



## Largest Islamic bank in the making

Govt moves to merge 5 troubled shariah banks under Tk 35,200cr rescue plan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD MEHEDI HASAN

The interim government has initiated formal procedures to merge five troubled Islamic lenders into the country's largest state-owned shariah bank, a significant step towards stabilising the financial sector.

The plan, drawn up under the newly enacted Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, will require an estimated Tk 35,200 crore in capital for the as-yet-unnamed institution. Of this, Tk 20,200 crore will come from the government, while Tk 15,000 crore will be mobilised from institutional funds and the conversion of institutional deposits.

The five banks slated for consolidation are First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank.

The merger represents the most ambitious restructuring of Bangladesh's banking sector to

- The five banks are First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank
- Tk **20,200cr** to come from govt, Tk **15,000cr** from other sources
- Majority of work to be completed in **1.5 months**

date. Officials say the move is intended to avert a costly liquidation process and restore confidence in shariah-compliant finance.

At the same time, it highlights the depth of the crisis engulfing privately run Islamic lenders, many of which were linked to politically connected

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Badruddin Umar (1931-2025)

## Torch of progressive thought, dissent goes out

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Badruddin Umar, the eminent public intellectual, historian, and political activist, passed away in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 94. He breathed his last

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## IMPLEMENTING JULY CHARTER Special Constitutional Order mulled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission is considering a Special Constitutional Order for implementing constitution-related amendments outlined in the July Charter.

At a meeting held yesterday, the commission urged a legal expert to prepare detailed recommendations regarding the scope, content, and legal basis of the proposed Special Constitutional Order and to submit them by today.

The commission will send the final July Charter to the political parties and the implementation plans to the government after reviewing the proposal, Ali Riaz, the vice-president of the National Consensus Commission, told The Daily Star.

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Awardees, director of Ispahani Group, and hosts pose for a photo at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2024 held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## A night of stars and stories

Outstanding artistes in digital sphere recognised at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka's digital entertainment scene lit up in full force as the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards returned for its fourth edition yesterday, transforming the Bangladesh China Friendship International Conference Center in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar into a spectacle of glamour, stars and stories.

The awards recognised the finest OTT and digital content created between January and December 2024, honouring actors, directors, musicians, technical teams and creators whose work defined the year's cultural landscape.



Best actress (female)



Best actor (male)

The evening began with a dynamic performance by Parsa Evana and Mofassal Alif's "Alifia Dance Squad" at 6:40pm,

setting the tone for a night of recognition and creative pride.

In his welcome address, Ispahani Group Director Mirza Ahmed Ispahani called the event "the Oscar of Bangladesh," thanking The Daily Star and partners Mediacom, Gray, Channel-i, and TikTok.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, followed: "I wait for this day every year. Through it, I get to see Bangladesh's creative artists, writers, actors, and actresses -- and I feel a deep sense of satisfaction. The greatest satisfaction comes from being part of an initiative through which we congratulate,

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## HATHAZARI CLASH Authorities to curb noise, nuisance centring events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The local administration at Hathazari upazila in Chattogram has decided to take necessary measures for curbing noise pollution and public nuisance surrounding religious events.

As part of the efforts, volunteer teams comprising all quarters will be formed, said UNO Abdullah Al Mumin.

The decision was taken at a meeting attended by teachers of Al-Jamiatul Ahlia Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Hathazari Madrasa, leaders of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, government officials and local politicians at the UNO office yesterday afternoon.

“We asked both the groups to follow the rules, and they agreed,” said Additional District Magistrate Syed Mahbulul Haque, who was present at the meeting.

The meeting decided to bear treatment cost of those injured during Saturday’s clash and provide compensation to affected traders and bus operators.

The meeting was convened a day after the clash between the students of the Hathazari madrasa and the supporters of Jashne Julus in the upazila left at least 120 people injured.

Chattogram Range DIG Ahsan Habib Palash said the clash erupted following a Facebook post about the madrasa. “The man who posted an abusive photo about the Darul Ulum madrasa was arrested earlier by Fatikchhari police, before the clash broke out,” he said.

The youth who uploaded the abusive post about the madrasa was sent to court under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as no one lodged any case against him, Tarek added.

To prevent further unrest, the district administration imposed Section 144, banning all gatherings from 11:00pm on Saturday night to 3:00pm yesterday.

Yesterday, Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh accused a group of “Sunni activists”, allegedly backed by the Awami League, of attacking the Hathazari Madrasa.

## Russia hits Ukraine with biggest air attack of war

Four killed, 20 injured; main govt building in Kyiv  
on fire; military-industrial complex hit

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched its largest air attack of the war on Ukraine overnight, setting the main building of the Ukrainian government on fire in central Kyiv and killing at least four people in the capital including

Sumy and Chernihiv regions.

Russia’s defence ministry said it had carried out strikes on Ukraine’s military-industrial complex and transport infrastructure, according to the Tass news agency.

Timur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv’s military administration, said an



an infant, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the drone and missile barrage also caused damage across the north, south and east of the country,

including the cities of Zaporizhzhia, Kryvyi Rih and Odesa, as well as in the

infant’s body was pulled from the rubble in the Darnytskyi district, where a four-storey apartment building was damaged.

A young woman was also killed in the attack on the district, which lies to the east of the Dnipro River, he said.

The interior ministry said more than 20 people were wounded in the attacks on the capital. Air alerts lasted for more than 11 hours in Kyiv and the surrounding region.

“Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have already begun long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war,” Zelensky said in a post on X, issuing a fresh appeal to allies to strengthen Ukrainian air defences.

Just after sunrise, thick smoke could be seen rising into the clear blue sky from the burning top floor of the main government building, located in the historic Pecherskyi district of Kyiv, Reuters witnesses said.

Elsewhere in Kyiv, residential apartments were hit and damaged, with dozens of residents wrapped in blankets gathering on the streets outside to survey the damage to their homes as rescue workers fought to extinguish the flames.

The attack underlined growing pessimism in Ukraine and among allies that the war can be ended any time soon, with Russian President Vladimir Putin resisting calls for a ceasefire and emboldened by strengthening relations with China.

## Kader Siddique’s house attacked, cars vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Misceants attacked the residence of Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddique in Tangail early yesterday.

They vandalised two cars in the parking area and broke windows of the Sonar Bangla Community Centre, located on the first floor of the building.

Tangail Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvir Ahmed said that around 12:35am, 10–12 miscreants pelted bricks and stones, shattering windows on the first floor of Siddique’s residence. They later climbed into the building using ladders and vandalised two cars in the parking lot.

Siddique, president of the Krishak Sramik Janata League, was on the third floor at the time, the OC said.

The caretaker of the house, Subroto, said the vandals – wearing helmets and covering their faces with gamchhas (towels) – attempted to set the cars on fire using petrol. “When we came out with sticks, they escaped through the gate. All of them were carrying locally made weapons,” he added.

At a press conference at his residence yesterday afternoon, Siddique said he did not expect such an incident after the anti-discrimination movement that led to the fall of the authoritarian Awami League government last year.

“We did not expect this autocratic attitude. If the Awami League is a dictator, then what should we call today’s activities?” he questioned.

He said the attack was a conspiracy to thwart and destroy the anti-discrimination movement.



## Special Constitutional Order mulled

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At yesterday’s meeting, the commission selected the reform proposals that can be executed through ordinances or executive orders and without any constitutional amendment.

Of the 84 reform proposals that have been agreed upon through consensus, some will require changes to the existing laws and regulations and some can be implemented through government orders.

However, a significant portion of the proposals are constitution-related and the core complexity lies in how to implement those.

Earlier, the commission had explored the possibility of holding a referendum and had suggested seeking an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court under article 106 to resolve key constitutional questions related to the July Charter.

However, the proposals were later set aside due to concerns over the timing of a referendum and the prevailing political climate, said commission members.

Meanwhile, the consensus commission held detailed discussions with experts on the finalisation and implementation strategies of the July Charter.

Retired Appellate Division Justice MA Matin, Dhaka University law faculty dean Mohammad Ikramul Haque, Senior Advocate of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Sharif Bhuiyan and Barrister Imran Siddique participated as experts.

During the meeting, the experts reviewed the final draft of the charter and provided opinions on possible implementation methods focusing on constitutional, legal and political dimensions.

The implementation plan would not carry a specific timeframe but the commission would seek a pledge from political parties to implement the charter, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the meeting.

However, the commission aims to have the July Charter implemented during the tenure of the interim government.

The commission has revised the contentious commitments that several parties had objected to.

One of the pledges was that the July Charter would take precedence over the constitution and existing laws. Jamaat and the NCP agreed to this, but the BNP and some other parties opposed.

The July Charter would not take precedence over the constitution and existing laws, Riaz said, adding that the commission will recommend that the entire July Charter be included in the constitution.

After the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, the interim government formed six commissions to recommend basic reforms.

Later, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus constituted the National Consensus Commission comprising the heads of the reform commissions with the task of preparing the July Charter through dialogue and consensus among political parties and serving as a blueprint for future governance.

## A night of stars and stories

FROM PAGE 1

reward, and try to inspire new talent and the emerging creative world of Bangladesh.”

He called OTT “a new space for creativity,” telling the artists, “You are the pioneers. You will carry our culture and heritage, and help the world understand Bangladesh.”

Over the course of the evening, 27 on-screen and off-screen talents were recognised across four categories: Individual Content, Music, Critics’ Choice, and Popular Choice.

The organisers also awarded the film “Utshob” a “Special Honour for Cinematic Excellence”. Director Tanim Noor and lead actor Zahid Hasan received the award from Mahfuz Anam and Zahida Ispahani. Zahid said, “If everyone holds hands, no one falls behind. We should all stay united.”

Performances by Mondera Chakroborty and Sabila Nur added colour to the night.

In Popular Choice, Mosharraf Karim was named Best Actor (Male) for “Adhunik Bangla Hotel”, and Pori Moni Best Actor (Female) for “Rongila Kitab”.

Receiving award, Porimoni said, “I may win more awards in the future, but this one – this award for Rongila Kitab – feels deeply personal. The production was intimately tied to my experience of motherhood. I’m truly excited and grateful, because this project was an emotional journey for all of us.”

“Osomoy” won Best Supporting Actor awards for Saraf Ahmed Zibon and Runa Khan, while Kajal Arefin Ome earned Best Director (Film). Vicky Zahed won Best Director (Series) for “Chokro”.

Shihab Shaheen’s “Golam Mamun” took Best Drama/Series, while his

“Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya” was honoured as Best Film in the Popular category.

The Critics’ Choice awards went to F’s Nayeem (Kaalpurush) and Zinnat Ara (Sinpaat) as Best Actors. Mohammad Touqir Islam won Best Director for “Sinpaat”, which also took Best Film/Drama/Series.



## Largest Islamic bank in the making

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conglomerates accused of siphoning funds. Forensic audits commissioned by the government have revealed severe mismanagement, with non-performing loan ratios exceeding 90 percent at three of the banks. Regulators now argue that consolidation is the only viable path forward after years of weak oversight.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting on bank resolution chaired by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. Others in attendance included Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser; Finance Secretary Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder; Financial Institutions Division Secretary Nazma Mobarek; and NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur participated virtually, while Deputy Governor Md Kabir Ahmed and other central bank officials were also present.

A six-member working committee, led by Kabir Ahmed, was formed to plan and oversee the process. “The formal procedure has begun, and the majority of the work will be completed within one and a half months,” he told The Daily Star after the meeting.

He added that liquidation would be “more costly and painful for the economy and the public”, stressing that the jobs of bank employees would be safeguarded.

Ahmed said the government’s decision to prioritise banking stability was supported by the country’s relatively stable macroeconomic environment, including a steady exchange rate and sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

Officials indicated that donor funds were not being sought at present, though external support might be considered in the future. The government is also expected to apply to Bangladesh Bank for a licence for the new entity.

The merger follows consultations held by central bank officials with the boards and management of the five lenders between September 2 and 4, in which Governor Mansur also participated virtually. Three banks – First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank and Global Islami Bank – agreed to the regulator’s plan, while Exim Bank and Social Islami Bank opposed it.

Four of the lenders – First Security Islami, Union, Global Islami and Social Islami – were previously controlled by

Other technical awards included Best Cinematographer to Ishtiaeque Hossain (Forget Me Not), Best Makeup to Rubama Fairuz (Kaalpurush), Best Editing to Syed Mehboob Hussain and Saleh Sobhan Auneem (Kaalpurush), Best Screenplay to Kazi Asad (Adhunik Bangla Hotel), Best Costume Designer to Zannat Mouri (Tikit), and Best Art Director to Shihab Nurun Nabi (Kaalpurush).

In Music, “Megh Balika” from “Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya” dominated: Sadat Hossain won Best Lyricist, Mahtim Shakib and Sanzida Mahmood Nandita Best Singer, and Emon Chowdhury Best Music Composer. Angel Noor won Best Music (Digital Platforms) for “Jodi Abar”. Jahid Nirob earned Best Background Score (Adhunik Bangla Hotel), and Adeep Singh Manki Best Sound Design (Sinpaat).

In Individual Content, Nafees Salim and Shuvashish Bhowmick were named Best Content Creators. Nafees said, “I left America and came to my homeland, thinking I could make an impact. Bangladesh has enormous potential. Not alone – together, so much is possible.” “Nadir On The Go” won Best Content Creator (Food & Travel), and Seenjoy Saha Best Content Creator (Infotainment/ Podcast).

The organisers also honoured actor Shakib Khan for his contribution to the film industry for over 25 years. In a video message, Shakib said, “Thank you to The Daily Star for honouring me in this way. This recognition belongs to everyone – it belongs to the entire film industry. Your love is my greatest strength.” Naziba Basher and Irfan Sajjad hosted the first half of the programme, with Rafsan Sabab and Afsan Ara Bindu closing the night.

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the Chattogram-based S Alam Group, which allegedly borrowed heavily from them and funnelled funds through shell companies. Exim Bank, meanwhile, was long dominated by Nazrul Islam Mazumder, founder of Nassa Group and former chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks.

Following the change of government in August 2024, Bangladesh Bank dissolved the lenders’ previous boards and appointed new ones. Forensic audits by global accounting firms, commissioned by the interim government, exposed their precarious financial health. Non-performing loan ratios stood at 96.37 percent at First Security Islami, 97.8 percent at Union, 95 percent at Global Islami, 62.3 percent at Social Islami and 48.2 percent at Exim Bank.

Bangladesh now has the highest bad loan ratio in Asia, with defaults reaching 20.2 percent of total loans in 2024, according to an Asian Development Bank report published last month. The \$20.27 billion stock of distressed assets represented a 28 percent year-on-year increase, underscoring the country’s position as having the region’s “most fragile banking system”.

## A voice of resistance

FROM PAGE 1

at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital, Shyamoli, around 10:05am. He was suffering from old-age complications.

For more than six decades, Umar stood as one of the most uncompromising voices in Bangladesh. Through books, articles, and activism, he sought to expose injustice, resist authoritarianism, and champion the emancipation of workers, peasants, and ordinary citizens. His life embodied the rare union of thought and action. To admirers, he was not simply a scholar or politician but a conscience of the nation, a symbol of integrity, and a guide in turbulent times.

Born on December 20, 1931, in Burdwan, then part of the Bengal Presidency, Umar grew up in an environment steeped in politics. His father, Abul Hashim, was a prominent anti-colonial politician, an organiser of the Muslim League’s progressive wing, and a campaigner for a united Bengal. In 1950, amid growing communal tensions, the family moved to Dhaka. Umar soon threw himself into politics. He joined the 1952 Language Movement and later became one of its most respected researchers. After completing his studies in philosophy at Dhaka University, he travelled to Britain, where he earned the renowned Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) degree at the University of Oxford in 1961.

Upon his return, he briefly taught at Dhaka University before moving to Rajshahi University in 1963. There, he established the Department of Political Science and later the Department of Sociology. Yet academic life could not contain his growing discontent with the authoritarian practices of the Pakistani state. In 1968, in protest against Governor Monem Khan’s oppressive rule, he resigned from Rajshahi University to dedicate himself entirely to political activism and writing.

Umar’s pen became his sharpest weapon. His early works in the 1960s, “Sampradayikata” (Communalism), “Sanskritir Sankat” (The Crisis of Culture), and “Sanskritik Sampradayikata” (Cultural Communalism), exposed the role of communalism in dividing society and obstructing progress. These writings provoked the ire of military and civil authorities in East Pakistan but became essential texts for progressive activists.

His magnum opus, the three-volume “Purba Banglar Bhasha Andolon o Tatkaleen Rajneeti” (The Language Movement in East Bengal and Contemporary Politics), was the first major research-based history of the movement.

He later authored “The Emergence of Bangladesh” in two volumes, offering an incisive class-based analysis of the Pakistan period leading up to the birth of Bangladesh, a work that remains a central reference for scholars.

Over his lifetime, he published more than a hundred books and countless essays in both Bangla and English.

His political activism was as relentless as his intellectual work. Umar served as president of the Bangladesh Krishak Federation

and was central coordinator of the Gonotantrik Biplobi Jote (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance). In 2003, he founded the Jatiya Mukti Council (National Liberation Council), which he led until his death. He also presided over the Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Fascist Committee and remained an organiser of peasant and workers’ movements across the decades. For over 40 years, he edited the left-leaning magazine “Sanskriti”, which became a platform for progressive writers and political debates, even under censorship and state repression.

Throughout his life, Umar rejected the lure of prizes and honours, believing they compromised intellectual independence. In 1973, he famously declined a literary award from the Bangla Academy.

Half a century later, in 2025, he remained true to this conviction when he declined the Swadhinata Padak, the country’s highest civilian award.

This remarkable consistency was emblematic of a man who never traded principles for recognition. His writings on exploitation, imperialism, and inequality were unsparring, his critiques of ruling classes across regimes cutting and unrelenting. He believed democracy without social justice was hollow, and he remained a tireless advocate of secularism, equality, and anti-communal politics.

Even in his final years, Umar’s voice did not waver. In late 2024, he warned against distortions of Liberation War history and criticised efforts to turn history into a tool of political expediency.

Earlier this year, he cautioned that right-wing forces were gaining ground in the wake of the student-led mass uprising, and he urged young activists to remain vigilant in protecting secular and progressive values.

Badruddin Umar’s life was marked by sacrifice, courage, and steadfast refusal to compromise. He gave up the comfort of an academic career, declined state recognition, and endured hostility from those in power. Yet he never stopped writing, organising, or speaking out.

Bangladesh today bids farewell to an indomitable public intellectual, a revolutionary thinker, and a comrade of the oppressed. Badruddin Umar has passed into history at the age of 94, leaving behind a towering legacy of resistance, intellect, and moral courage that will inspire generations to come.

**CONDOLENCES POUR IN**  
Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Badruddin Umar.

In a message, Yunus said, “Badruddin Umar was a shining beacon of our struggle for free thought and progress.”

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman called Umar a “pioneer of progressive left-wing politics”.

Besides, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin Murshid, and Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam also offered their condolences.



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**DUCSU AGS CANDIDATES**

# Rights, safety, reforms their top agendas

Star talks with eight aspirants

**SHARIF M SHAFIQUE, SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK and TANGILA TASNIM**

A total of 25 candidates are contesting for the post of assistant general secretary (AGS) in this year's Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election, scheduled for September 9.

The AGS candidates, vying for one of the most crucial posts in Ducsu, have pledged to safeguard students' rights, ensure campus security, eliminate inequality, and build a democratic, student-friendly university.

The Daily Star spoke to eight of them, whose perspectives and pledges reflect the aspirations and challenges of the student community.

**ADITE PROMISES INCLUSIVE CAMPUS**

Adite Islam, a Philosophy student contesting from the “Aparajeyo 71 Odoromo 24” panel, placed women's security at the top of her agenda.

“Ensuring women's safety will be my foremost duty. If the administration fails, I will take both legal and administrative

**ADITE ISLAM****ARMANUL HAQUE****ASHREFA KHATUN****TANVIR AL HADI MAYED****TAHMID AL MUDDASSIR****MOHIUDDIN KHAN****JABIR AHMED JUBEL****MOHIUDDIN RONI**

measures to guarantee security,” she said.

Her manifesto includes building new dormitories for female students, increasing research budgets, and ensuring a more democratic and active Ducsu.

She also pledged to preserve the university's autonomy and work to amend the undemocratic provisions of the 1973 ordinance and Ducsu charter.

“Some organisations are attempting to normalise war criminals and those accused of crimes against humanity, thereby distorting history. I will move to revive the Paribesh Parishad to declare them outcasts,” she said.

**ARMANUL VOWS TO FIGHT FOR RIGHTS**

Armanul Haque, an International Relations student, is running from the Independent Student Unity panel. He had earlier contested for a member post in the 2019 Ducsu election.

“This election is the continuation of my previous struggles and movements,” he said.

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**RUCSU POLLS JCD, Shibir announce panels**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday announced their panels of candidates for the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu) elections, scheduled for September 25.

JCD central organising secretary Aman Ullah Aman declared its full panel around 12:30pm on the university's Shaheed Minar premises.

The top three nominations include Sheikh Nur Uddin Abir (2017-18 session) for vice-president (VP), Nafiul Jibon (2017-18 session) for general secretary (GS), and Jahin Biswas Esha (2020-21 session) for assistant general secretary (AGS).

The other secretary posts will be contested, among others, by Nargis Khatun (sports), Mahfuzur Rahman Shawon (assistant sports), Abdullah Al Kafi

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## Candidates reflect on DU's legacy, call for democratic reforms

**Univ Teachers' Network hosts dialogue**

STAR REPORT

Speakers at an event organised by the University Teachers' Network yesterday highlighted the university's historic role in democratic struggles and the liberation movement.

The programme “Democratic Struggles and Liberation Movement” featured Ducsu election candidates sharing their visions. It was held before Dhaka University's Arts building.

Among the speakers were former Ducsu VP Mahmudur Rahman Manna, GS Dr Moshtaq Hossain, and Ducsu candidates Abdul Islam Khan, Meghmalla Bosu, Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Imi, Armanul Haque, and Jannati Bulbul.

The candidates discussed the university's pivotal role in the 1971 Liberation War, the democratic movements of the 1990s, and the 2024 July uprising, linking these struggles to their plans if elected.

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## Maintain neutrality, avoid political bias in polls duties

Home adviser urges police officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday advised police officers to maintain neutrality and refrain from aligning with political parties during the upcoming elections.

The adviser also emphasised the need for police officers to shake off past election experiences and focus on their role in ensuring a peaceful and secure election.

“Do not act like political workers or provide undue advantage to any group,” he said.

Jahangir further called for police to face any challenges with a calm demeanour, using legal means to address all issues.

The adviser's remarks came during the inauguration of the election training programme to increase capacity and expertise at the Rajarbagh

Police Auditorium, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of nearly 1,50,000 police personnel ahead of the election.

Highlighting the significance of the training, Jahangir expressed his confidence that the



programme would help officers perform their duties with professionalism, discipline, and neutrality.

Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs,

underscored the importance of professionalism in the police force.

“The real challenge lies in transforming the mindset of officers to align with impartiality and professionalism,” he said.

Nasimul Ghani, senior secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, emphasised that the ultimate goal of the training is to ensure a peaceful, safe election while restoring the lost honour of the police force.

He urged trainers to instil this clear purpose in every officer, ensuring that the message of neutrality and professionalism reaches even the lowest ranks.

IGP Baharul Alam, who presided over the programme, said the police's role in the upcoming elections will be closely monitored both

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## Rise above all divisions: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has called for all to rise above divisions of religion, gender, and race to build a peaceful and inclusive Bangladesh.

He made the comment to the media following the shocking incident in Rajbari's Goalanda, where the body of Nurul Haque, widely known as Nural Pagla, was exhumed and set on fire on September 5.

“Your religion, your gender, your race, your language, or the colour of your skin – none of these should matter. We must rise above all divisions,” he said when journalists asked about the Rajbari event.

Earlier, he attended a reception for a Vatican delegation at Dhaka's Archbishop's House on Saturday. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) organised the event to welcome Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

The delegation arrived in Dhaka on a weeklong visit on Saturday morning to promote interfaith dialogue and social harmony.

Asked about differences on some of the pertinent social and political issues in Bangladesh as the country transitions to democracy after a

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**ICT ORDINANCE**

## There's room for confusion

Says EC Anwarul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarker yesterday expressed confusion over the draft amendment to the International Crimes Tribunal Ordinance 2025, recently approved by the Advisory Council.

The proposed amendment includes a provision that would bar any individual formally charged by the International Crimes Tribunal from holding public office or being elected in local or national elections.

“I came to know about the matter from the media. The question you're asking does contain some confusing elements,” Anwarul Islam Sarker told reporters yesterday at his EC office.

He made the comments when asked about the changes proposed in the ICT Ordinance by the government, as well as the amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972, proposed by the EC regarding the disqualification of individuals from contesting in general elections. “The reason for sending it there is to check whether it conflicts with the Constitution or any existing laws. They will review all these aspects before making a final decision,” he added.

The EC has proposed stricter amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972, including a provision barring fugitives from contesting national polls. On September 2, they sent the amendment proposals to the law ministry for vetting.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Unscrupulous traders continue business by illegally setting up makeshift furniture shops occupying the entire footpath in Segunbagicha, Dhaka. They have even placed chairs on the adjacent road, leaving little space for pedestrians to move safely. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## ‘Ensure my safety’

**Abu Sayed killing case prosecution witness urges ICT-2**

STAR ONLINE REPORT

A key prosecution witness (PW) in the crimes against humanity case over the killing of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed today appealed to the International Crimes Tribunal-2 to ensure his safety and security.

The witness, Dr Razibul Islam, assistant professor and head of the forensic medicine department at Rangpur Medical College, conducted the postmortem on Sayed, who was shot dead during the July 2024 uprising in Rangpur.

The doctor narrated that under pressure from police, the Rangpur Medical College authorities, and a pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip) leader, he was forced to alter the original autopsy report five times.

Earlier, he made an

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



## ASM Sarwar Ud-Deen

passes away  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ASM Sarwar Ud-Deen, former member of the Tariff Commission, died in a road accident in the city's Moghbazar area on Saturday night. He was 76.

He sustained critical injuries around 11:00pm while getting in or out of a vehicle. He was declared dead at a hospital, said a press release.

He was laid to rest at Sector-12 graveyard in Uttara following the Zohr prayers yesterday.

Sarwar, the second son of late MA Mannan of Goalachamat Para in Faridpur, left behind a son and a daughter to mourn his death. All are requested to pray for the eternal peace of his departed soul.



## Ensure my safety

FROM PAGE 3  
identical statement before the ICT-1 in another crimes against humanity case in which ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides are accused.

After concluding his testimony as the third witness in the case, Razibul told the tribunal, "I urge the court to ensure my safety."

Tribunal chair Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury asked why he sought safety now despite resisting pressure during the previous government's rule. Razibul replied that since the accused lived in Rangpur, where he also worked, he felt unsafe.

He requested a transfer to Jashore Medical College Hospital near his ancestral home in Kushtia, where his mother lives.

Prosecutor Mizanul Islam informed the court that a separate petition on his security would be filed tomorrow.

Razibul told the tribunal that the then RMP deputy

commissioner (crime) Abu Maruf Hossain, RMC vice-principal Mahfuzur Rahman, and Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad leader Sarwar Hossain Chandra had pressured him to state that Sayed died of head injury and neurogenic shock.

"They threatened me with cases, offered foreign trips, and even a holiday in Cox's Bazar. But I could not lie when the world had already seen Sayed being shot," he said, his voice trembling.

He eventually filed a report citing shock and haemorrhage but maintained that the injuries were ante-mortem and homicidal. "I submitted a true report at the risk of my life," he said. He is scheduled to face cross-examination tomorrow.

Journalist AKM Moinul Haque, who live-streamed the scene when police opened fire on Abu Sayed during the uprising, was cross-examined by defence lawyers today.

## Candidates

FROM PAGE 3  
Abdul Islam Khan emphasised that his generation "learned politics from fascist repression, not books."

He pledged to ensure a safe, inclusive campus for all.

Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Imi called for fixed annual Ducus elections and justice for the perpetrators of both the 1971 and 2024 atrocities. "Your vote decides representation," she urged students.

Former general secretary Dr Moshtaq Hossain reflected on Ducus's central role in national struggles from 1970 to 1990 and urged independents to unite and resist party dominance.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna echoed this sentiment.

University Teachers' Network chair Gitara Nasreen called for true leadership, emphasising the importance of amplifying students' voices instead of chasing power.

## Maintain neutrality

FROM PAGE 3  
nationally and internationally, urging officers to demonstrate patience, wisdom, and self-discipline.

At the beginning, Abu Naser Mohammed Khaled, additional IG (HRM) of PHQ, gave a detailed description of how the training programme will be conducted.

He said the programme has been structured in phases, aiming to equip officers with the necessary skills and knowledge.

"The training includes practical sessions on weapons authority, managing election-day responsibilities, and using modern technology like body-worn cameras. The programme also emphasises the importance of understanding election laws and maintaining law and order at polling stations," he said.

Naser said a total of 1.7 million law enforcers will perform duties, among

whom 1,50,000 will be from the police force, which is nine per cent of the total deployment.

Naser said that the programme is divided into four phases, each targeting different groups of police personnel and focusing on various aspects of election security. "We have already prepared 150 master trainers, and these trainers will be responsible for imparting knowledge to other officers nationwide. By mid-September, trainers will be trained at district, range, metropolitan, and institute levels, and training will be given across 130 venues," he said.

"We are hopeful to complete the election process by December 15," added Naser.

## There's room

FROM PAGE 3  
The RPO is the law under which the commission regulates national elections.

On September 4, the advisory council in principle approved the draft.

At present, anyone convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude and sentenced to at least two years' imprisonment is barred from contesting elections unless five years have passed since their release. Individuals convicted under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunals) Order, 1972, are also deemed ineligible.

In response to a question, Anwarul said he was not sure who is protesting over the boundary demarcations or why they are doing so.

He added, "The

Commission has determined the boundaries with utmost caution, neutrality, and logical reasoning. Once the final list of boundaries is published, there is no scope for filing complaints in court."

When asked why the number of constituencies increased in Gazipur but decreased in Bagerhat, he said that based on voter numbers, Gazipur had the highest number of voters, while Bagerhat had fewer.

## PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 8

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-30	6-20	7-45
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	4-45	6-25	8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					





### INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

##### Department of English and Modern Languages

- Professor
- Associate Professor
- Assistant Professor/Lecturer B

#### School of Environment and Life Sciences

##### Department of Environmental Science and Management

- Assistant Professor
- Lecturer B

**Application Deadline**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

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



## Rise above all

FROM PAGE 3  
mass uprising, the chief justice said there needs to be more dialogue and joint efforts to continue.

"We must sit together and examine the root causes of these events — why they happen, where they originate. Let us not be discouraged. Let us not lose hope. We must embrace unity in diversity," he said.

The chief justice added, "We need to cultivate understanding. We need patience. And we need to be realistic."

Cardinal George Koovakad praised Bangladesh's legacy of peaceful coexistence, saying that Bangladesh is a shining example of communal harmony, where Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and Muslims live together peacefully.

"We must resist extreme nationalist and sectarian attitudes. These attitudes tolerate only their own interests and


view everything outside themselves as a threat," he said.

Archbishop Bejoy D'Cruze, OMI, Chairman of CBCB, also spoke.

## JCD, Shibir

FROM PAGE 3  
(cultural), Shahriar Alam Othi (assistant cultural), Swapna Akter (women affairs), Nusrat Ishita (assistant women affairs), Gazi Ferdous Hasan (information and research), Redowanul Islam Hridoy (assistant information and research), Rafayetul Islam (media and publication), Nur Nabi (assistant media and publication), and Maruf Hossain (science and technology).

Meanwhile, former president of Shibir's RU unit and its current central education secretary Abdul Mohaimin declared its "Sammilito Chhatra Jote" panel last evening outside the Rucus treasurer's office. Agronomy student (2016-17 session) Mostakur Rahman Jahid has been nominated for VP, Applied Chemistry student (2020-21 session) Fahim Reza for GS, and Statistics student (2019-20 session) SM Salman Sabbir for AGS.



### Khulna University, Khulna

#### Office of the Project Director

"Further Infrastructural Development of Khulna University (2<sup>nd</sup> Revised)" Project

Memo No : KU/FID-113/2024-177 Date : 07.09.2025

**e-Tender Notice No. 05/2024-2025**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Works	Online Tender Closing and Opening date
1141645	KU/FID-113/2024	Procurement of Lift for IER Building	23.09.2025 12.30 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches upto banking hours on e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Signed  
(Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman)  
Project Director  
"KUFID (2<sup>nd</sup> Revised)" Project

GD-1952

#### COMMERCIAL SPACE RENT

5 floors, 3280 sft each, Shanta Virtue, sector - 04, Uttara. Opposite of Rajlakshmi Kusal Center.

**01714374917, 01730022779**

#### Request for Proposal (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka is inviting applications from interested and Bonafide firms for **Upgrading codebase of Labour Inspection Management Application (LIMA) for Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment (DIFE)**.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) and RFP documents can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/277366>.

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

#### STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1622 of 2025

An application u/s 12 read with 13 of the Companies Act, 1994.  
Electro Mart Ltd, represented by its Managing Director Md. Nurul Amin  
—VERSUS—  
Petitioner.

The Registrar  
TAKE NOTICE that an application u/s 12 read with 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, seeking alteration of the object clause of the Memorandum of Association of the Electro Mart Ltd. and Trade International Industries Ltd. Upon hearing the application on 31.08.2025, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the said application and directed its publication in two daily newspapers, and further directed the filing of an affidavit-in-compliance. If you intend to oppose the said application, you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned.

**Asikur Rahman Sourav, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh**  
SS Bhaban (Ground Floor), 70/D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 01917399260



### সিলেট সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, সিলেট  
[www.scc.gov.bd](http://www.scc.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-৪৬.০৭.০০০০.০১৮.৯৯.০২৫.১৯.১৮০২ তারিখঃ ০৭/০৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ০৫/২০২৫-২৬**


এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের কর্পোরেশনের প্রকৌশল শাখায় e-GP এর OTM ও LTM পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে। যার টেন্ডার আইডি নিম্নে দেয়া হল। কাজের নাম, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখসহ অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সন্নিবিষ্ট বিস্তারিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি এসিসির ওয়েবসাইট [www.scc.gov.bd](http://www.scc.gov.bd) ও e-GP এর ওয়েবসাইট [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ দেখা যাবে।

**e-GP Tender ID No.**

1148655, 1148677, 1148688, 1148695,  
1148764, 1148790, 1148796, 1148808,  
1148819, 1148707.

  
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী  
সিলেট সিটি কর্পোরেশন

জিডি-১৯৯৯



### গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

#### টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০৪/২০২৫ তারিখঃ ০৮-০৯-২০২৫

গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের উদ্দেশ্যে সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রথম শ্রেণির ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আলাদা আলাদা সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

লট নং-০১ঃ গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক কমপ্লেক্স এর মেইনগেট ও অভ্যন্তরীণ রাস্তা নির্মাণ কাজ।  
টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়ঃ ০৬ (ছয়) মাস।

লট নং-০২ঃ গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয়ের প্রশাসনিক ভবন ও প্রশিক্ষণ ভবনে ২টি লিফট স্থাপন কাজ।  
টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়ঃ ০৬ (ছয়) মাস।

লট নং-০৩ঃ গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক বহুতল ভবনের ফায়ার প্রটেকশন, ডিটেকশন ও এলার্মিং সিস্টেম স্থাপন কাজ।  
টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য ৪,০০০/- টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়ঃ ০৬ (ছয়) মাস।

১) প্রতিটি কাজের টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের ২.৫% পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি (টেন্ডার নিয়মাবলী অনুযায়ী প্রযোজ্য) এর মাধ্যমে যে কোন সিভিউল ব্যাংক হতে "গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়" এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।

লট নং	সিভিউল বিক্রির তারিখ		টেন্ডার জমার তারিখ		টেন্ডার ওপেনিং তারিখ
	হতে	পর্যন্ত	হতে	পর্যন্ত	
১	০৮-০৯-২০২৫	২২-০৯-২০২৫	০৯-০৯-২০২৫	২৩-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:০০ টা	২৩-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:৩০ টা
২	০৮-০৯-২০২৫	২২-০৯-২০২৫	০৯-০৯-২০২৫	২৩-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:০০ টা	২৩-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:৩০ টা
৩	০৮-০৯-২০২৫	২৯-০৯-২০২৫	০৯-০৯-২০২৫	৩০-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:০০ টা	৩০-০৯-২০২৫, স ১১:৩০ টা

২) প্রতিটি লটের টেন্ডার দলিল "নির্মাণ শাখা, গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬" হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৩) উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে ঠিকাদার বা তাঁদের প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হবে।

৪) টেন্ডার দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী টেন্ডার দলিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত থাকবে।

৫) টেন্ডার দাখিলের সময় অবশ্যই খামের উপর লট নম্বর এবং কাজের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

৬) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই উক্ত টেন্ডার গ্রহণ/বাতিল, সংশোধন, পরিবর্তন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
সেবা ও সম্পত্তি ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ

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

Upazila Health Complex, Bagharpara, Jashore  
Email: [bagherpara@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:bagherpara@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd)

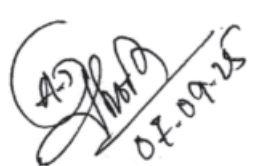
Ref No. UHC/Bagher/Jashore/MSR-Tender/2025-2026/2025/984 Date: 07/09/2025

#### e-Tender Notice

Tender ID No.	Package No. & Description	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1148888	MSR Group-"Ka" Medicine (Non EDCL)	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm
1148890	MSR Group-"Kha" Surgical Equipment	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm
1148893	MSR Group-"Ga" Chemical Re-Agent	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm
1148906	MSR Group-"Gha" Furniture & Kitchen Items	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm
1148907	MSR Group-"Umo" Linen Items	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm
1148908	MSR Group-"Ca" Gauge, Bandage & Cotton	23-Sep-2025 11:00am	23-Sep-2025 01:00pm


This is an online tender, where only e-Tenderer will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of any registered bank within the date mentioned in the tender notice. Future information & guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**N.B. Tender Schedule will be published on 8-Sep-2025 12:00pm.**



**Dr. Arup Jyoti Ghosh**  
UH&FPO  
Upazila Health Complex  
Bagharpara, Jashore

GD-1951



## Eastern Bank PLC.

HEAD OFFICE, 100 GULSHAN AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

### TENDER NOTICE

Eastern Bank PLC. (EBL) invites sealed bids from eligible, experienced, and competent bidders for the following services/items:

**Lot 1: API (Application Programming Interface) Gateway Solution**  
**Lot 2: Biometric Authentication Devices**  
**Lot 3: Single Sign-On (SSO) Solution**

Interested bidders are requested to collect the RFP document electronically by sending an email from their official email address to [bidit@ebi-bd.com](mailto:bidit@ebi-bd.com) mentioning the name of the company and the authorized contact person, mailing address, telephone & mobile phone numbers on or before **Monday, 15 September 2025**.

Queries are to be mailed by **Monday, 22 September 2025**.

Bids should be prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document and submitted as per the process described in the RFP document bearing official authorized personnel's seal & signature in two separate sealed envelopes clearly marking "Technical Offer" (hardcopy and softcopy both) and "Financial Offer" (hardcopy only) on the envelopes.

Bids should be dropped in the ICT Tender Box, addressing to The Office of the President, Purchase Committee, Head Office, Eastern Bank PLC., 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212 (Basement-1, ICT Tender Box) on or before **Monday, 6 October 2025**.

Tenderers are allowed to bid for all lots or any lot separately. However, common documents need not to be submitted for multiple lots, submission with one lot is enough.







## Don't let mobocracy overwhelm the law

Rajbari, Rajshahi mob incidents demand stern action, not just condemnation

The recent acts of mob violence in Rajbari and Rajshahi, including the desecration and burning of a dead body, are yet another reminder of the fragility of our law enforcement. The government's condemnation in this regard rightly fails to hit the right chord with the public, as it offers no assurance of meaningful action. Mere words, no matter how strong, will not deter those taking the law into their own hands. The perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be identified, arrested, and prosecuted properly to send the message that such barbarity will not be tolerated.

The incident in Goalanda, Rajbari—where a mob exhumed and set fire to the body of Nurul Haque, a self-proclaimed spiritual leader—is a grotesque display of inhumanity. That they were incited by religious rhetoric and acted under the banner of a vigilante group is equally troubling, as it highlights how ideological difference or intolerance is being weaponised to justify violence. The subsequent clash, which left one person dead and dozens injured, underscores the grave consequences of allowing such extremism to fester.

Equally alarming is the attack on a shrine in Rajshahi. The alleged inaction of police officers, who were reportedly present but failed to intervene on account of being “outnumbered,” is unacceptable. The police's primary duty is to protect citizens, not stand by while mobs terrorise them. The alleged involvement of local political activists in the Rajshahi attack also highlights a sinister trend. When political actors leverage religious or social tensions for their own ends, they fan the flames of discord. Political parties from all sides must actively rein in their unruly members and work to stop mob violence.

For its part, the government must take swift, decisive action. Citizens deserve the assurance of safety and respect for their beliefs, even in death. Law enforcement agencies' inaction gave licence to the mobs, and failure to address this will only embolden similar acts in the future. These incidents are symptoms of a society where a sense of impunity has taken root, and if left unchecked, it can lead to further erosion of the rule of law. The government's true commitment to justice will be measured by the resolve with which it brings the perpetrators to account.

Five individuals have been reportedly arrested for their alleged ties to the Rajbari attack on police and the vandalism of their vehicles. However, this is just the beginning. The case has so far focused on the assault on police, but the more egregious crimes—the desecration of a body, the killing of a man, and the widespread destruction of property—also demand immediate and robust investigation. The family of the deceased has yet to file a case, but this cannot be an excuse for inaction.

## Ensure DUCSU polls' integrity

Valid concerns raised about the election must be addressed

With just a day left for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) election, the university authorities must promptly address all valid concerns raised by the candidates. Some of the participating panels are reportedly worried about the number of booths and the locations of polling stations. Currently, there are 810 booths in eight centres for nearly 40,000 voters, spread across the DU campus. Polling booths for several halls are located within each centre. Since each voter must cast 41 votes, many student parties anticipate long queues. They are concerned that voters may not have enough time to cast their votes, potentially discouraging others from voting.

However, in a notice on Saturday, the chief returning officer stated that the current set-up should allow each voter, on average, 10 minutes to vote. Meanwhile, some candidates also alleged that the location of polling centres might discourage many female voters and non-residential students from voting. Although the DU authorities have increased the number of booths three times since then and relocated polling centres of some female residential halls, certain issues still remain unaddressed. Besides, the authorities have yet to respond to the University Teachers' Network's demand to extend voting hours from 4pm to 5pm. The platform also alleged that it did not receive any clear response from the university authorities about the selection of polling officers. In addition to these concerns, two recent surveys conducted on the DUCSU polls have given rise to controversy. Some are questioning the neutrality of these surveys, alleging that they were conducted to influence voters to cast their ballots for a particular panel. Meanwhile, there is also the allegation of a plot to discourage female voters, considering their expected influence in this round of DUCSU election.

These allegations, if not addressed properly, would be a blow to the prospects that a DUCSU election holds in post-uprising Bangladesh. The union and its officeholders have historically influenced national politics. With this year's election taking place just a few months before the scheduled parliamentary election, it carries additional significance. Many are drawing comparisons between the DUCSU election and the national election, as student wings of national political parties and independent candidates are all participating. This makes it crucial to ensure that this election is free, fair, and transparent. We urge the DU authorities to leave no room for doubt about the election's integrity. All candidates must have confidence that the authorities will carry out their duties impartially, to encourage maximum voter participation in an intimidation-free environment. The election must serve as an exemplary democratic process for the nation and must return DUCSU to the students.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

#### Joan of Arc attacks Paris

On this day in 1429, Joan of Arc, a French farmer's daughter who believed she was acting under divine guidance, attempted to oust the duke of Burgundy and take Paris for newly crowned King Charles VII.

#### 133RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY

# Faultlines of Freedom

The complex ties of Jinnah, Suhrawardy and Gandhi



Altaf Parvez is the author of *Suhrawardy o Banglaj Musalmaner Rashtrasadhana* (Oitijhya, 2024).

ALTAF PARVEZ

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was the principal architect of Pakistan, while Shaheed Suhrawardy was one of the movement's firmest pillars. Both men were marked by courage and energy.

Suhrawardy's popularity, unlike Jinnah's, was rooted primarily in the regional sphere, though he enjoyed a strong base of mass support. Jinnah's emergence as the architect of Pakistan owed considerably to Suhrawardy's efforts, yet Suhrawardy, in turn, received comparatively little support from Jinnah.

Their ages were separated by sixteen years, and their political association,

remarkable transformation was the result of the organisational efforts of Suhrawardy and Abul Hashim.

It was Suhrawardy and Hashim who liberalised the League's membership rules and travelled through the villages, turning the organisation into a party of ordinary Muslims. The fruits of this strategy were fully realised in the 1946 elections. Yet the outcome was more than the League's victory over the Krishak Praja Party; it was also a personal triumph for Suhrawardy over Jinnah. Within Bengal, Jinnah's favoured faction, led by Khwaja Nazimuddin, was largely marginalised.



Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (left) with Mahatma Gandhi (right) during Gandhi's 73-hour fast in Calcutta, September 1–4, 1947, to quell communal violence in the days following the Partition.

which began in August 1927, endured for almost two decades. In the aftermath of the All-India riots of 1926, a peace conference was convened in Simla with both Hindu and Muslim representatives. Jinnah and Suhrawardy were present on that occasion: Jinnah had not yet fully severed his ties with the Congress to join the League, while Suhrawardy had only just begun to take part in some of the League's programmes.

At that time, the growing hostility between Hindus and Muslims created in the minds of both Jinnah and Suhrawardy a sense that the prospect of Hindu-Muslim unity might forever remain elusive. The belief that both communities could drive out the British together and then jointly govern their homeland appeared to them as little more than a fable.

Behind Suhrawardy's disillusionment lay the failure of the 1923 "Bengal Pact." Similarly, Jinnah's frustration with Hindu-Muslim unity stemmed from the similar fate of the 1916 "Lucknow Pact."

Suhrawardy thereafter devoted increasing attention to organising his community in Bengal, while Jinnah sought to do so on the national stage—though not immediately. Jinnah spent nearly four years (from 1930) in self-imposed exile in London. After Jinnah's return to India in 1934, as he began searching for new organisers, an organisational partnership between the two men gradually emerged.

The closeness between Jinnah and Suhrawardy was shaped in 1936 through the influence of Hasan Ispahani and the Aga Khan. That same year, Suhrawardy was appointed general secretary of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League. Although Jinnah's clear preference lay with Nazimuddin and Ispahani, he recognised that if the League was to emerge as the dominant force in Bengal, Suhrawardy's involvement was indispensable. The alliance that followed enabled the League to stand firmly against Fazlul Huq's party.

Ispahani later recalled that when Jinnah first arrived in Calcutta in 1936 and stepped down at Howrah station, only three people were there to receive him. A decade later, in 1946, he returned to Bengal for the election campaign and was greeted by thousands. This

At the same time, the League's sweeping victory in Bengal gave Jinnah formidable bargaining power at the all-India level—so much so that he could eventually sideline Suhrawardy himself.

Even as leading figures within the same party, Jinnah and Suhrawardy maintained a constant, if silent, rivalry. They never spoke against one another in public, yet the competition was unmistakable.

After the final collapse of Fazlul Huq's second government in 1943, Suhrawardy was the strongest contender within the League for the premiership of Bengal. Yet Jinnah's preference was firmly for Nazimuddin, as correspondence between Jinnah and Ispahani in April 1943 makes clear.

Jinnah also ensured that Suhrawardy's influence did not extend beyond Bengal. Yet in 1946, when Jinnah announced the "Direct Action Day" programme, it was Suhrawardy who took the lead in carrying it out.

Both men were committed to advancing Muslim interests in India, but their priorities differed. Jinnah's focus was on Muslims across the subcontinent, particularly in the north, while Suhrawardy's concern lay above all with the Muslims of Bengal.

Jinnah may have been the central leader, but Suhrawardy was not always willing to submit to his authority in Bengal. In organisational matters, he preferred to act independently. A clear example was the election of Abul Hashim as provincial secretary of the League. When Hashim, Suhrawardy's chosen secretary, sought to launch a weekly newspaper titled Millat, Jinnah showed little enthusiasm, favouring instead The Daily Azad of Maulana Akram Khan. Even during provincial elections, Jinnah tended to send financial assistance not to Suhrawardy but to Ispahani.

By the 1946 elections, tensions between these factions of the Bengal League had hardened, especially as victory seemed inevitable. With Nazimuddin defeated, Suhrawardy emerged dominant in the League's internal power struggle. Yet to secure Jinnah's consent as Chief Minister, he was obliged—at least tacitly—to accept the central League's vision of India's

future as two separate states, meaning Bengal's Muslims would have to commit themselves to Jinnah's proposed Pakistan. Even so, Suhrawardy did not abandon his parallel efforts to preserve a united Bengal.

After Partition in 1947, Suhrawardy did not gain the position in East Pakistan he had anticipated. His faction lacked ideological cohesion and was held together mainly by his personal authority. With Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan backing Nazimuddin, Suhrawardy was marginalised with relative ease.

By early 1947, it became clear that Calcutta was witnessing a new Suhrawardy: one who, disillusioned with Jinnah, began to look instead towards Gandhi.

II  
Suhrawardy's relationship with Gandhi is rarely discussed, yet it remains one of the most remarkable political chapters in Bengal's history.

In August 1947, the two men, despite risking the hostility of their political colleagues, stood together in Calcutta to stem the tide of communal

violence. That same month, however, stripped them both of political power. Suhrawardy would in time recover; Gandhi was denied the chance, struck down by Hindu extremists.

Their close connection was forged in the aftermath of the Noakhali riots, when they exchanged frequent letters. The wounds of the Calcutta riots were still raw when violence erupted in Noakhali. For Suhrawardy, already under severe criticism for his handling of Calcutta, Noakhali proved an additional political disaster. Yet it also gave him an opportunity to rehabilitate his reputation through active engagement in relief and peace efforts. His success was limited. Most controversially, he defended Gholam Sarwar, a leading Muslim figure accused of instigating the

Calcutta those displaced from Bihar. For this reason, he did not accompany Gandhi on his Noakhali mission, though he visited the district twice during the unrest, both before and after Gandhi's stay.

To ensure Gandhi's journey to Noakhali passed without hindrance, Suhrawardy arranged a special train from Calcutta and dispatched his cabinet colleague, Labour Minister Shamsuddin Ahmed, to receive him. Suhrawardy himself travelled to Kajirkhil in Noakhali on 19 November 1946 to meet Gandhi, having earlier visited Feni with Governor Burrows on 18 October.

On 10 and 12 May 1947, Suhrawardy again sought Gandhi's support for a united Bengal. His appeals, however, came to nothing. Within Congress, decisions now rested with Nehru and Patel, while on the streets it was the riots that dictated events.

Yet in August 1947, in the final days of an undivided India, Gandhi and Suhrawardy together created in Calcutta a remarkable political episode

unmatched in Bengal's later history.

After completing the first phase of his Noakhali peace mission, Gandhi had gone to Kashmir. On 1 August 1947, as he prepared to depart again for Noakhali, Suhrawardy and other Muslim leaders persuaded him to remain in Calcutta. Gandhi's decision to postpone his journey and stay was a bold one; for local Muslims, it brought reassurance.

He agreed on two conditions: that Suhrawardy remain by his side, and that as Chief Minister he take responsibility for the safety of Hindus in Noakhali. Suhrawardy accepted both, and requested in turn that Gandhi stay in a neighbourhood where Muslims had suffered most in the riots.

Thus they gathered at Hyderi Manzil, on Suresh Chandra Banerjee Road in Beliaghata—an abandoned Muslim house, today known as "Gandhi Bhavan." From 13 August, Gandhi lived there continuously, while Suhrawardy joined him part of each day.

The ruined house mirrored the condition of its occupants. Gandhi's principle of non-violence had lost much of its appeal in Bengal and India as a whole, while Suhrawardy's idea of a united Bengal had all but slipped into history. Yet their joint satyagraha at Hyderi Manzil had a strikingly positive effect on a volatile Calcutta.

Gandhi's decision to stay in Calcutta for Muslim interests, rather than return to Noakhali, angered many Hindus. Suhrawardy's own safety soon came under threat; on one occasion, a bomb was hurled at his car in Beliaghata.

On 4 September, thirty-five men appeared before the fasting Gandhi, confessing to killings they had committed during the riots and pledging to desist if he ended his fast. After this collective assurance, Gandhi broke his fast by drinking sherbet from Suhrawardy's hands. On 7 September, he left Calcutta for Delhi. Suhrawardy bade him farewell at the railway station, in a moment remembered for its poignancy—he wept openly.

Gandhi and Suhrawardy's association was defined by both similarities and differences—one deeply honourable, the other profoundly tragic.



# Thus spoke Suhrawardy

On the occasion of the 133rd birth anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, The Daily Star is publishing an excerpt from one of his most notable writings, “Political Stability and Democracy in Pakistan.” The article first appeared in the internationally renowned journal Foreign Affairs (Vol. 35, No. 3, April 1957), during Suhrawardy’s tenure as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Because the need for political stability is central to all the major questions faced by my country, I should like to concentrate on an analysis of this problem, suggesting the spirit and attitude with which it must be met rather than articulating a specific policy. [...] To set our problems in perspective, it is well to begin with some of the characteristics of the past from which Pakistan emerged as a state.

For many centuries before partition and independence in 1947 the type of government experienced by the peoples of the subcontinent of Asia was imposed by right of conquest; it lacked the ingredient of consent. British rule -- let me acknowledge parenthetically our indebtedness to the British for lessons they taught us in administrative integrity, constitutional procedure and proprieties -- was only a final phase of a long record of this character. Whether the seat of power was in London or in a local capital was of secondary importance. Either way, the traditions, usages and premises of self-government were lacking.

In such a situation administration and popular aspiration turn on each other as counter forces. Those governing almost inevitably regard their power as something to be exercised despite the will of the governed. The governed regard government as something set against their own interests and purposes. In this situation government has authority only in a narrow sense of being able to compel compliance but not in the deeper moral meaning of having the faculty to elicit consent, to lead and to bind in conscience. In such a situation, law exists in the sense in which we speak of laying down the law -- a morally neutral meaning applicable to what administrators ordain and magistrates effect in the manifold daily undertakings of the state; but it does not exist in the sense in which we speak of the rule of law -- a phrase invoking a concept of administrators amenable to a set of purposes and restrained by limits established by the consent and will of those subject to their authority.

When law in the technical sense of what is enforced is divorced from law in its moral sense implicit in the rule of law, the operators of the mechanism of government tend inevitably to think of themselves as in possession and to regard scornfully and fear fully as trespassers those who attempt to call up and to marshal popular political aspirations. By the same token, those approaching politics simply in terms of kindling popular aspiration tend to miss a disciplined consciousness of the limits of government. They think of it more as an exercise in rhetoric, theory and ideals than as a stern business of keeping promises.

The inherent weakness of colonial government lies in the alienation between administration and popular aspiration. Administration carried on without a sense of accountability to popular aspirations is deprived of imagination: at best it tends to be sterile; at worst it becomes oppressive. The evocation of general political aspirations without regard



Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Chief Minister of Bengal, at home in Calcutta with his dog, September 1946. Photo: Margaret Bourke-White, LIFE © Time Inc.

for actual operating requirements and limits of government results too often in producing giddiness and demagoguery. Political communication is deprived of realism, and the result is likely to be the politics of agitation and utopia. The whole truth and essence of sound government require a continual dialogue between actuality and aspiration, between administrative authority and political leadership -- a dialogue that can take place only when each side understands the other and feels kinship rather than distrust.

A people coming into independence from a colonial past faces a task of correcting this alienation between the two. The operative and the evocative aspects of the state must be brought into working relationship. New habits of mind have to be substituted for old. Administration must unlearn its scorn of politics. Politics must overcome its hostility to administration. Only in this way can a government and the people governed

communicate confidence to each other and learn that they can count on each other.

Estrangement between the governing and the governed; anxiety on the part of those in authority over their warrant and their tenure; sterility of government resulting from a lack of confidence among those in authority as to their ability to tap the creative forces of public trust; vanity, opportunism and emotional extravagance characterizing mass leaders who have never tasted responsibility; cold feet and hot heads -- such are the conditions of instability in government. These have persisted among us in Pakistan in the degree that we have failed to resolve our wills to throw off habits of a departed past, have permitted moral independence to lag behind legal independence, and have kept political leadership and governmental responsibility as things opposed to each other rather than bringing them into synthesis.

In giving a diagnosis I have

indicated a remedy. Fortunately this remedy lies completely within our resources without necessity of any aid from abroad. We Pakistanis have no choice as to how to go about creating an effective basis for our

state. No royal or aristocratic pattern of duty and authority based on long and universal acceptance is at hand to serve our needs. The goal can be achieved only through elections. Warning voices sometimes tell me that Pakistan is not ready for the democratic process. I can only reply that then Pakistan is not ready at all; for there is no alternative way of bringing about rapport between authority and people, no other avenue to national fulfillment.

I have sometimes heard arguments for an opposite course to national consolidation, a course involving abandonment of the idea of franchise, discarding of principles of accountability and resorting to authority based not upon a warrant to rule but upon the power to rule -- in brief, dictatorship. [...]

Whenever I ask an advocate of this expedient to give a bill of particular ills of our political society requiring remedy, I get some such list as this: corruption, shortage of talent in government, insufficiency of bonds of identity between authority and people, deficiency of public education and information, the dominance of emotion rather than reason in political life, and the centrifugal influence of provincialism.

I do not deny the existence of these ills. My answer is simply that the purported remedy represents not a cure but avoidance of a cure. We have only to look to the lands that have dictatorship to gain some insight into how it would work. Dictatorship would not combat corruption; it would erect corruption into a principle. Dictatorship would not widen the access to talent in the public service; it would close sources of talent by preempting office for a chosen inner group and alienating the rest. Instead of durable identity between government and people derived from the operation of consent, dictatorship could employ only the brittle bonds of coercion. Its instrument would not be information but deception and concealment, and it would seek not the education but the confusion and the continued tutelage of the people by playing on their emotions rather than permitting the operation of reason. [...]

In any event, whatever our weaknesses of the past, they certainly have not been attributable to overdoses of democracy, for we have yet to try a full dosage. Upon being

called to the Prime Ministership I made clear my own outlook in these words, which I now reaffirm: "The first essential is to secure political stability, and that can never be attained unless we allow free play to democratic processes. . . . I realize that democracy has its weaknesses, for democracy is human; it has its inevitable failings, but on the whole it is the only sure road to progress and evolution. . . . Politics and politicians too have been maligned unthinkingly by those who fail to realize that politics is essential for the cohesion of the state and that the politicians are its servitors. Politics is the grand avenue of service to humanity. . . ." I pledged that there would be no loss of time in making preparations for a general election, and I added: "I think I can lay claim to at least this much of trust, that the election will be fair and free, so long as I have anything to do with it." [...]

Those who find the prospect of democracy in Pakistan too chancy and fearsome point especially to the factors of political apathy, the meagerness of economic life and the prevalence of illiteracy among large portions of our population. They are apprehensive that the people will vote emotions and unfulfillable wants rather than bringing their politics down -- or should I say up? -- to the level of rational choice among practical alternatives.

I do not share these apprehensions. I am thoroughly familiar with the political consciousness of the people of East Pakistan. I should be the last to deny their aptitude for seasoning the meat of politics with the spice of enthusiasm. Yet I have seen them many times gather by tens of thousands to give rapt attention to a realistic discussion of policy. A more politically conscious people does not exist anywhere.

The potential for a similar political consciousness exists in the western province. In September of 1956, soon after becoming Prime Minister, I spent ten heartening days in travel through the northern part of West Pakistan. I spoke time after time to audiences of tribesmen in from the sparse hills, to farmers of the rich valleys, to urban throngs of artisans and tradesmen. I heard their questions. These questions preponderantly did not reflect dreams of utopia and did not spring from communal animosity. They were mostly about the real substance of politics -- prices for crops, allocation of resources, the need for better housing and the like. [...]

I explained to them also -- and with emphasis -- the need for government to have authority so as to be able to bring expertness to bear in its decisions and to weigh the general interest without being subjected to the pressures, passions and prejudices rife in the marketplace. In the faces before me I saw comprehension and concurrence. I was reconfirmed in my assurance that popular confidence and rational consent are not beyond expectation but are indeed the great unexploited resource still available to strengthen the nation. [...]

The full article is available on *The Daily Star* website.



Prime Minister of Pakistan Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy is greeted by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House, July 10, 1957. Photo: Thomas J. O'Halloran, Library of Congress

## A statesman of democracy



Dr Kamal Hossain is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, an eminent jurist, and one of the principal architects of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

DR KAMAL HOSSAIN

I first came to know Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy in the formative years of my education and legal career. Mr Suhrawardy was a mentor, a role model, and an inspiration, both as a lawyer and a politician.

As I began my own legal career, I remember meeting Mr Suhrawardy in 1959 when he visited Dhaka and was appearing in court in political cases for persons who were being victimised by martial law authorities on all kinds of criminal charges.

I believe that there should be more research and writing on Mr Suhrawardy's life and contribution. In the meantime, I would like to share some of my recollections that I had earlier documented.

In the pre-partition period, Mr Suhrawardy's role in combating

communalism in politics was particularly significant. His own moving tribute to C. R. Das in his memoirs is a testimony to this: "Deshbandhu C. R. Das ... was endowed with a wide vision, he was totally non-communal. I believe with many that had he lived, he would have been able to guide the destiny of India along channels that would have eliminated the causes of conflict and bitterness which had bedevilled the relationship between Hindus and Muslims, and which for want of a just solution, led to the partition of India, and the creation of Pakistan." [...]

In 1937, Mr Suhrawardy became secretary of the Bengal Muslim League, with A. K. Fazlul Huq as its president, and they were easily able to enlist the support of the bulk of

the Muslim student community. The Muslim League came to embrace, within it, contradictory elements ranging from traditionalist and conservative 'right' forces to new entrants into the middle class who had 'progressive' attitudes and an urge to promote social change. The latter group began to agitate for the total abolition of rent-

**I remember meeting Mr Suhrawardy in 1959 when he visited Dhaka and was appearing in court in political cases for persons who were being victimised by martial law authorities on all kinds of criminal charges.**

receiving interests in land and for the redistribution of cultivable land to the tillers. Suhrawardy stood in the middle of the road.

Even before Pakistan formally

came into existence, thenon Bengalis who dominated the Muslim League leadership set about reinforcing and continuing their dominance. They engineered to replace Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, an effective leader with a popular base who had led this party to electoral victory in Bengal, with Khwaja Nazimuddin, who was too weak to threaten or challenge them. [...]

In the post-partition period, within Pakistan, as democratic forces opposing the communal politics of the Muslim League were gaining ground, the central government relied on communal politics to create divisions in East Bengal. It kept deferring the holding of general elections as the powerful interests at the Centre were apprehensive of the outcome. It is noteworthy that Suhrawardy and other political leaders, whose United Front had achieved electoral success in East Bengal in 1954, felt confident that a similar success could be achieved in the next general elections. Under continuing pressure, a general election had been promised in early 1959. This, however, was prevented by the abrogation of the

Constitution and a proclamation of martial law in October 1958. The commander-in-chief of the army, General Ayub Khan, who had been actively involved in protecting the interests of the ruling group since the early fifties, now came out into the open. With the abrogation of the 1956 Constitution, even the forms of a federal system were brushed aside. Direct administration by military governors was established. [...]

The first demand for people's participation in the political process was made, in this context, in June 1962 when nine leaders of East Pakistan issued a joint statement calling for the restoration of parliamentary democracy. Their attempt to put up a combined opposition to Ayub Khan's authoritarian rule resulted in the formation of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in October. But even before that, the students in the eastern wing had taken to the streets to register their protest against the policies pursued by the regime. The immediate cause was provided by the arrest of H. S. Suhrawardy. Soon after he was released, the students organised a widespread movement to register

their rejection of the new education policy introduced by Ayub Khan. The movement was ruthlessly suppressed and several students were killed in the police firing. The challenge it threw down to the regime did not lose significance. [...]

I hope that my recollections of the pivotal role that Mr Suhrawardy played at critical junctures of our history, and in shaping the forces in favour of establishing people's participation in politics, democratic practices, and a firm commitment to anti-communal politics, will catalyse others to study the history that led to our independence, and to reflect on the lessons for us as we continue our struggles to establish democracy and grapple with the challenges of building an inclusive society that respects the right of each person to their own identity and political belief.

This article draws on extracts from Kamal Hossain's memoir *Quest for Freedom and Justice* (University Press Limited, 2013); acknowledgements to Md Shah Jahan for his assistance.





The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam presenting the Cinematic Excellence Award to “Utshob’s” team.



Alifia Squad owning the spotlight.

# BLENDER’S CHOICE–THE DAILY STAR OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2024



Best Singer awardee Sanzida Mahmood Nandita delivering her acceptance speech.



Best Content Creator of the Year awardee Nafees Salim.

### WINNERS’ LIST

#### POPULAR CATEGORY

**Best Actor (Male):** Mosharraf Karim (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)

**Best Actor (Female):** Pori Moni (Rongila Kitab)

**Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male):** Saraf Ahmed Zibon (Osomoy)

**Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female):** Runa Khan (Osomoy)

**Best Director, Series:** Vicky Zahed (Chokro)

**Best Director, Film:** Kajal Arefin Ome (Osomoy)

**Best Drama/Series:** Golam Mamun

**Best Film:** Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya

#### CRITIC’S CHOICE

**Best Actor (Male):** Fs Nayeem (Kaalpurush)

**Best Actor (Female):** Zinnat Ara (Sinpaat)

**Best Director:** Mohammad Touqir Islam (Sinpaat)

**Best Film/Drama/Series:** Sinpaat

**Best Cinematographer:** Ishtiaque Hossain (Forget Me Not)

**Best Makeup Artist:** Rubama Fairuz (Kaalpurush)

**Best Editing:** Syed Mehboob Hussain & Saleh Sobhan Auneem (Kaalpurush)

**Best Screenplay:** Kazi Asad (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)

**Best Costume Designer:** Zannat Mouri (Tikit)

**Best Art Director:** Shihab Nurun Nabi (Kaalpurush)

#### MUSIC/SONG

**Best Lyricist:** Sadat Hossain (Megh Balika | Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya)

**Best Singer:** Mahtim Shakib & Sanzida Mahmood Nandita (Megh Balika | Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya)

**Best Music Composer:** Emon Chowdhury (Megh Balika | Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya)

**Best Music, Digital Platforms:** Angel Noor (Jodi Abar)

**Best Background Score:** Jahid Nirob (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)

**Best Sound Design:** Adeep Singh Manki (Sinpaat)

#### INDIVIDUAL CONTENT

**Best Content Creator of the Year:** Nafees Salim & Shuvasish Bhowmick

**Best Content Creator (Food & Recipe/Travel):** Nadir On The Go - Bangla (Turkish Government Offers Free Iftar in Istanbul)

**Best Content Creator (Infotainment/Podcast):** Seenjoy Saha (The Dark Influence of Content Creators)



## A celebration of OTT’s finest talents

The fourth edition of Blender’s Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 was celebrated at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center (BCFCC) last evening.

The ceremony hailed outstanding artistes, content creators, and their work across 27 categories, with winners chosen through expert jury evaluations and votes from thousands of fans.

The red carpet was hosted by emerging faces Priyontee Urbee and Partho Sheikh, setting the stage for a dazzling night.

Throughout the event, hosts Naziba Basher, Irfan Sajjad, Afsan Ara Bindu, and Rafsan Shabab kept the energy high with humour and charm.

Performances lit up the evening, with Sabila Nur and Mondera Chakroborty leading dynamic dance numbers, while Parsa Evana was joined by the electrifying Alifia Squad. Xeler Rahman, Jahid Nirob, and Parsha Mahjabeen enchanted the audience balancing rhythm and melody in a celebration of OTT brilliance.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Team “Golam Mamun” takes the stage for Best Drama/ Series win.



Pori Moni wins the Best Actress Award in the Popular category



Mosharraf Karim receives Best Actor win from Rosey Siddique & Shahiduzzaman Selim.



Best Music Composer winner Emon Chowdhury.



Zannat Mouri accepting her Best Costume Designer Award from Fakhrul and Mili Basher.



Sakib R khan & Javed Sultan Pias presenting Best Content Creator of the Year to Shuvasish Bhowmick



AvoidRafa handing over the Best Background Score Award to Jahid Nirob.



“Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya” team accepts Best Film win.



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He pledged to work with students to create joint action plans and declared that if he fails to deliver within 100 days, he will resign. "Don't vote out of sympathy -- vote for the candidate who can truly fight for your rights," he added.

**(একই তারিখ ও স্মারকে প্রতিস্থাপিত)**  
**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী**  
**(সংস্থাপন শাখা)**  
[www.noakhali.gov.bd](http://www.noakhali.gov.bd)

নম্বর: ০৫.৪২.৭৫০০.০০৬.১১.০২২.২৪-১৩৫ তারিখ: ০৯ জুন, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ  
২৪ আগস্ট, ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের উক্ত কর্মচারী শাখার স্মারক নং-০৫.০০.০০০০.০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০০১.২৩-৭৮, তারিখ: ০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ মূলে প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্র ও বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রামের বিভাগীয় নির্বাচনী বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম-এর ১৮ আগস্ট ২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখের ০৫.৪২.০০০.০০০.০০৩.০৩.০০০৯.১৬.৬৪ নং স্মারকের পরিলক্ষিত 'জেলা প্রশাসক এবং উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়ের কর্মচারী নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২০ (সংশোধিত ২০২৪)' মোতাবেক জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী এবং এর অধীন উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়সমূহের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পূরণের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ মোতাবেক অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে <https://dcnoakhali.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে Online-এ দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	কার্যালয়ের নাম	পদের নাম	শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা	গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১.	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী ও এর অধীন উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়সমূহ	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক	০৯ (নয়) টি	গ্রেড-১৬ =৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-	(ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটার চালনা দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) ওয়ার্ড প্রসেসিং, স্প্রেডশিট, প্রেজেন্টেশন এবং বেসিক কম্পিউটার ট্রাবলশুটিং-এ দক্ষতা (কম্পিউটার ওয়ার্ড প্রসেসিং, ডাটা এন্ট্রি ও টাইপিং-এ প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ ও ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দের গতি সম্পন্ন হতে হবে)।
০২.	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী	বেঞ্চ সহকারী	০২ (দুই) টি	গ্রেড-১৬ =৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-	(ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটার চালনা দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) ওয়ার্ড প্রসেসিং, স্প্রেডশিট, প্রেজেন্টেশন এবং বেসিক কম্পিউটার ট্রাবলশুটিং-এ দক্ষতা (কম্পিউটার ওয়ার্ড প্রসেসিং, ডাটা এন্ট্রি ও টাইপিং-এ প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ ও ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দের গতি সম্পন্ন হতে হবে)।

**আবেদনের শর্তাবলি:**

- প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই জন্মসূত্রে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিক ও নোয়াখালী জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর বয়স আগামী ১৪-১০-২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখে অবশ্যই ১৮-৩২ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহিদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। বয়স নিরূপণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন একভিত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- বিভাগীয় (চাকুরিরত) প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য। প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। সকল চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি/ছাড়পত্রের মূল কপি জমা দিতে হবে। তাছাড়া, চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য হবে না।
- আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে কোন আপত্তি উত্থাপন করা যাবে না।
- কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা ও নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সরকারি বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধান কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলি/শর্তাবলি:**

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ <https://dcnoakhali.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:

- Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: ১৫/০৯/২০২৫ খ্রি., সকাল ১০.০০ টা।
- Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১৪/১০/২০২৫ খ্রি., বিকাল ৫.০০ টা।
- উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদন জমাদানের সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাতর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে যেকোন Teletalk Pre-paid মোবাইল নম্বর হতে SMS এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) এবং স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60KB হতে হবে।

গ. Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি রঙিন প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময় ০১ (এক) কপি জমা দিবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র submit হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র submit হলে প্রার্থী User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী রঙিন প্রিন্ট অথবা Download করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's copy-তে একটি User ID থাকবে এবং User ID ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিয়ন্ত্রণ পদ্ধতিতে যেকোন teletalk Pre-paid মোবাইল নম্বর হতে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS এর মাধ্যমে অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ও বেঞ্চ সহকারী পদের পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা ও টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ১২.০০ (বারো) টাকাসহ অফিসের মাধ্যমে সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ১২.০০ (বারো) টাকা এবং অনগ্রসর নাগরিক (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীগণ) পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ অফিসের মাধ্যমে সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকা অনগ্রসর নাগরিক ৭২ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। উল্লেখ্য, Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।

**নিয়মাবলী:**

প্রথম SMS: dcnoakhali<space>User ID লিখে send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।  
Example: dcnoakhali ABCDEF send to 16222  
Reply: Applicant's Name Tk. 112/- will be charged as application fee, Your PIN 12345678. To pay fee Type dcnoakhali<space>YES<space>PIN and send to 16222

দ্বিতীয় SMS: dcnoakhali<space>YES<space>PIN লিখে send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।  
Example: dcnoakhali YES 12345678 send to 16222  
Reply: Congratulation Application's Name payment completed successfully for DCNOAKHALI Application for xxxxxxxxxx USER ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxxxxx)

দ্বিতীয় SMS টি পাঠানোর পর ফিরতি এসএমএস-এ Password পাবেন।

- SMS এর মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত User ID এবং Password টি ভবিষ্যৎ প্রয়োজনের নিমিত্ত সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
- SMS-এ প্রাপ্ত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সফলিত প্রবেশপত্র Download পূর্বক রঙিন প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থীর প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখতে হবে। SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।
- প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <https://dcnoakhali.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী'র [www.noakhali.gov.bd](http://www.noakhali.gov.bd) তথ্য বাতায়নে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাস





From the struggles against imperialism to the battles for democracy, Umar was always at the forefront, never wavering in his commitment to the people's emancipation.

# Badruddin Umar A TRIBUTE

ANU MUHAMMAD

Teacher, comrade, and lifelong revolutionary Badruddin Umar (20 December 1931 – 7 September 2025) is no more. We offer him our deepest respect and love. Alongside this, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, we convey our gratitude — for he devoted his entire life, thought, and activism to the cause of the people.

Born in 1931 in Bardhaman, his father Abul Hashim was a prominent organiser of the anti-British movement in the region, a campaigner for a united Bengal, and a recognised leader of the progressive wing of the Muslim League. In 1950, amid the poisonous fumes of communalism, the family moved to Dhaka. Umar became actively involved in the Language Movement of 1952 and later emerged as a pioneering researcher of that movement. After completing his studies at Dhaka University, he went on to Oxford, where he earned degrees in politics, philosophy, and economics. Upon his return, he began teaching at Dhaka University and later played a key role in establishing the Departments of Political Science and Sociology at Rajshahi University.

He was one of the foremost figures in Bangladesh's education and research, and without doubt the leading



Badruddin Umar speaking at a central committee meeting of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for Resisting Killers and Collaborators), with Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam present at the meeting.

monthly journal *Sanskriti*. After only a few issues, the journal was banned in December of that year during the state of emergency, when all newspapers and periodicals were shut down. It was revived in 1981, and Umar continued to edit and write for it until the end. Everyone knows the sharpness

guises. Across the world, under the banner of democracy and peace, imperialist brutality has left deep scars. In such a world, no sensitive, reflective, or responsible person can remain untouched by anger.

In our society, intellectual pursuit has largely been subordinated to commerce and power. Opportunism, sycophancy, and intellectual bankruptcy dominate the world of thought and politics. From outside this circle, Umar relentlessly struck at this immovable edifice. His sharp writings against exploitation, oppression, inequality, and imperialist domination consistently challenged ruling ideas. For him, intellectual labour and the politics of human emancipation were never separated. Honesty, commitment, uncompromising integrity, and firmness — all these words fit seamlessly into his life and work. Neither position, prize, nor comfort could ever tempt him away from his chosen path.

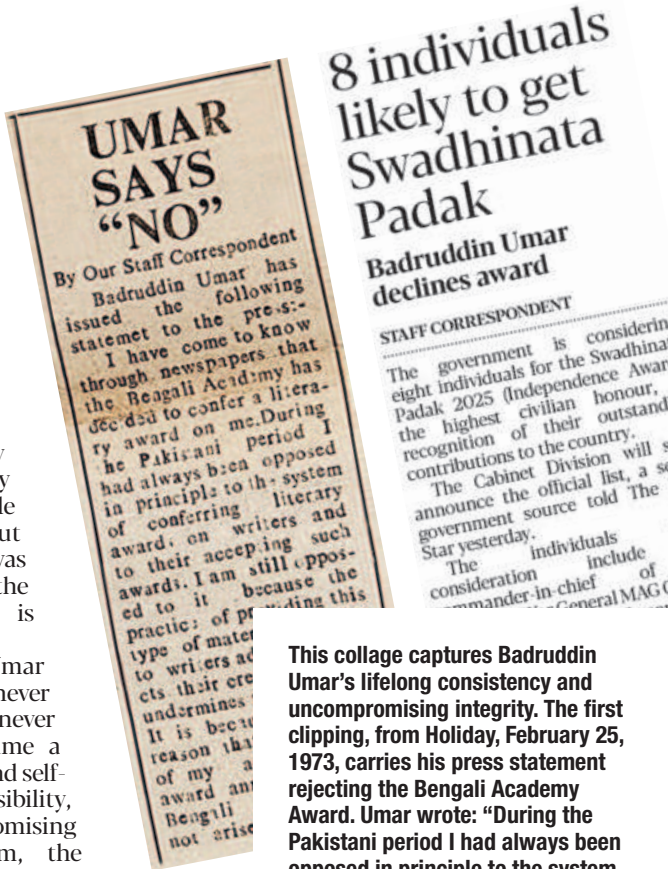
Yes, there has been a great failure in building and expanding revolutionary movements and organisations in this country; otherwise, Bangladesh would look different today. If there had been no such failures, the 180 million people of this country would have discovered

themselves as free human beings, and we might have witnessed an extraordinary life in harmony between people and nature. But that failure was collective; the responsibility is shared.

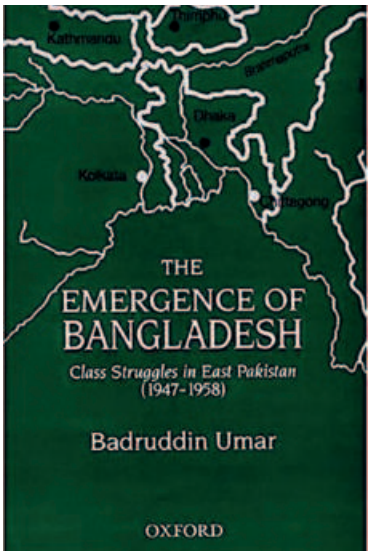
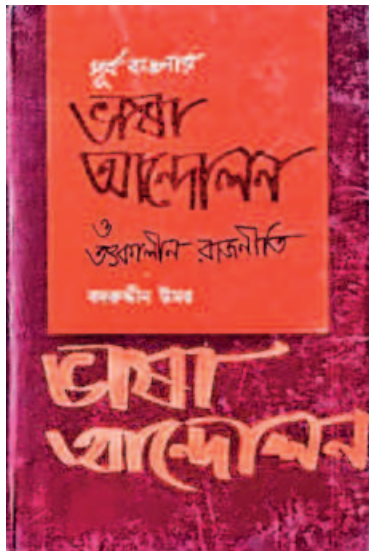
Where Umar succeeded was in never surrendering, never halting. He became a symbol of profound self-respect, responsibility, and uncompromising resolve. For him, the people's current struggle for freedom is, in his own words, the "unfinished liberation struggle of 1971." Rejecting defeat, surrender, and the chains of servitude is the very precondition for advancing this struggle. At the end of his life, Umar could justly say, with deep satisfaction and immense pride, that he had worked tirelessly, all his life, with this very force.

In the exploration of Bangladesh's history, in the search for intellectual strength, and in the politics of human emancipation, Badruddin Umar will forever remain inseparable.

Anu Muhammad is a former professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University.



This collage captures Badruddin Umar's lifelong consistency and uncompromising integrity. The first clipping, from *Holiday*, February 25, 1973, carries his press statement rejecting the Bengali Academy Award. Umar wrote: "During the Pakistani period I had always been opposed in principle to the system of conferring literary awards on writers and to their accepting such awards. I am still opposed to it because the practice of providing this type of material incentive to writers adversely affects their creativeness and undermines their freedom." Over fifty years later, he echoed the same principle by refusing the Swadhinata Padak in 2025. In his statement published in *The Daily Star* on March 7, 2025, Umar reaffirmed: "Since 1973, I have been offered awards from various government and non-government organisations. However, I have never accepted any of them."



Badruddin Umar was a prolific author, with over 100 books published in both Bengali and English. Here are some covers of his major works.

Rejecting defeat, surrender, and the chains of servitude is the very precondition for advancing the struggle. At the end of his life, Umar could justly say, with deep satisfaction and immense pride, that he had worked tirelessly, all his life, with this very force.

theoretician of revolutionary politics in the country. In the 1960s, Umar's writings on communalism showed the way for what he termed the "return of the Bengali Muslim to their homeland." At a time when the Bengali Muslim middle class needed intellectual clarity and self-realisation to define its role against Pakistan's ruling class, his work had a profound impact. From the late 1960s, he began his monumental research on the Language Movement. Without any institutional support, he completed *The Language Movement and Contemporary Politics of East Bengal*, a three-volume work. His method of linking social, economic, and political contexts was remarkable. Over the decades, he went on to publish more than a hundred books in both Bengali and English.

His revolutionary stance as a theoretician was inseparable from his political practice. While writing on communalism in the 1960s, Umar came under the wrath of the Ayub-Monem regime, forcing him to leave the university and devote himself fully to politics. He left academia to free himself from the state's surveillance and to work independently. Thereafter, he both investigated society, state, and history, and dedicated himself to shaping a revolutionary political path towards a new future.

In 1974, Umar launched the

and fury of his writing, Bangladesh, a peripheral country in the global capitalist order, has long been ruled by plundering and predatory forces under different names and

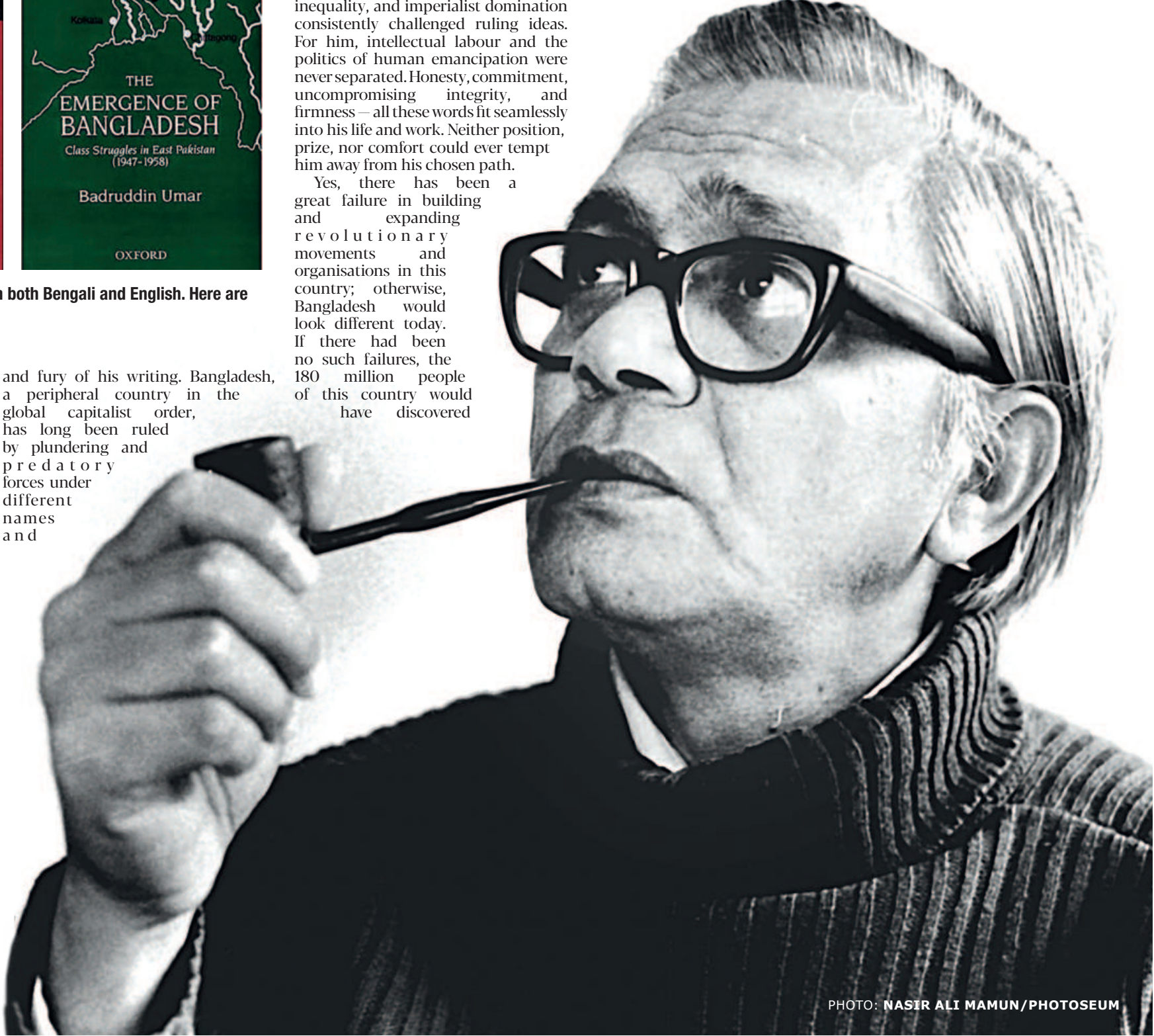


PHOTO: NASIR ALI MAMUN/PHOTOSEUM



# In-form Tigers leave for Asia Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh team, led by skipper Litton Das, departed for the UAE yesterday in two groups to take part in the Asia Cup T20, a precursor to next year's T20 World Cup.

The first batch of players boarded their flight at 10:15 am, while the second group followed later in the evening at 7:30 pm.

Bangladesh will camp in Abu Dhabi where they will play all their Group B fixtures at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium. The Tigers start their campaign against Hong Kong on September 11, before facing Sri Lanka on September 13 and Afghanistan on September 16.

Litton, who travelled with the morning group, struck a hopeful tone ahead of the tournament. "Mission Asia Cup 2025 begins! Seeking prayers from the best supporters in the world for me and my team. We promise to give our very best in the UAE, taking it one match at a time, with the ultimate dream of lifting the trophy," he wrote on his official Facebook page, sharing pictures of himself on the flight.

The mood in the camp has been overwhelmingly positive. Pacer Mustafizur Rahman echoed his captain's sentiment with a message of optimism on Facebook, posting

a picture of the fast bowling group inside the airplane, reflecting Bangladesh's strongest suit -- the pace unit.

"We are leaving the country with lots of hopes. We are confident to give our level best, In Sha Allah. Remember us in your prayers," he wrote.

The Tigers' optimism comes at the end of a busy stretch in T20Is. Since May, Litton's men have played five series, featuring 15 matches. Their record stands even -- seven wins, seven defeats, and one no-result -- leaving them with a win percentage of 46.67 this year.

Despite the impressive numbers, it has been a mixed bag. Litton's captaincy began with a disappointing 2-1 series loss in the UAE followed by a heavy defeat in Pakistan. But the Tigers bounced back impressively, securing a surprise away series win in Sri Lanka, before recording morale-boosting home victories over Pakistan and the Netherlands.

The challenge in the Asia Cup, however, is expected to be a steep one. Bangladesh cannot afford any slip-ups against Hong Kong and may need to aim for a significant margin of victory in that fixture. Against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, the Tigers will need to be at their very best to secure a spot among the two teams from the group who will qualify for the Super Four stage.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK



PHOTO: REUTERS

## RONALDO goes past Messi again

Portugal cruised past Armenia with a dominant 5-0 win away from home in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday, with superstar Cristiano Ronaldo leading the charge with a brace. Ronaldo's first was a poacher's finish followed by a thunderous right-footed volley from outside the box. Joao Felix also scored a brace and Joao Cancelo netted once in the thumping win. Here are a few records Ronaldo made on the night:

- Surpassed Lionel Messi (36) for most World Cup qualifier goals (38).
- Now just one goal behind Guatemala's Carlos Ruiz (39) for the all-time record in World Cup qualifiers.
- Extended his record as the highest men's international goal-scorer -- 140 in 222 caps.
- Reached 942 senior career goals and the landmark of 1,200 goal contributions (942 goals + 258 assists).

## BAF in talks with Chinese coaches for SA Games camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) is trying to bring in two Chinese coaches for their preparation camp for next year's South Asian Games in Pakistan.

"We have had some correspondence with two Chinese coaches -- one for the sprint event and another for jumping event --and the discussion is still going on a few terms and conditions," BAF general secretary Shah Alam told The Daily Star recently.

"We are hoping to finalise it in the sidelines of the World Athletics Congress during the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo," he said, adding that they have made the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the National Sports Council privy to all correspondences with the Chinese coaches, as they seek financial assistance from both organisations to rope them in.

The BAF's decision to chase the Chinese coaches follows the precedence set by a few other federations that have recently appointed foreign coaches to prepare their athletes for the next SA Games.

The BAF had begun its camp a couple of months ago with around 40 athletes. Recently, almost half of the athletes were dropped from the list and 18 new faces were added, including England-based sprinter Imranur Rahman, on the basis of performances in the recently-concluded Summer Athletics Championship (SAC).

Athletes of some men's events like pole vault, discus throw and marathon were added while shotput players were excluded.

Following the break after the SAC, the BAF preparation camp resumed last week at the National Stadium. However, service team athletes have not joined the camp and are expected to join after next month's Inter-Service Athletics Championship.

Alam also added that the federation has decided to send 400m hurdles' gold-winner Nazimul Hossain Rony to the World Athletics Championships to be held in Tokyo from September 13 to 21 after sprinter Imranur withdrew due to injury risk.

Imranur, who had suffered a hamstring injury during the 200m event in the (SAC), will be training in London for the SA Games in January with the federation likely to provide him financial support.



PHOTO: BANGLADESH KHO KHO FEDERATION

Action from the men's final of the National Kho Kho Championships at Paltan Ground yesterday where Bangladesh Ansar reigned supreme by winning both the men's and women's titles. The men's team defeated Chattogram District by eight points, while the women's side edged past Nilphamari District by just one point and six minutes.

## Hockey team finish sixth

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished sixth in the Men's Hockey Asia Cup following a 6-1 defeat against Japan -- their biggest defeat of the campaign -- in a place-deciding fixture in Bihar on Sunday.

The defeat leaves Bangladesh with the daunting task of facing a best-of three-match series against three-time Asia Cup winners Pakistan, who had opted out of the competition, for the lone remaining spot in World Cup Qualifiers. According to a source, that series might be held in Dhaka in October, although the official is yet to come.

Bangladesh had never faced Japan before in the Asia Cup but lost to them 5-0 in the 2021 Asian Champions Trophy and 7-2 in the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.


Japan scored two goals each in the first, third and fourth quarters while Bangladesh pulled one back five minutes from time,

with Amirul Islam scoring the consolation goal for Moshir Rahman Biplob's charges. Ryosuke Shinohara scored a hattrick for Japan, who finished fifth in the competition.

Bangladesh played five matches in the competition overall, losing three -- against Malaysia (1-4), South Korea (1-5), Japan (1-6) while beating Chinese Taipei (8-2) and Kazakhstan (5-1).

While the eventual outcome kept Bangladesh's tradition of finishing sixth for the third Asia Cup on the trot, it must be mentioned the tournament did not feature former champions Pakistan as well as Oman, one of the rivals of Bangladesh.

In fact, Bangladesh were not supposed take part in this competition after having failed to qualify for the first time, but they were allowed entry following Pakistan's withdrawal.



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

### TENDER NOTICE

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

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR RFP 1658	ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENT(S) FOR THE PROVISION OF INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL GENERATORS FOR UNHCR BANGLADESH

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/277260>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR RFP 1658 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

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

**Instruction to Bidders:**

UNHCR will organize an online supplier pre-bid conference on 15/09/2025 at 11:00 am hrs BST via Microsoft teams. Bidders may join the meeting by entering the below website: <https://teams.live.com/free/>

**select option # Join a meeting, enter below meeting ID & Passcode:**  
Meeting ID: 354 575 968 151 4  
Passcode: AK7aT2BE

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

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

**Bid submission deadline: Tuesday, 01 October 2025 – 17:00 hrs BST Bangladesh time.**

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



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### TENDER NOTICE

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## RAJBARI DARBAR SHARIF

# Seven held over vandalism and attack on police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested seven people in connection with the attack on law enforcers and vandalism of vehicles at the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, also known as “Nural Pagla”, in Rajbari’s Goalanda upazila.

The law enforcers made the arrests during drives on Saturday night following a case filed over the attack on police and vandalism, Md Rakibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Goalanda Ghat Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

They were produced before a court that sent them to jail, he added. Six of the arrestees were accused in the case.

Five of them were identified as Md Shafin Sardar; Md Masud Mridha; Hiru Mridha; Enamul Haque Jony; Kazi Apu; Haiat Ali Mridha; and Md Jibon Sardar – residents of different villages under the upazila.

The case was filed on Friday night by Sub-Inspector Selim Molla of Goalanda Ghat Police Station, accusing 3,000 to 3,500 unidentified people of obstructing police duties, attacking law enforcers, and vandalising vehicles.

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**Clockwise from top left: Umama Fatema, VP candidate from Swatantra Shikhharti Oikya; Abidul Islam Khan, and Shaikh Tanvir Baree Hamim, VP and GS candidates from Chhatra Dal; Meghmallar Bosu, VP candidate from Pratirodh Parshad, and Abu Shadik Kayem, VP candidate from Oikyaboddho Shikhharti Jote, engage with students on campus yesterday -- the last day of campaigning for the Ducsu elections slated for tomorrow.**

PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED

# Ducsu aspirants make last-minute push for votes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The environment at Dhaka University campus was festive yesterday -- the last day of campaigning for the Ducsu election to be held tomorrow, after a six year hiatus.

In their final efforts to reach out to students, the candidates from different panels distributed leaflets and manifestos on campus.

A total of 471 candidates will contest for 28 positions in the Ducsu election, while 1,109 are running for a total of 234 posts in the hall union elections. There are 18 dormitories, with 13 posts for each hall.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal candidates organised an oath-taking programme in front of the arts faculty, where around 200 candidates joined.

They made an eight-point pledge to ensure a joyful, liveable, and safe DU campus for every student.

“The hateful practices of the fascist era -- such as ‘gonoroom culture’, guestroom torture, forced political participation, and persecution for dissent -- will never return to our campus at any cost,” they pledged.

Other pledges included creating a safe and supportive environment for female students; ensuring that no outsiders can reside in the halls; securing affordable nutritious food, quality healthcare, and transport for all; protecting DU students from online threats; and transforming the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

# Tighten grip on law and order

## Govt directs local admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has directed the local administration to take a stronger stance in maintaining law and order while encouraging political unity ahead of the upcoming election.

It also decided to increase surveillance on flash processions and illegal gatherings.

**“The election will take place in the first half of February. No power on earth can stop this election.”**

**SHAFIQU ALAM**  
Press secretary to chief adviser

These directives followed a high-level meeting held at the chief adviser’s residence, Jamuna, yesterday, which assessed the overall security situation in the country.

Shafiqu Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, provided the details during a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy after the meeting.

He said strict instructions were issued to local authorities to become more active in addressing the rising incidents of unrest.

The government is also focused on restoring the political unity that existed among parties leading up to the July uprising. “Everyone has been urged to remain vigilant so that no new tensions arise in the lead-up to the election,” he said.

This directive comes after a violent incident on Friday in Rajbari’s Goalanda, where the darbar sharif of “Nural Pagla” was attacked, vandalised, and his body was exhumed and burnt.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Tarique Rahman to return soon

### Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman will return home soon, party’s Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

“On that day, all aspects of the country’s election process will be strengthened, Insha’Allah,” he said while addressing a discussion at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

“Campaigning is an integral part of the election, so half of it will be completed on that day.”

Salahuddin said Tarique’s return would be one of the most unforgettable and historic events in Bangladesh’s history.

He praised Tarique’s leadership, saying that through his talent, dedication, hard work, he has established himself at the top of Bangladesh’s political arena.

“We have worked closely with him in anti-fascism and other democratic struggles, and we have seen political maturity in him.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

# Israeli strikes hit school, tents in Gaza

## 21 killed; 5 more Palestinians, including three children, die of starvation

AGENCIES

Israeli forces yesterday continued to bombard Gaza, killing at least 21 people in strikes on a school, tents and a home, as five more Palestinians, including three children, starved to death in 24 hours.

Sohaib Foda was sleeping on a mattress in Gaza city’s Al-Farabi School when the attack took place. “I heard a thud, and a block fell on my face. My cousin’s daughter, who was sleeping here, got injured and fell beside me. Another block then fell on her head,” Foda said.

Mohammed Ayed, who witnessed the attack, said the school was hit by two rockets. He said teams were still working in the rubble to rescue missing people or recover their remains. “We have recovered two hands so far,” he said.

A number of Palestinians have been wounded when Israeli forces bombed a tent housing displaced people near Al-Wafa Hospital in Gaza city, an ambulance and emergency source said.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli settlers have assaulted a Bedouin family near the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah, after setting up a new illegal outpost in the area.

Two Palestinians were injured by settler gunfire during another attack on the Khamat al-Eis area in the town of Ash-Shuyukh, northeast of Hebron, reports Al Jazeera online.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army said two projectiles were launched yesterday from the Gaza Strip, with Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claiming responsibility for the rocket fire, which caused no casualties or damage.

“Two projectiles were identified crossing from the central Gaza Strip into Israeli territory,” the army said in a statement, adding that air raid sirens sounded in the area of Netivot, a town about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Palestinian territory.

The military statement said “one projectile was intercepted, and one fell

in an open area”.

In a separate development, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said yesterday that the war in Gaza could end if hostages were released and Palestinian group Hamas laid down its weapons, reports AFP.

Saar branded a recent international push to recognise Palestinian statehood a “mistake” and warned it could trigger an unspecified unilateral response, after reports that Israel plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

» Islamic Jihad launch two rockets at Israel

» Israel warns recognising Palestinian state could trigger ‘unilateral’ action

» Two hurt as Israeli settlers attack Palestinians in West Bank

# ‘Don’t let my son’s killers meet their families ever’

## Mother of July uprising victim pleads with ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mother of a teenage victim of last year’s July uprising yesterday pleaded with the tribunal not to grant those responsible for her son’s death the privilege of ever meeting their families.

“I have lost my son forever. I will not see him until Qayamat [the Day of Judgment]. I request you not to allow the killers of my son to meet their family members and children,” said Sanjida Khan Dipty, mother of 17-year-old Shahriar Khan Anas, breaking down in tears.

Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1, consoled her, saying, “We are also deeply dejected. We will try our best to ensure justice.”

Sanjida was testifying as the ninth prosecution witness in a case filed over the killings of six people, including her son, in the capital’s Chankharpu during the July uprising.

Anas, a student at Adarsha Academy in the city’s Gendaria, left behind a handwritten letter for her mother before joining protests on August 5, 2024.

Quoting from it, Sanjida said Anas had written, “My brothers, tying shrouds on their heads, are going to the procession for the sake of the future generation ... I have

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

# ‘Tiger’ Sabalenka turns a corner

REUTERS, New York

US Open champion Aryna Sabalenka may be nicknamed “The Tiger”, but her New York triumph on Saturday was less about raw aggression and more poise, as the world number one steadied herself and regrouped in key moments to claim a fourth Grand Slam title.



Determined to become the first woman since American great Serena Williams (2012–14) to defend her crown at Flushing Meadows, the Belarusian carried the weight of recent major setbacks to claim a 6-3, 7-6(3) win over Amanda Anisimova in the final and retain her crown.

After final defeats at Melbourne and Paris, and a Wimbledon semifinal setback against Anisimova, Sabalenka turned all that disappointment into fuel, earning the right to show up to her press conference in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



**A total lunar eclipse, also known as the “Blood Moon”, seen from the Sopa Lodge in the Samburu National Reserve in Northern Kenya yesterday.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Man beaten to death for ‘hurling stones’ at cement truck

## Police say Sajjad, who was mentally unwell, was tortured for hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A man was beaten to death for allegedly throwing stones at a cement factory truck in Narayanganj’s Siddhirganj upazila early yesterday.

The victim, identified as Sajjad Hossain, 30, was the son of Kamal Hossain, a poultry vendor from Noyapara in Adamjee. Sajjad, the eldest of four siblings, had dropped out of school after class nine.

Additional Superintendent of Police Md Hasinuzzaman told reporters that the incident took place at Crown Cement’s ready-mix concrete plant in Adamjee.

“Sajjad reportedly hurled stones at a truck of Crown Cement around 3:30am, breaking its windscreen. After that the truck driver, his assistant, and several workers on night duty caught him and took him inside the factory. They tortured him throughout the night.”

The factory workers later took Sajjad to Narayanganj 300-bed Hospital, where

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1