms have all contributed to this delay. The lesson of these past months is that without decisive leadership to translate reform proposals into action, even the most achievable reforms risk remaining on paper. We cannot let this situation drag on indefinitely. The interim government, political parties, and civil society all bear responsibility to ensure that the reform drive is expedited so that the promise of change can be delivered.

## An alarming display of toxicity

DU student's open rape threat reveals deep-rooted misogyny in society

We are shocked by the repugnant conduct of Dhaka University student Ali Husen, who recently issued a rape threat online against a fellow female student. Husen's post was aimed at BM Fahmida Alam, a candidate from a left-leaning panel for the upcoming DUCSU election. Earlier, she had filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the nomination of SM Farhad, a general secretary candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel, alleging that Farhad was involved in the now-banned Chhatra League. Following the petition, the HC had postponed the DUCSU poll to October 30, only for it to be reinstated by the Supreme Court within an hour.

While many students initially protested the HC order, it is beyond comprehension how a student from the country's most prominent university could utter such vile threats against a fellow student for exercising her legal rights. His post even stated that anyone who finds it "uncivil, deserves the same" as Fahmida. Universities are meant to be spaces where students learn moral and ethical behaviour alongside academic knowledge. But what are students like Husen, and those who supported his call to "gang rape," learning during their most formative years? This is the opposite of constructive debate that universities are supposed to teach and promote.

The distasteful masculinity that was on display also reflected the disturbing impunity surrounding sexual violence in our society. Many men continue to feel entitled to women's bodies and are emboldened to issue threats of sexual violence both online and offline. Too many still believe women can be "put in their place" for behaviours that don't conform to their beliefs. Such toxic attitudes stand as barriers to women's political, social, and economic participation, and the fact that those who threaten to commit such heinous acts are seldom held accountable only encourages this behaviour further.

In the context of the DUCSU polls—where campus safety is a major campaign issue—the latest incident is a stark reminder of the urgency of the matter. We urge DU authorities to take immediate disciplinary action not only against the main perpetrator but also against those who supported his call. A criminal case should be filed under the Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025 to set a precedent that such repulsive conduct will not be tolerated. Finally, we call on our emerging student leaders to actively denounce such behaviours as part of the broader campaign to eradicate gender violence and discrimination. Ensuring women's safety on and off campus must be a collective priority.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Viking 2 lands on Mars

On this day in 1976, after nearly a year's journey, NASA's robotic spacecraft Viking 2 landed on Mars and began relaying information about the planet's atmosphere and soil as well as colour photographs of the rocky surface.

# EDITORIAL

FROM FORCE TO SERVICE

## Rethinking policing in Bangladesh



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RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The police in Bangladesh, a remnant of colonial design, became militarised during the recently deposed regime. Established under the Police Act, 1861, drafted in response to the 1857 uprising, the force was never meant to protect citizens but to control them. Its model followed the Royal Irish Constabulary, a centrally directed, armed, quasi-military institution created to suppress dissent rather than foster trust.

The deposed administration cemented this institution not as a service for the people, but as an instrument for clinging to power. The July uprising in 2024 brutally exposed this legacy when police responded to unarmed protesters with semi-automatic rifles, submachine guns, and battlefield-grade ammunition. As a result, the leading figures of the police had to flee away as a party to the collapsed regime.

An investigative report by The Daily Star revealed how police stockpiled lethal weapons in the years preceding the uprising. Between 2021 and 2023, Tk 240 crore was spent on firearms such as submachine guns and semi-automatic rifles, while Tk 191 crore was allocated to non-lethal equipment. The ratio of lethal to non-lethal procurement was seven to one.

When crowds filled the streets in July last year, these arsenals were unleashed. Semi-automatic rifles were fired into unarmed gatherings. Hundreds of young lives were lost, and a generation was traumatised. Recent incidents, too, show no signs of corrective measures within the police force. It still remains a force of coercion, not a protective civil service.

History offers a different path. In Northern Ireland, following the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, the Patten Commission fundamentally redesigned and decentralised policing to ensure inclusivity and establish accountability mechanisms through a policing board, placing community engagement at the heart of policing.

In Britain, the originator of this archaic system, policing has evolved into a devolved model, with no national police. Instead, 43 territorial police organisations are overseen by locally elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs), with powers

including control over the budget and appointment of the chief constable. This creates direct accountability to the community from police leadership, founded on the principle that police derive legitimacy from public consent rather than state power.

Other societies have also showcased how policing can shift from repression to service. For example, in Japan, children greet police officers with trust rather than fear. In Denmark, Germany

and Canada, community policing fosters partnerships between officers and citizens, emphasising prevention over punishment. Surveys in Finland consistently rank the police among the most trusted public institutions.

Closer to home, in Sri Lanka, which recently experienced political turmoil, the establishment of an independent National Police Commission represented a step towards depoliticisation through oversight of recruitment, promotions and discipline.

India's Supreme Court issued binding directives in the 2006 Prakash Singh case, calling for state-level Police Complaints Authority, fixed tenures for officers, and separation of investigation from law and order duties. However, most Indian states have only

partially complied after nearly two decades, demonstrating how reform falters without political will.

In Africa, Sierra Leone undertook comprehensive post-war reform, creating an Independent Police Complaints Board and community-based "Local Needs Policing" that shifted emphasis from enforcement to partnership.

Following the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing formed by the Obama administration recommended body cameras, community oversight, and demilitarisation. While some cities implemented changes, resistance from police unions and political divisions limited reform momentum.

Acknowledging public anger, the interim government in Bangladesh formed the Police Reform Commission in October 2024. The commission's

to the communities the police are meant to serve. Without independence, reforms risk remaining cosmetic, subject to vested interests, as decades of politicisation have hollowed out the police institution.

Transforming police into a civil service requires more than new training or equipment. It demands, at least, four structural changes: creation of an independent police commission with constitutional authority, free from the home ministry's control; repeal of the colonial Police Act, 1861 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 by rights-based legislation; an institutional cultural shift, treating citizens as partners rather than adversaries; and a pragmatic phase-wise pathway for devolution.

The fear expressed by home ministry officials that "there will be no controlling authority" if an independent commission is created



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

exposes the problem. Authority should not rest in a monolithic ministry but in the people, expressed through democratic, community-led institutions at multiple levels. A centralised entity can be easily manipulated for vested purposes. A devolved civil service, rooted in community, is more resilient to abuse.

The police represent the state's most visible face. For too long in Bangladesh, that face has triggered fear as a force, rather than trust as a civil service. Reform requires transforming the very meaning of policing in a democratic republic from an authoritarian order. Imagine a future where schoolchildren greet police officers with confidence rather than anxiety. That makes the police a civil service.

## Lessons to be learnt from the CU violence



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MD ABBAS

The recent clashes between the students of Chittagong University and locals from the nearby Jobra village left more than 240 students injured, among others, with at least two fighting for their lives in hospital. The scale of violence, the absence of law enforcement at a critical moment, and the lack of foresight from the university authorities have raised several questions. Why was this violence allowed to erupt in the first place? Could it have been prevented if the university administration and law enforcement had acted promptly? And how can we ensure such incidents do not happen again?

The violence was first triggered by the alleged assault of a female student by a security guard at her private mess. Apparently the guard refused to let the student into the mess when she returned at around 11pm on Saturday and found the gate locked. When he finally did, he allegedly shoved her and made insulting remarks about her returning late. Once her fellow students heard about it, emotions ran high. In universities, solidarity among students is strong; an insult to one is often felt as an insult to all.

But the situation spiralled out of control because of how both sides—students and the locals—reacted. The violence was first triggered by the alleged assault of a female student by a security guard at her private mess. Apparently the guard refused to let the student into the mess when she returned at around 11pm on Saturday and found the gate locked. When he finally did, he allegedly shoved her and made insulting remarks about her returning late. Once her fellow students heard about it, emotions ran high. In universities, solidarity among students is strong; an insult to one is often felt as an insult to all.

Instead of dealing with the situation calmly, villagers and students began confronting each other. And what began as a case of alleged harassment against a single student turned into a mass clash involving sharp weapons, sticks, and brickbats.

The deeper reason behind these clashes lies in the fragile relationship between CU students and residents of the nearby villages like Jobra and Fatepur. Over the years, small disputes over rent, transport, politics, and social behaviour have created mistrust between these two parties. This mistrust meant that when the female student alleged assault by the guard at her mess, it did not remain an isolated issue. It tapped into long-standing grievances.

Could this violence have been prevented? The short answer is yes. If the university authorities and law enforcement agencies had acted quickly on Saturday night, instead of coming in several hours later, the clashes could have been avoided. The guard should have been detained promptly and handed over to police, and the allegation should have been investigated. Had the authorities acted promptly, the students would not have felt that justice would not be served; they would have trusted the system

rather than taking matters into their own hands.

If police or university security had been deployed around the mess and campus gates immediately after the initial altercation, larger groups would not have gathered and violence would not have escalated. Senior university officials—vice chancellor, Pro VC, and proctor—should have gone to the scene to dissipate the tension; their late arrival the next day shows a lack of urgency.

The lessons from this incident are clear. University authorities and the government must act decisively to prevent such violence in the future.

The CU authorities have filed a case in connection to this incident, accusing nearly 1,100 people including activists of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League. The government must form an independent, transparent probe committee to look into this matter—not just one controlled by CU itself. If the probe finds that students initiated or escalated the violence, they must face trial. At the same time, locals who attacked the students with machetes, rods, and brickbats must be brought to justice. There are videos and photos using which the attackers can be identified. And if negligence by the CU administration is proven, those responsible must step down.

A 21-member committee has reportedly been formed to improve ties between students and locals. This should not be a symbolic move. The committee must meet regularly, address grievances, and establish trust between students and the local population.

This entire crisis began with the allegation of mistreatment of a female student. The university authorities

as well as local administration—not just at CU but every university—must adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of harassment, and such complaints should be dealt with swiftly through proper mechanisms. Protecting female students on campus must be non-negotiable.

To this end, some training for professionalism and gender sensitivity at our universities is also in order. The CU proctor has drawn severe criticism over his misogynistic remarks about female students on at least two occasions, and has walked away without any consequences. When the proctor, the person responsible for campus security, can get away with making such remarks about the students he is supposed to protect, what does it say about the university authorities' sincerity about students' safety?

There are a number of lessons to be learnt from the latest spate of clashes at CU. And if these are not duly noted, such incidents will recur—in Chattogram, and in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, and elsewhere. Universities are places for enlightenment and wisdom; they must not be allowed to turn into battlegrounds. Students deserve safe campuses. Parents deserve assurance that their children will return home alive. Teachers deserve an environment where they can teach without fear.

The violence at CU should therefore be seen as a wake-up call. Immediate medical support for the injured, counselling for traumatised students, a transparent investigation, and swift justice are non-negotiable first steps. But beyond that, deeper reforms in student-community relations, campus security, and administrative accountability are urgent.

# COP30 must deliver tangible outcomes for the vulnerable



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SELIM RAIHAN

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place from November 10 to November 21 this year in Belém, Brazil. This will be the first time the summit is held in the Amazon region—a symbolic decision representing the dual crises of climate change and socio-economic inequality. While its geographical proximity puts climate-vulnerable communities and ecosystems under a harsh spotlight, the conference risks replaying the disappointments of COP29 unless it addresses deep-rooted inequalities in finance, representation, and implementation.

For developing countries like Bangladesh—where every cyclone, flood, and lost crop is a human catastrophe—COP30 is not a photo opportunity; it is a test. The question is whether the summit will provide the legally binding climate finance, mutually beneficial solutions, and inclusive governance that frontline nations desperately require, or continue the practice of promising much while delivering little.

Belém's selection is no mere geographic novelty. Hosting COP30, there is a deliberate show of solidarity with vulnerable communities, Indigenous peoples, and frontline ecosystems. However, this symbolism is being tested by conflicts of interest—Brazil's own oil exploration around the Amazon threatens global calls for fossil fuel phase-out and forest conservation.

Adding to the tensions is the infrastructure built for the summit. A newly paved four-lane highway through the protected rainforest, the Avenida Liberdade, poses another challenge, as it contributes to deforestation in a critical carbon sink. This

contradiction, emphasising vulnerability while simultaneously undermining it, mirrors broader COP30 dynamics.

At the Bonn climate talks in June 2025, key obstacles were revealed: few countries have submitted updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and those submitted appear insufficient to safeguard the 1.5 degree Celsius target. Logistical constraints are another concern. Belém faces accommodation shortages, further raising cost barriers for lower-income delegations. There have been calls for UN-subsidised lodging, but Brazil has declined.

#### Finance: The continuing fracture

COP29 in Baku pledged only \$300 billion per year by 2035 in climate finance—far short of the \$1 trillion-plus target demanded by developing countries. Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement remains unrealised and is expected to dominate the COP30 agenda. Developing nations are demanding the restoration of a binding public finance commitment rather than reliance on the opaque regime of private funding.

The 'Baku to Belém Roadmap' aims to bridge this gap by mobilising \$1.3 trillion

**COP30 carries enormous symbolic weight. Hosting the summit in the Amazon is a strong statement, but symbolism alone cannot replace the real commitments and actions that vulnerable nations urgently need.**

annually by 2035, yet scepticism abounds regarding its enforceability without guaranteed public finance.

#### Implementation over negotiation

Amid institutional frustration, Brazil is calling for a new narrative: COP30 should focus less on stalled negotiations and more on implementation. This "twin mantra" of concrete climate action over endless

on secured adaptation finance. However, without clear commitments under Article 9.1 and an effective finance roadmap, Bangladesh risks being left increasingly exposed to devastating climate shocks in the coming years. Without equitable burden-sharing and predictable supplies of public finance, the credibility of the global climate regime will be on the line.

Another pressing concern, in the

gaps in access and representation. Limited capacity to utilise improved NDC submission platforms, inadequate representation in side events, and prohibitive participation costs restrict Bangladesh's ability to campaign effectively on the global stage. The logistical realities of COP30 being in Belém make access easier for wealthier delegations, further marginalising those from developing countries.

The Amazon setting also resonates deeply with Bangladesh's own ecological systems—especially the Sundarbans, which are increasingly threatened by rising sea levels and industrial exploitation. If the preservation of the Amazon holds global significance, so too does the protection of Bangladesh's mangrove forests and delta systems. The struggles are interconnected, underscoring that climate justice is a shared responsibility beyond regions.

COP30 carries enormous symbolic weight. Hosting the summit in the Amazon is a strong statement, but symbolism alone cannot replace the real commitments and actions that vulnerable nations urgently need.

For Bangladesh and its peers, COP30 must be more than stagecraft; it must be a summit of substance. That requires enforcing public grants—not loans—ensuring equitable access and representation, and embedding accountability into climate finance mechanisms. If Brazil's COP presidency prioritises implementation over rhetoric, safeguards ecosystems rather than fragmenting them, and centres climate equity instead of marginalising it, COP30 could be a moment of promise. Otherwise, Amazon's symbolic significance will be squandered, and vulnerable countries like Bangladesh will remain stranded and climate-resilient in rhetoric, but not in reality.

COP30 has a duty to move beyond tokenism. It should deliver action, mobilisation, and transparency through accountable, enforceable climate finance, equitable participation, and concrete adaptation measures. Only by securing these outcomes can COP30 be remembered as the summit of substance rather than another missed opportunity.



The 'Baku to Belém Roadmap' aims to mobilise \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, but scepticism remains over its enforceability. This photo was taken during COP29 last year.

diplomacy sounds promising. However, it is easier said than done.

Civil society and experts warn that the summit must deliver tangible outcomes on fossil fuel phase-out, curbing deforestation, adaptation, and finance, not merely words.

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh views COP30 through several intersecting prisms. The country's urgent needs—protection from floods, resilience against cyclones, and climate-smart agriculture—will rely heavily

absence of adequate public finance, is dependence on private capital—either as loans or investments—which could leave Bangladesh burdened with additional debt rather than receiving grants. This has long-term implications for economic stability and may impede genuine adaptation efforts. For a country already grappling with fiscal constraints, the shift from public to privatised financing mechanisms is not enough and may even prove damaging.

These challenges are compounded by

# How to keep cancer drugs affordable after LDC graduation



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SM SAIFUR RAHMAN

As Bangladesh prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026, pride in this achievement comes with deep concern. Graduation will end many privileges that have kept essential medicines affordable, particularly for cancer patients. Without urgent action, thousands may find lifesaving drugs suddenly priced out of reach.

Cancer is already a formidable challenge. A *Prothom Alo* report, citing a landmark study by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) this year, revealed that cancer accounts for 12 percent of total deaths in one area of Kishoreganj. The study, covering over two lakh people, found that among men, lung, throat, and stomach cancers dominate, while breast and cervical cancers lead among women.

The outlook is grim. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) project that by 2050, new cancer cases in Bangladesh could more than double from 167,256 in 2022. This surge threatens to overwhelm a health system already stretched thin.

So far, cancer drugs have remained relatively affordable due to a pharmaceutical patent waiver under the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This lifeline has turned Bangladesh into a hub for affordable generic cancer drugs. For instance, Beacon Pharmaceuticals produces Tagrix, a version of osimertinib used to treat a specific type of lung cancer, selling for Tk 9,900 to Tk 16,500 per month. Compare this to AstraZeneca's branded version, Tagrisso, which costs over Tk 700,000 per month

in Canada and more than 100,000 rupees in India. For Bangladeshi patients, these local alternatives have meant the difference between life and death.

**What happens after graduation?** Once Bangladesh graduates from LDC status, the TRIPS waiver will no longer apply. The consequences could be devastating. Local companies will have to pay royalties and meet stricter compliance

a modest rise in costs can push families into ruin.

Under WTO rules, all member countries must follow TRIPS, which protects patents on medicines, usually for 20 years or more. Article 66.1 allows least developed countries to delay full TRIPS compliance until July 1, 2034, but only while they remain LDCs. Bangladesh's graduation will end this benefit in 2026. The WTO's pharmaceutical waiver, which lets LDCs avoid enforcing patents on medicines until 2033, will also no longer apply.

After graduation, Bangladesh will have to enforce pharmaceutical patents unless it uses compulsory licensing or negotiates voluntary licences with patent holders. Article 31 of TRIPS allows local production of patented drugs without the patent holder's consent, provided royalties are paid. Article 31(b) permits

cancer drug, slashing the price by 97 percent—from 280,000 rupees to 8,800 rupees per month.

China took a different route. After joining the WTO in 2001, it negotiated directly with pharmaceutical companies. Through its National Reimbursement Drug List and procurement programmes, it cut cancer drug prices by 50 to 70 percent nationwide, making lifesaving medicines accessible to millions.

The lesson is clear: robust legal measures and strategic negotiations can keep medicines affordable even

under strict patent rules.

Bangladesh must act now to avoid a healthcare catastrophe after 2026. It needs to invest in local innovation so scientists can develop medicines at lower costs using original models as blueprints. Clear rules for compulsory licensing must be finalised to ensure local production of essential drugs during emergencies. The government should also negotiate voluntary licences with multinational firms to secure fair prices.

Expanding domestic production of active pharmaceutical ingredients

is crucial to reducing dependence on imports. National subsidy programmes for cancer treatment are needed to shield low-income families from financial collapse. Avoiding trade deals that impose stricter intellectual property rules than the WTO requires will also be vital.

Finally, Bangladesh should join forces with other graduating LDCs to lobby at the WTO for an extension of the pharmaceutical waiver, framing it as a public health necessity.

**Once Bangladesh graduates from LDC status, the TRIPS waiver will no longer apply. The consequences could be devastating. Local companies will have to pay royalties and meet stricter compliance requirements, raising the cost of these drugs by 20 to 50 percent. For lung cancer patients, monthly treatment with Tagrix could rise from Tk 10,000 to 35,000, or even Tk 50,000.**

requirements, raising the cost of these drugs by 20 to 50 percent. For lung cancer patients, monthly treatment with Tagrix could rise from Tk 10,000 to 35,000, or even Tk 50,000.

Without special licences, some drugs may vanish from the local market. Patients might then be forced to import patented drugs at global prices. According to the Directorate General of Health Services, around 69 percent of all medical expenses in Bangladesh were paid out-of-pocket in 2020—among the highest rates in Asia during that period. Research shows that half of cancer affected families face catastrophic health spending, often selling property, taking loans, or abandoning treatment. Even

countries with production capacity, like Bangladesh, to make generics for export to poorer nations. However, this requires clear legal frameworks and strong political will.

#### What is the way forward?

The loss of the waiver can be managed with bold policies. India, for example, adopted WTO patent rules in 2005 but added safeguards. Section 3(d) of India's Patents Act (1970) prevents "evergreening"—extending patents through minor modifications. In 2013, India's Supreme Court used this clause to reject Novartis's patent on the leukaemia drug imatinib, ensuring generics continued. In 2012, India issued a licence to a local company to produce sorafenib, a liver

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e-Tender Notice No- 01/2025-2026(LTM)			
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the procurement of the following works packages:			
SL No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Scheme	Tender Proposal last date & Submission Date and Time
01	1145305 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-01	(a)Improvement of road from Abdul Khalek's house to Manik house in Chor Mokimpur Village under Krisnapur union, Upazila Manikganj Sadar upazila, Dist.- Manikganj. (b) Rehabilitation of Joira Liton house Mour to Dulal house road (Ch. 00-281m) by Uniblock under Manikganj Sadar upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	17 September-2025 16.00 & 18 September-2025 14.00
02	1145312 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-02	Improvement of road from Bainya Proasad Koser house to Bainya Purbopara Mosque (Ch. 106-300m) road by R.C.C under Ghior upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	
03	1145313 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-03	Improvement of road from Kodalia Govt Pry. School to Late Afajuddin Chairman by BFS under ulail union, upazila Shivalaya, Dist.- Manikganj.	
04	1145314 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-04	Construciton of Indoor Play ground at officers Club Singair upazila Complex under Singair Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	
05	1145315 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-05	Improvement of road from Dhalla Union Ishaq Member house to Ford Nagar Nodir Par Pacca road (Ch. 00-722m) by BFS under Singair upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	
06	1145316 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-06	Construction of Islamic Ideologic Monument in Saturia upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	
07	1145318 e-GP/ZPM/2025-26/02/REV/W-07	(a)Improvement of road from Main Road to Khaja Rohomot Ali College under Harirampur upazila, Dist.- Manikganj. (b)Improvement of road from Bijoynagar road to Bijoynagar Govt. Pry. School road (Ch. 00-70m) by BFS under Glala union, upazila Harirampur, Dist.- Manikganj.	

This is online Tender where only e-Tender's will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through from any registered bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Md. Shahidur Rahman)  
Assistant Engineer  
Zila Parishad, Manikganj  
Tel No. 02996611005



Afghan boys injured in the earthquake receive treatment at a hospital in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Abul Mansur Ahmad's 127th birth anniv

FROM PAGE 3

Daily Ittehad [in Kolkata]. He had earlier worked at daily newspapers Krishak and Navajug and many other periodicals.

An immensely successful politician, Ahmad was the provincial education minister of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq's United Front government and, in 1957, served as the commerce and industries minister of the central government. His contributions to the development of East Bengal are undeniable.

Among his famous satirical novels, "Aina", "Asmani Parda", "Gulliverer Safarname", and "Food Conference" are notable. Two of his autobiographies are "Atma Katha" and "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar". While his works bring out his own personal struggles, they also depict the historical and social challenges faced by the common people of that period.

His role in the initial days of

Pakistan was extremely important in highlighting issues of economic and cultural rights for the people of East Pakistan. He was one of the earliest proponents of Bangla being the national language of the country.

He had written extensively about the issues of national language since the beginning of the '40s and also contributed actively to the Language Movement as the editor of Ittehad.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was the author of the famous 21-point manifesto for the United Front in the 1954 election,

which saw the demise of the Muslim League from power and from the politics of East Pakistan. The manifesto was a historic document that first

portrayed the political, economic, and cultural aspirations of the suppressed Bangladeshi.

The military regime of Ayub Khan imprisoned Abul Mansur Ahmad several times as a result of his political

activities in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

On the occasion of his birth anniversary, a discussion programme will be held on September 5 at 4:00pm at Dhaka University's Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium.

The programme, titled "Bangladesh's Culture in the New Political Arrangement", will be presided over by Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury.

The discussants will include writer and politician Hasnat Kaiyumi, Professor A Al Mamun of Rajshahi University, writer and politician Firoz Ahmed, and journalist and writer Tahmidal Zami. Prof Monsur Musa, former director general of Bangla Academy, will be present as a special guest.

The event will also feature prize distribution for the National Public Speaking Competition, organised for the second time by the Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Council and Tarkoja.

Besides, 21 workers died in workplace accidents due to unsafe conditions.

In August, at least 159 women and girls were victims of abuse. Sixty-four were raped, of whom 33 were under the age of 18. Of the rape incidents, 18 were gang raped, and three were killed after rape.

A total of 26 cases of sexual harassment were recorded, including 12 child victims. One woman was killed and three were injured over dowry disputes.

Meanwhile, 30 women were killed in domestic violence, 13 were injured, and 20 died by suicide.

The report also recorded 133 cases of child abuse. Of them, 17 children were killed, while 116 were physically or mentally tortured.

But we don't know how it happened." Contacted, Nilphamari Superintendent of Police ASM Tarique Hossain Khan claimed police did not open fire.

Habib's body was handed over to his family members after an autopsy last night. Later, the victim's relatives and fellow workers staged a demonstration near the EPZ area, demanding justice.

Additional law enforcers have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, said Lt Col Sk Md Bodruzzoda, commander at BGB 56 Battalion.

The Evergreen factory Ltd authorities could not be contacted, despite repeated attempts.

At the same time, food insecurity continues to rise, linked to the armed conflict, economic instability, and natural disasters.

In 2025, an estimated 15.2 million people, nearly a third of the country's population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity, a sharp increase from 13.3 million in 2024, the report added.

Turk called for immediate meaningful action to end this wanton violence against the civilians and the immediate provision of humanitarian aid, especially for populations that have suffered violence, hunger, and displacement for years and were denied humanitarian assistance by the military.

He implored the UN member states to act to hold the parties to their obligations to allow help to reach those in need, and to support international efforts to hold those responsible for violations of international law to account.

The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian locations.

The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian's

## Violence against journos doubled

FROM PAGE 12

injuries. Police action against Gono Odhikar Parishad left another 30 injured.

The report further added that attacks by unidentified groups on political workers left eight killed and 38 injured, while over 50 party offices, homes, vehicles, and businesses were vandalised, set on fire, or looted.

HRSS documented 38 incidents of mob violence in August, in which 25 people were killed and 39 were injured.

Victims included two men beaten to death in Sirajganj on August 5 over theft allegations, and a 15-year-old boy killed in Chattogram on August 22.

In addition, on August 15, several people were beaten at Dhammandi 32,

while on August 29, former minister Abdul Latif Siddique and others were harassed during an event at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The report said there were 11 incidents of border killings and pushbacks along the India border. These left four Bangladeshis shot dead, eight injured, and 11 arrested by India's Border Security Force.

The report documented two deaths in law enforcement custody and two more in police chases.

In addition, 10 deaths in prisons were reported nationwide, including three convicts and seven detainees.

The report documented 20 incidents of workers' rights violations, in which two workers were killed and 30 were injured.

Meanwhile, 30 women were killed in domestic violence, 13 were injured, and 20 died by suicide.

The report also recorded 133 cases of child abuse. Of them, 17 children were killed, while 116 were physically or mentally tortured.

were brought to the hospital.

"One worker was brought dead around 9:00am," he told The Daily Star yesterday morning.

"During primary observation, I found a wound in the victim's chest. The exact cause of his death can be confirmed after the post mortem."

The victim's elder brother Rashidul Islam said Habid had worked the night shift at his knitting factory, and after finishing his shift in the morning, he was leaving the EPZ when he was shot dead.

Nilphamari Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge MR Sayeed said, "We've come to know that a worker died.

Workers said the factory authorities terminated workers without paying benefits, while many more were in line to be laid off.

Police, BGB, and army personnel rushed to the spot and tried to disperse them. At one stage, workers clashed with the law enforcers.

Workers alleged that the law enforcers opened fire, at which time Habid was shot dead. They also claimed that at least 20 workers were injured in the violence.

Contacted, Nilphamari General Hospital Duty Doctor Farhan Islam said some seven to eight injured workers

## Situation worsened in Myanmar

FROM PAGE 12

have left civilians trapped in a cycle of killings, forced displacement, and deprivation.

The widespread violations -- including mass killings, air strikes, torture, forced recruitment, and starvation -- evoke grim parallels with the atrocities of 2017.

According to sources, at least 1,633 conflict-related incidents, including 409 air strikes and 274 artillery barrages, were recorded between November 2023 and May 2025.

Verified accounts point to nearly 400 civilian casualties in Rakhine state, though the true figure is believed to be far higher, the report added.

The AA has steadily expanded control over nearly all of Rakhine, seizing the Western Military Command in December 2024 and pushing offensives into neighbouring regions. In response, the military resorted to brutal retaliation, often targeting Rohingya and ethnic Rakhine civilians.

The UN estimated some 150,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since November 2023, joining more than a million already taking refuge there.

"Civilians from both Rohingya and ethnic Rakhine communities continue to suffer the consequences of the hostilities," said UN Human Rights

chief Volker Türk in a statement.

"The military and the Arakan Army have acted with near complete impunity, enabling the recurrence of violations in an endless cycle of suffering for the civilian population."

In 2017, some 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh amid a brutal military crackdown, which UN and other rights organisations labelled as genocide.

In light of the ongoing violations of international law and the prevailing impunity, Türk reiterated his previous calls for a full referral of the Myanmar situation to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council.

The report, which covers the 14 months up to May 31, 2025, finds that nearly half of all civilian deaths throughout the country -- 838 out of 1,811 -- were reportedly the result of direct military aerial attacks.

Additionally, it identifies two alarming new trends: 26 allegations of the use of chemicals, including fertilisers, attached to explosive devices in six states and regions; and the use of armed paramotors, which are low-flying tactical aircraft used to drop munitions almost entirely on civilian locations.

The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian's

homes, villages, schools, and camps for displaced people.

"As the Arakan Army has taken control of northern Rakhine, they have carried out killings, forced recruitment, forced displacement, disappearances, arrests, burnings, extortions, looting, and occupation of properties, causing hundreds of deaths and suffering," it said.

At the same time, food insecurity continues to rise, linked to the armed conflict, economic instability, and natural disasters.

In 2025, an estimated 15.2 million people, nearly a third of the country's population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity, a sharp increase from 13.3 million in 2024, the report added.

Turk called for immediate meaningful action to end this wanton violence against the civilians and the immediate provision of humanitarian aid, especially for populations that have suffered violence, hunger, and displacement for years and were denied humanitarian assistance by the military.

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The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian's

## Want to free DU from muscle power

FROM PAGE 12

one stop automated service, launch scholarship programmes, and introduce on-campus part-time jobs. "Many students struggle to focus on studies or research because of private tutoring," Bin Yamin said.

The VP candidate vowed to abolish "guestroom and gono room" practices and ensure dormitory seats from the first year. He also plans to connect students with relevant sectors to prepare them for careers, and establish medical centres as required for healthcare services.

"There are many organisations at TSC

that are the lifeline of this university. I will strengthen them further. Dhaka University has student bodies of left, right, and centrist ideologies, as well as creative thinkers. I will ensure an environment where everyone can speak freely. No politics of domination will be allowed, and students' interests will always come first," he said.

On women's issues, Bin Yamin stressed security and dormitory facilities. "Half of our students are female, yet we have not ensured a safe campus for them. I will work to ensure their safety with utmost sincerity and their rights in every sphere," he said.

He also mentioned that the DUCSU elections are going to be held because of their movements. "We will make sure DUCSU elections are held every year."

Commenting on the electoral atmosphere, Bin Yamin said powerful quarters were trying to exert influence. "I urge the administration to rise above all and ensure a free, fair, and neutral election."

He also pledged to work in the spirit of the Liberation War and the July uprising. "Whether I win or not, I will continue to work for students' rights. Whatever the result, they will always find me by their side."

decide if I can contest. But no attempt will be allowed to derail the elections. We will resist such moves."

Farhad claimed that the issue of 1971 is being repeatedly raised against him as a distraction.

"Our opponents raise this only as a political ploy. They lack effective student welfare programmes, and they fear the rising popularity of Shibir. So, they keep raising the same old questions. We have already responded to these officially many times, in various forums."

Concluding on a conciliatory note, he said he sees other contestants not as rivals, but as associates. "Whoever wins will take responsibility, and the rest of us will assist."

## Ex-Kurigram DC Sultana lands in jail

FROM PAGE 12

the country, and Ariful was released on bail the following day.

On March 31, 2020, Ariful filed a case against Sultana and several others.

Following a High Court order, Kurigram Sadar Thana Police recorded the case.

After a prolonged investigation, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) submitted a charge sheet five years later, implicating former DC Sultana Parvin

along with three former magistrates -- Nazim Uddin, Rahatul Islam, and Rintu Bikash Chakma.

Speaking to journalists after the court order, Rigan said, "I was tortured and imprisoned only for publishing reports. I waited five years for justice. Today's order proves that no one is above the law. This is not only a relief for me but also for the entire journalist community."

last month, saying that the state has a concrete and prioritised policy to establish a separate judicial secretariat with full logistic support.

However, the affidavit, placed by Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hasan on behalf of the law ministry, opposed the writ petition's claim to scrap the current article 116.

According to the affidavit, the petitioners "failed to show how article 116 is inconsistent with the constitution's basic structure or to provide concrete arguments for declaring it unconstitutional". It added that, on those grounds, the writ petition should be dismissed in the interest of justice.

Earlier, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman and Intervenor Advocate Ahsanul Karim argued that article 116 maintains checks and balances among state organs, noting that the law ministry cannot transfer or post any judge without the Supreme Court's approval.

By contrast, amicus curiae Sharif Bhuiyan, along with petitioners' counsel Mohammad Shishir Manir and intervenor Mahiuddin, contended that article 116 undermines judicial independence and the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

## Big stride towards judicial autonomy

FROM PAGE 1

Mehedi Hasan, however, said the state would appeal the decision before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The bench also criticised the judicial service (disciplinary) rules, which designate the law ministry as the "appropriate authority" over lower court judges. This, the HC said, places judicial officers under executive control in violation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

The judges noted that while separate secretariats exist for the Jatiya Sangsad and the Election Commission, no such body has been created for the judiciary.

They observed that establishing a judicial secretariat would strengthen checks and balances among state organs and safeguard the separation of powers.

The full details of the verdict will be known once its full text is released.

Following the verdict, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir hailed the ruling as "a glorious chapter in the country's judiciary".

"Through this verdict, our lower courts have been freed from political influence. The dignity and prestige of judges and officials have been restored," he told The Daily Star.

Deputy Attorney General Mohammad

reading rooms at Ruqayyah and Shamsunnahar halls, and the Central Library. They would coordinate with the city corporation to improve the drainage system of Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

If elected, the panel pledged to take initiatives to extend the entry deadline for female dormitories and to ensure

## Cops now on the edge

FROM PAGE 3  
and the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime.

After facing widespread public wrath for their controversial role and attacks on unarmed students and people, many police stations bleeding from their injuries, they received no assistance.

An officer in charge of a DMP police station said, "We try to take details whenever we receive a call through 999. But if the incident seems related to security risks or possible mob violence, sometimes officers are reluctant to respond. In those cases, we try to deploy at least two patrol teams."

A sub-inspector from Dhaka district police added, "In Dhaka city, it is often easier to respond. But in remote areas with no people nearby, it becomes very difficult due to security concerns."

One such case was reported in Narsingdi's Shibpur area.

On July 12 this year, Rina Begum and two of her relatives were attacked by a neighbour following an altercation. They immediately called 999, but no police responded. The

three were later admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital with multiple stab injuries to the head and back. The victims claimed that even when they went to the police station bleeding from their injuries, they received no assistance.

There have also been allegations that police demanded money to respond to emergency calls or attempted to handle cases over the phone instead of in person.

On July 18, Sumiya Bakht repeatedly called 999 seeking help to rescue her daughter, Tabassum Islam Syma, who was allegedly confined by a relative in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha. No help arrived for three hours.

A six-member police team eventually responded but allegedly demanded payment and took Tk 2,000. Sumiya claimed she paid the money through a middleman.

However, Assistant Sub-Inspector Mohsin Ali Sarkar, who was part of the six-member team, denied taking any money from Sumiya.

Contacted, Anowar Sattar, inspector (media) of the national emergency helpline, said she paid the money through a middleman.

said, "We try our best to respond to all emergency calls and immediately connect them to local police stations. But sometimes delays happen due to logistical or transport shortages."

"If a single patrol team has to handle several incidents at the same time, they make a priority list of those incidents, which may cause delays," he explained.

Asked about cases where police did not respond at all, he said, "We have a feedback and inquiry team that investigates such complaints if they come to our notice. The number of such cases is very minimal. In those instances, we communicate with the police station and inform the controlling authorities."

According to official data, the national emergency helpline has received around 6.23 crore phone calls since its launch on December 12, 2017, to April 30 this year. Of them, emergency services, including police, fire, and ambulance support, were provided to around 2.72 crore callers. The rest were blank calls -- about 56.27 percent.

## Teachers' network issues 13-point call

FROM PAGE 3  
they had termed "not fully fair", and warned that the same mistakes must not be repeated.

The teachers demanded that polling booths be increased in proportion to voter numbers and voting hours extended until 5:00pm.

They stressed that a clear and realistic plan for booth management and voting time allocation be communicated to students in advance.

In the counting process, they called for transparent measures, including daily meetings with representatives of all contesting panels.

The network also urged transparent enforcement of the electoral code of conduct, with defined penalties for violations.

They demanded non-

discriminatory deployment of teachers, officers, and staffers, as well as steps to curb cyberbullying and online threats.

Citing a recent social media post in which a DU student allegedly threatened gang rape against a female candidate, they pressed for exemplary punishment.

Other recommendations included transport support for non-residential students on voting day, stability in academic schedules, discipline among journalists and social media content creators covering the polls, and stakeholder involvement before last minute decisions.

The teachers' network said they would continue their independent observation of the election, as they did in 2019.

## Govt mulls ICT-3

FROM PAGE 3  
Nazrul was accompanied by Housing, Public Works and Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman, ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam and Prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim were also present.

Asif Nazrul's comments on the possibility of forming ICT-3 came after

Tajul on Saturday said they were being forced to rush the trials of crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, as well as enforced disappearances perpetrated under the Awami League regime.

Referring to the July uprising, the adviser said, "More than 1,000 students and civilians were killed, and thousands more were left with permanent disabilities. The trials for these grave crimes against humanity are not just essential; they are inevitable. We have remained firm in our efforts from the beginning and are satisfied with the current pace of the trial."

During the inspection of the ICT-2 main building, Asif

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Three members of a family were killed as a truck hit their motorcycle in Pabna's Faridpur upazila yesterday.

Sohel Rana, 30; his wife Aulia Khatun, 25; and their daughter Sumaiya Khatun, 7, were from Chatmohar.

The incident took place as they were returning home around 10:00am, said Hasnat Zaman, OC of Faridpur Police Station.

When they reached Chokchokia, a truck hit their bike, leaving Sohel and Sumaiya dead on the spot and Sohel injured.

"We recovered the bodies and took Sohel to a hospital. He succumbed to his injuries around noon," said OC Hasnat.

## 3 of a family killed in Pabna road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

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### Bangladesh Bank

Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat  
Head Office, Dhaka  
Website: [www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

### Invitation for Enlistment

1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable.	
2	Agency	Not applicable.	
3	Procuring entity	Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat (BSCS)	
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
5	Invitation for	Enlistment	
6	Invitation Reference No.	100/2025	
7	Date	02/09/2025	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
8	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
9	Application closing date and time	15/09/2025, Time: 2.00pm.	
10	Name & address of the office(s)	Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat (BSCS), (16th Floor, 2nd Annex Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	
	Application form availability	<a href="http://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/tenders">www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/tenders</a>	
	Receiving application form	The application shall be duly submitted to Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat (BSCS), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>			
11	Eligibility of applicant	This invitation for enlistment is open to all government-approved higher educational/training institutes and recruitment service providers of Bangladesh who have satisfied the following terms and conditions: i) A minimum of 05 (five) years of general experience as a third-party recruitment service provider in the public or private sector, either as a sole service provider or in a joint venture. ii) The experience of successfully conducting a recruitment examination (i.e. an one hour MCQ test and at least a two hour written examination) and the preparation of results for at least 5,000 (five thousand) candidates in a single arrangement under a single or multiple contracts/work orders with a value of at least BDT 18,00,000.00 (Taka eighteen lakh) for government, quasi-government, autonomous institutions, or banks and financial institutions within the last 10 (Ten) years. The Tenderer shall have to furnish experience certificates from procuring entities in line with the experience requirements. iii) Approval (in case of a Private University/firm) from UGC/relevant government authority regarding formation of the university/firm/institution. iv) Having a valid trade license (applicable for a private university/firm), TIN certificate, VAT registration certificate. v) Average annual turnover (in case of a private institution/firm) of at least BDT 20,00,000.00 (Taka twenty lakh) during the last 3 years. vi) No failure in carrying out any assignment during the last 05 (five) years. vii) Further details are in the application form.	

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12	Brief description of works	To conduct a recruitment examination and prepare results for any or all category of posts of State Owned Commercial and Specialized Banks through competitive examination. List of the category of posts are mentioned in the Application Form.
13	Price of application form (Tk)	Not applicable
14	Enlistment (Tk)	Tk 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only in the form of PO/BD (non-refundable).
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
15	Name of official inviting application	Mr. Mizanur Rahman Akon
16	Designation of official inviting application	Director (BSCS)
17	Address of official inviting application	Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat (BSCS), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
18	Contact details of official inviting application	01742506557
19	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any/all Applications.	<a href="mailto:mizanur.akon@bb.org.bd">mizanur.akon@bb.org.bd</a>

### Six more

FROM PAGE 3  
The ACC lodged six separate cases, including the three ones, between January 12 and 14 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

It accused Hasina of colluding with senior Rajuk officials to unlawfully secure six 10-katha plots in Sector 27's diplomatic zone for herself, Joy, Putul, Sheikh Rehana, her children Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby and Azmina Siddiq, despite their ineligibility.

### Rail passengers

FROM PAGE 4  
she had been waiting at the station for five hours to catch the Jamalpur Commuter.

Passengers urged the authorities to resolve the crisis to ease the suffering of thousands who travel daily between Dhaka, Mymensingh, Netrakona and Jamalpur.

Mahmud Hasan Dipu, one of the student leaders, said they suspended the blockade around 5:20pm.

BAU Proctor Prof Abdul Alim said a meeting between the students and university authorities were held last night to settle the matter.

At the meeting, presided over by Prof Md Shahidul Haque, BAU student affairs adviser, a three-member probe body was formed to investigate the attack on the students.

Besides, a decision was taken that the order to vacate the halls will be withdrawn through a syndicate meeting today.

Following the decision, the students postponed their protest programmes for today, said Mahmud Hasan Dipu.

DCP: 48/2025-2385  
Date: 02-09-2025

Signed/-  
Alim-Ur-Razi Syed  
Director (BSCS)-Current Charge  
Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat  
Bangladesh Bank  
Phone: 88-02-9530318

বাংলাদেশ ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়েরানির শিকার হলে কিবো  
কেনো অভিযান থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ মুদ্রার মেসন করুন।

GD-1935

## Zila Parishad, Pirojpur

[www.zp.pirojpur.gov.bd](http://www.zp.pirojpur.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.10.7900.000.10.001.25-104

### e-Tender Notice: 02/2024-25 (LTM)

Tender is invited in the National e-Gp System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below.

SI No	Package No	Tender ID No	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
1.	ZPP/REV/LTM/T-02/2024-25/P-01	1142447	17 Sep 2025, 11:00	17 Sep 2025, 14:00
2.	ZPP/ADP/LTM/T-02/2024-25/P-02	1142575	17 Sep 2025, 11:00	17 Sep 2025, 14:00
3.	ZPP/ADP/LTM/T-02/2024-25/P-03	1142623	17 Sep 2025, 11:00	17

## RIGHTS WATCH

# Access to criminal justice and the Rohingya refugees

**It should be noted that Bangladesh does not have to sign the Refugee Convention to ensure the rights of the Rohingya people. The framework is there in its Constitution and the treaties it has ratified. A rights-based approach to refugee justice in Bangladesh should begin with providing a temporary legal identity to the Rohingyas that allows them to report crimes, lodge complaints, and seek legal support without necessarily intending resettlement.**



SAKHWAT SAJJAT SEJAN and ABU BAKKER SIDDIQ

More than a million Rohingyas are living in the refugee camps in Southern Bangladesh who are not only deprived of citizenship but also access to justice. Labeled as "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals" (FDMNs), they are, in practice, deprived of the state's legal protection, and instead governed by an unregulated parallel justice system that provides little legal recourse to the refugees, particularly women and the marginalised ones. In absence of a formal 'refugee' status granted by Bangladesh, Rohingyas find themselves in the grey zone of the law, where they are neither citizens nor refugees and, therefore, are not as such visible to the formal courts.

The crisis is not only humanitarian but also a constitutional one. The equal protection of law, and protection in respect of trial and

punishment, as articulated in Articles 31 and 35 of the Constitution extends to every person within Bangladesh. Citizens are not the only people endowed with these rights. In Abdul Latif Mirza v. Bangladesh (1979), the Supreme Court affirmed the universal character of these fundamental rights. But in practice, such guarantees are not translated into reality in the camps. Rohingyas cannot go to the police to submit complaints, nor can they appear in the court or request legal assistance. Instead, their complaints, be they related to robbery, domestic abuse, or gun violence, are arbitrated by non-judicial actors and local power brokers (e.g. camp leaders, religious leaders and some NGOs) with no professional training or responsibility.

In a same vein, the crisis has an international law dimension as well. Bangladesh, although not a ratifying state to the 1951 Refugee Convention, is party to several core human rights

treaties—including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees the right to fair trial to all individuals within the state's jurisdiction. According to Article 14 of the ICCPR, there is a right to fair and public hearing before a competent and independent tribunal, while Article 2 mandates the State to guarantee these rights to all people within their jurisdiction irrespective of their status. Similarly, General Comment No. 32 (UN Human Rights Committee) expounds that the State parties must respect the guarantees contained in Article 14 irrespective of citizenship status of the individual. In addition, the European Court of Human Rights in M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece upheld the right and need of the refugees to effective remedy before national authority. While the binding nature of these principles on the non-signatories of the Refugee Convention is debatable, it is well settled that the provisions of ICCPR and other international instruments,

is binding upon Bangladesh.

We also need to remember that statelessness does not deprive a person of his/her legal entitlement. In both domestic and international law justice is territorial and does not depend on nationality. Thus, the Penal Code (1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (1898) extend to the whole of Bangladesh irrespective of one's immigration status.

However, Rohingyas have no access to either of the two in any way. One reason is the continued role of Bangladesh in terming them as FDMNs instead of granting a formal refugee status. It prohibits their identification, recording and inclusion by the court, which creates a system in which rights are not just withheld but even nullified. Even worse, this gap has been exploited by the non-judicial actors, such as the Camp-in-Charges and majhisis, who often resolve disputes through coercive or arbitrary means. As a result, the victims are silenced, and the abusers go unpunished. Women are the most vulnerable group who are susceptible to violence and exploitation in such a system.

Notably, Bangladeshi courts have time and again proved their commitment to ensure justice. In Md. Sadaqat Khan (Fakk) v. Chief Election Commissioner (2008), the High Court Division recognised the Bihari population—stateless at that time—as Bangladeshi citizens and their right to get enrolled in the voter list. Internationally, decisions such as A. v. Australia (UNHRC) emphasised that legal status cannot be used to justify arbitrary detention or denial of due process. Nonetheless, the policy is inert with lack of political will.

It should be noted that Bangladesh

does not have to sign the Refugee Convention to ensure the rights of the Rohingya people. The framework is there in its Constitution and the treaties it has ratified. A rights-based approach to refugee justice in Bangladesh should begin with providing a temporary legal identity to the Rohingyas that allows them to report crimes, lodge complaints, and seek legal support without necessarily intending resettlement. Secondly, legal aid desks should be set up inside the camps, operated by lawyers, paralegals and interpreters, in line with the Legal Aid Services Act, 2000. Thirdly, the State should be permitted to investigate serious criminal cases and have the case adjudicated in formal courts. In-camp courts administered by judicial magistrates may also be considered. Fourthly, legal support and court services in line with CEDAW commitments should be provided, addressing particular vulnerabilities of the women and girls. Finally, an independent panel of judges, lawyers, human rights representatives and civil society members should be there to oversee camp justice, case reviews and report abuse.

To conclude, it is not always the dominant demand of the Rohingyas to be citizens or be integrated into the Bangladeshi population. The Rohingyas want legal protection and safeguards primarily. Indeed, Bangladesh is only sabotaging itself by not allowing the Rohingyas to access and use the courts.

**The writers are respectively Assistant Professor (Law), European University of Bangladesh and Assistant Professor (Law), Comilla University.**

## LAW REVIEW

# An appraisal of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

FAHAD BIN SIDDIQUE

The rate of conviction in cases of violence against women and children in Bangladesh is alarmingly low. A 2019 research by ActionAid reveals that, on average, it takes two years to begin trial proceedings in four out of every five cases. The key reasons include victims' fear, insecurity, threats, unwanted financial settlements, and fear of losing privacy. As a result, many refrain from seeking legal recourse. Similarly, witnesses also face pressure and intimidation to testify before court. For years, human rights organisations have demanded a separate law to ensure their protection. Although such a dedicated law has yet to be passed, the recently approved Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 has incorporated several important provisions that, albeit partially, respond to this longstanding demand.

The Rape Law Reform Coalition (hereinafter 'Coalition'), a platform

Notably, the Ordinance explicitly prohibits the publication of any information (ie crime committed against them or related legal proceeding) related to a woman or child who is a victim of the offenses covered by this law, such as their name, address, photo, or other identifying details in newspapers, any online platforms including social media, or any other medium [Section 14(1)]. Violation of this provision can result in up to two years of imprisonment, or a fine of up to BDT 100,000 or both [Section 14(2)]. While the previous law did restrict the disclosure of personal information, it did not specifically mention photographs. Also, online and social media platforms have now been integrated within the legal scope. These gaps have now been addressed, making the law more contemporary and responsive to the digital age.

A new subsection has also been added allowing the tribunal to receive testimony via digital means if the witness resides in a remote location, subject to prior approval [Section



the tribunal can order protective custody not only for women or children victims, but also for any person associated with them [Section 31]. Furthermore, such protective custody must be outside prison and in government-designated safe places or other suitable arrangements. If necessary, the tribunal may place individuals under the custody of a specific agency.

One of the major obstacles to justice in cases of violence against women and children is the lack of protection for victims and witnesses. Section 32 Kha (1) of the amendment addresses this issue by allowing the tribunal to issue orders for the safety of the complainant, victim, or witness or take necessary steps to ensure such protection. Again, for witnesses from marginalised and remote areas, frequent court appearances are

difficult. The new amendment thus allows for compensation for travel and time lost by any witness [Section 32 Kha (2)]. Such financial assistance is likely to encourage participation and make the process of recording testimony more effective. This provision will be particularly helpful for government witnesses, such as doctors, police officers, and other officials, many of whom may have been transferred to distant locations and need to travel at their own expense and take leave to testify.

However, some proposals from BLAST and the Coalition were not finally included in the Ordinance. For example, the recommendation to legally prohibit disclosing any information that could identify vulnerable witnesses was not accepted. If it had been, the protection and privacy of vulnerable witnesses and

their families could be strengthened. Additionally, the provision for testimony via information technology should not be limited to remote witnesses but also include vulnerable witnesses, particularly children. However, it is crucial to provide adequate training to judicial officers and court staff to facilitate this. Another limitation of the Ordinance is its failure to mention any specific procedure for the protection of adult women or obtaining their consent when placing them in protective custody (but it refers to the Children Act 2013 in ensuring custody of Children).

Quite undoubtedly the approval of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 is a significant milestone. While the provisions that the Ordinance introduced or revised regarding victim and witness protection are vital, implementing them will be equally challenging. We hope that the government, in coordination with the Ministry of Law, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, public prosecutors, bar associations, law enforcement agencies, medical professionals, psychosocial experts, and civil society organisations, will develop and publish a comprehensive roadmap to effectively translate this positive initiative on victim and witness protection into reality and create public awareness in this regard. Only then can the path to justice for victims be made easier.

**The writer is Senior Research Officer, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).**

# SPORT

Bangladesh players were all full of joy and excitement during the final training session in Phu Tho, Vietnam on Tuesday, ahead of today's opening match of the AFC Under-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers against the hosts. With Yemen and Singapore being the other teams in strong Group C, Bangladesh will look to make a positive start in their bid to make the tournament proper for the very first time. The 11 group winners and four best runners-up teams will qualify for the final round where they will be joined by hosts Saudi Arabia in January next year.

PHOTO: BFF



## SHORT CORNER

### Starc retires from T20Is

Australian quick Mitchell Starc announced his immediate retirement from T20Is on Tuesday, saying he wanted to focus on his Test and ODI career, ruling himself out of the T20 World Cup in February-March. Starc steps away with a busy schedule to come, including a home Ashes series starting later this year and a one-day World Cup on the horizon.

### Neymar hits back at Ancelotti over Brazil selection snub

Brazil superstar Neymar has contradicted with coach Carlo Ancelotti over why he was left out of the national team squad. Brazil are gearing up for two crunch World Cup qualifiers: against Chile in Rio and then Bolivia at the dizzying altitude of El Alto. "If I was left out, it was a technical decision, it had nothing to do with my physical condition," Neymar said after playing a full 90 minutes in Santos' 0-0 draw with Fluminense on Monday.

### Bangladesh plugs into game-changing FCH via FIFA Connect

The recent Bangladesh Premier League transfer window brought a quiet but important change. For the first time, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) registered players through FIFA's digital system instead of the old paper-based process. It caused some confusion, but the move signals progress towards professionalism. At the heart of this change is the FIFA Clearing House (FCH), a system designed to ensure that clubs which train young players are rewarded when those players move on.

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

## FROM T20 TO 50-OVER Bulbul's ambiguity continues

NABID YEASIN

From claiming he was here to play a "T20 innings" as Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president to announcing his intent to contest in the upcoming board elections yesterday, Aminul Islam Bulbul has remained consistent in one regard -- the ambiguity that often characterises the leadership positions in any line of work in the country.

Bulbul replaced Faruque Ahmed as the 17th BCB president on May 30 this year, gaining the position through the National Sports Council's (NSC) approval.

"I have come to play a quick T20 innings. So I will play a good T20 innings that you will remember," Bulbul had said during his first interaction with the media as board president.

However, the former national skipper now insists his "quick T20 innings" is still not over.

"The quick T20 innings is not over yet. Let that be over first, and if I need to continue, I shall go from playing T20 to 50-over (ODI) cricket," Bulbul told reporters at the Sylhet District Stadium on Tuesday, following a meeting with the district and divisional coaches.

Despite expressing his eagerness to possibly stretch his "T20 innings" into a longer one-day style knock, Bulbul remains unsure about his next step.

"I have not had any discussions with the NSC yet. I just expressed that I will contest the [BCB] election if possible.

Right now, I don't know from where [which constituency] I will contest or how I will do it.

"My only reason is that the work I had started is progressing well, and I feel that instead of leaving it half done, I should carry it forward to completion. That is one of the main reasons for wanting to continue," he added.

Following his announcement, it appears unlikely that Bulbul will continue as an NSC-nominated director. Instead, he is expected to directly contest the upcoming BCB elections, scheduled for the first week of October. If successful, this would secure him a four-year term as a BCB director and potentially another term as president -- provided he chooses to run for the top post after being elected to the board.

Bringing about drastic change in just three months -- the time Bulbul has had as BCB president -- is not realistic in any line of work. The same is true for Bulbul, but his accomplishments in these months have not offered much inspiration either.

Other than touring different parts of the country -- including Rajshahi, Barishal, Chattogram, Fatullah, Sylhet, and Khulna -- to assess cricket at the divisional level, and directly intervening to address the low and slow pitches at the

Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Bulbul has little to show for the work he insists should not be left "half done."

Since the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, there has been talk of reforming the BCB constitution ahead of the elections, along with renewed calls to tackle one of the game's long-standing challenges in Bangladesh -- decentralisation of cricket. However, the constitution reform committee, formed by Bulbul's predecessor Faruque Ahmed and led by BCB director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, has remained inactive for months. Bulbul himself has not spoken in detail about either issue since assuming office.

With just a month left before the BCB polls, the scenario remains unchanged: those aiming to continue in the organisation responsible for the country's cricket development remain wrapped in the same ambiguity that has lingered for years. It also raises the question: Will the BCB boss eventually pad up for an even longer innings, transitioning from 50-over-style to a Test-like knock?

But so far, the scoreboard tells its own story: plenty of dot balls, not enough boundaries.



## Spotlight on Tigers' bench strength in dead-rubber

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Sylhet

After passing up two opportunities in the series, the Bangladesh team management is finally set to experiment when they face the Netherlands in the dead-rubber third and final T20I at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today.

Although the ongoing T20I series forms part of the Tigers' preparations for the upcoming Asia Cup T20I -- scheduled to begin on 9 September -- head coach Phil Simmons and skipper Litton Das had both downplayed the importance of results in the build-up. However, their cautious approach in the first two games told a different story.

Despite winning the toss in both matches, Bangladesh opted to field first on each occasion, favouring the conditions for chasing due to the dew factor. They comfortably chased down modest targets in both encounters, sealing their third successive T20I series victory. With the series already secured, the team now has the luxury to focus on experimentation -- both



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

in strategy and squad selection -- for the final match.

According to a team official, Shamim Hossain -- who had been recovering from a fever and missed the first two matches -- is now fully fit and available for selection in the final game.

As today's fixture is Bangladesh's last before their opening Group B Asia Cup

match against Hong Kong on 11 September in Abu Dhabi, players such as Nurul Hasan Sohan and Mohammad Saifuddin could also be given opportunities to prove themselves ahead of the team's departure for the UAE on 7 September.

On Tuesday afternoon, four Bangladeshi players -- Jaker Ali, Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain and Rishad Hossain -- took part in an optional practice session at the Sylhet Outer Stadium.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands will be eager to salvage some pride from the final match after suffering heavy defeats in the opening two games.

"I think there's always disappointment, but we're here to learn. We're here to give the guys their experience. But with all the work they put in, it is pretty disappointing -- not just for us, but for them as well," Netherlands batting coach Heino Kuhn told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We've beaten some big teams and are looking to continue that journey -- hopefully starting tomorrow again," he concluded.

## What to WATCH

T SPORTS AND NAGORIK TV  
Bangladesh vs Netherlands  
3rd T20I  
Live from 6:00pm  
TEN SPORTS

Zimbabwe vs Sri Lanka  
1st ODI  
Live from 5:30pm  
STAR SPORTS 1 & 2  
US Open  
Live from 9:00pm

## EUROPEAN TRANSFER WINDOW

### PL flexes muscle

#### AGENCIES

The Premier League's financial firepower showed no signs of slowing as the summer transfer window shut with clubs spending a record-breaking €3.4 billion -- more than the annual gross domestic product of Bhutan.

The drama peaked late on Monday night when Liverpool confirmed the British record €143 million signing of Newcastle striker Alexander Isak, capping off a window in which they also landed Germany star Florian Wirtz for an initial €114 million.

The Premier League accounted for 51% of the gross spend across Europe's top five leagues, leaving rivals scrambling to keep pace. Liverpool led the way with a €482 million outlay, followed by Chelsea (€328m) and Arsenal (€293m), according to Transfermarkt.

"Stadium expansion and enhanced commercial partnerships coupled with on-pitch success has pushed their revenue line up over €684m," said Dan Plumley, football finance expert at Sheffield Hallam University, explaining the capabilities of the Premier League holders.

Outside England, the Bundesliga was hit hardest, losing Wirtz, Ekitike, Woltemade and Sesko to English clubs for a combined €380m. Bayern CEO and club legend Oliver Kahn publicly questioned whether Germany was destined to remain a "talent factory" for others.



PHOTO: REAL BETIS

Brazilian winger Antony reacts on his unveiling in Sevilla after sealing a permanent switch to Real Betis from Manchester United for a fee of €28m yesterday. Signed for €82m, Antony leaves Old Trafford as one of the club's most expensive flops.

## BEYOND THE PREMIER LEAGUE

Real Madrid landed Trent Alexander-Arnold (€11m), Franco Mastantuono (€38m), Álvaro Carreras (€50m) and Dean Huijsen (€57m).

Barcelona shocked Spain by signing goalkeeper Joan García (€25m) from city rivals Espanyol.

European champions PSG added Illia Zabarnyi (€63m) from Bournemouth.

AS Monaco posted Europe's highest net income: +€104m.

Bayern Munich signed Luis Díaz (€86m) from Liverpool but saw Bundesliga talent drained by English clubs.

Borussia Dortmund recruited Joé Bellingham (€33m), following in brother Jude's footsteps.

AC Milan snapped up Christopher Nkunku (€42m) from Chelsea.

Galatasaray pulled off a coup with Victor Osimhen (€75m) from Napoli.

Los Angeles FC lured Son Heung-min (€23m) from Tottenham.

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## ROHINGYA RIGHTS Situation worsened in Myanmar since 2023 UN report says

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The crisis in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State, is worsening, said a new report by the UN Human Rights Office, pointing to increased killings, torture, razing of villages, and mass forced displacement.

It said between the 2021 military coup and 20 August 2025, credible sources have verified the killings of some 7,100 people by the military in Myanmar, about a third of them were women and children.

At least 29,560 people have been arrested on political grounds, and over 22,000 remain in detention without fair trial in military-controlled courts.

The report said the human rights situation of Rohingyas in Rakhine has sharply deteriorated since late 2023, as escalating hostilities between the military and the Arakan Army (AA)

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Battery-run rickshaws race as they go against traffic on Babubazar bridge in the capital. This practice contributes to traffic congestion and frequent accidents on the bridge. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Will formulate 'student politics policy' for DU

Promises Swatantra Shikkharthi Oikyo panel in its manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The independent panel, led by Umama Fatema, has promised that if it wins in Ducsu polls, it will establish student-friendly politics at Dhaka University, free from party allegiance.

It said that for having such a campus, they would formulate a "Student Politics Policy" through consultation with students, student organisations, and the university administration.

"Swatantra Shikkharthi Oikyo" panel yesterday unveiled the manifesto at a press conference in Madhur Canteen ahead of Dhaka University Central Students' Union elections slated for September 9.

The manifesto, with the slogan "Politically Conscious, Academic Campus," also aims to create a campus that is free from partisan politics, accountable, modern, and of international standard – a safe space for all – where harmony and coexistence are ensured.

"Dhaka University now needs major reforms – both political and academic," said Umama Fatema, the vice-president candidate of the panel.

Umama, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, said they gathered students' opinions by setting up "Idea Boards" at various locations across the university to learn what students think about the campus life, and incorporated those ideas into their manifesto.

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## Want to free DU from muscle power

VP candidate Bin Yamin tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Bin Yamin Mollah, vice-president candidate from the "Ducsu for Change" panel backed by Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, has said he is contesting the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election to free the campus from the grip of muscle power.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the parishad president said he realised the dominance of muscle power soon after enrolling at the university. "That is the main reason I am running, to liberate this university from such control and lead it towards academic excellence. I have always been with students in their movements and even served time for protesting for the sake of the country. Students know they will always find me by their side."

Bin Yamin said "no dirty politics, no violence, making Ducsu for academic excellence" will be at the core of his term in Ducsu.

His priority will be solving students' problems and ensuring their rights. "My target is 'one student, one bed, one table'. This will help end the accommodation crisis and guarantee a proper environment for them."

He also pledged to address food and transport issues, modernise the registrar building into a



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## Will prioritise student welfare

GS candidate SM Farhad tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

SM Farhad, general secretary candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Oikkoboddho Shikkharthi Jote in the upcoming Ducsu election, wants to ensure a sound atmosphere on campus for academic activities and prioritise the welfare of students.

If elected, he said, his panel would focus on six key student issues: campus safety, housing, security for female students, improved transportation, healthcare and food standards, and career support.

Talking to The Daily Star, Farhad also outlined some clear red lines. "We will oppose authoritarian politics, torture, guest-room and gono-room practices, violence, and extortion. Neither Islamophobia nor dress-related pressure will be tolerated. No one should feel pressured to wear hijab, and no one should be afraid to wear other kinds of clothing."

Farhad, president of DU Chhatra Shibir, voiced optimism about a favourable outcome, saying his panel reflects the diversity and aspirations of students.

Explaining the composition of his panel, he said candidates were chosen strictly on merit. "For instance, our sports secretary nominee is a black-belt trainer, while the law and human rights secretary



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## Violence against journos doubled in August

HRSS says 72 media professionals were affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against journalists doubled in August 2025, according to the latest monthly report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

It recorded 39 incidents that affected at least 72 journalists. Among them, one was murdered, 33 were injured, five assaulted, 11 threatened, and one arrested. Two journalists were charged in a case, while 19 others were dismissed from their jobs.

The month saw two particularly shocking cases: on August 7, Md Asaduzzaman Tuhin, 38, of Protidin Kagoj, was hacked to death in Gazipur, and on August 22, the body of senior journalist Bibhu Ranjan Sarker, assistant editor of Ajker Patrika, was recovered from the Meghna river.

HRSS also documented 67 incidents of political violence that left four people killed and at least 514 injured last month. Most clashes originated from power struggles, internal feuds, rallies, extortion, and office takeovers.

According to HRSS, BNP-related violence accounted for 34 incidents of internal conflict, leaving 373 injured and two dead. In addition, nine clashes between BNP and Awami League supporters left two dead and 38 injured.

Six clashes between BNP and Jamaat resulted in 36

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## SC may rule on Ducsu polls date today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The fate of Dhaka University Central Students' Union election slated for September 9 is likely to be determined today by the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

The full bench will hear a petition filed by the Dhaka University administration seeking a stay on a High Court directive that postponed the election until October 30.

Justice Farah Mahbub, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, stayed the HC directive within one and a half hours after it was passed on Monday. Yesterday, the chamber judge extended the stay.

The High Court issued the directive following a writ petition filed by a female candidate for Ducsu's Liberation War and democratic movements affairs secretary from the left alliance Aparajeyo 71, Odommyo 24 panel.

She appealed to stay the candidature of SM Farhad, the president of Islami Chhatra Shibir's DU unit and Ducsu general secretary candidate from Oikyabaddho Shikkharthi Jote, alleging that he was involved with the now banned Chhatra League.

The female candidate, however, faced rape threat by a student named Ali Husen on social media, drawing widespread condemnation.

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday formed two separate fact-finding bodies to investigate the issue.

On the campus, leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession yesterday

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## Strange 2,300-yr-old human burial unearthed in Peru

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of over a dozen humans in Peru dated to around 400BC, buried face down with their hands tied behind their backs, revealing insights about strange ancient burial rituals in the region.



The burial discovered in Peru's northern coastal region of Pumapampa points to what may have been an ancient ritual sacrifice or burial, say researchers, including those from the National University of San Marcos. Buried individuals show signs of violence, including

blows to multiple parts of the body, fractures, and unusual positions, hinting they were likely sacrificed after an armed conflict.

"The way in which they were placed in the tomb is strange," Henry Tantaleán from the National University of San Marcos told Live Science.

They were laid to rest "with their faces to the ground, an unusual burial pattern throughout Andean prehistory," said Dr Tantaleán, who heads the Research Group in Archaeology of Andean Science and Technologies of San Marcos.



Street children scavenging for used syringes, saline bags, and plastic items in a landfill along the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway. This exposes them to serious health risks. Waste from households in Rajshahi city and various hospitals is dumped here. The photo was taken near the cattle market in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## TORTURING JOURNALIST Ex-Kurigram DC Sultana lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Kurigram court yesterday sent former deputy commissioner of Kurigram, Sultana Parvin, to jail after rejecting her bail petition in a case filed over torturing a journalist.

Sultana, who is currently serving as an officer on special duty (OSD), entered a crowded courtroom around 11:15am, where a huge number of people had gathered to catch a glimpse of their former DC.

After hearing arguments from both sides and reviewing case documents, Kurigram District and Sessions Court Judge Mosammam Esmael Ara Begum rejected her bail plea and ordered her to be sent to jail.

Soon after, police escorted her to a prison van.

On the night of March 13, 2020, journalist Ariful Islam Rigan, Kurigram correspondent of Bangla Tribune, was picked up from his home by several magistrates and law enforcement officials. He was blindfolded and threatened with

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