

Celebrities back Gen Z protests in Nepal

THE KATHMANDU POST ONLINE

Members of Nepal's Generation Z have taken to the streets yesterday morning to protest against corruption and government restrictions on social media. Their demonstration has drawn support from prominent artists and entertainers.

Actors Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansa Acharya publicly voiced their support on Facebook, backing the youth-led movement.

Acharya drew attention to the fragility of a recently paved road, questioning why public infrastructure funded by taxpayers fails so quickly. He wrote, "I wondered daily how this road could deteriorate so fast. I walked it daily but only thought about it. Today's youth, however, do more than just think—they ask questions. Why did it collapse? How? Who is accountable? This is just one example of the issues this generation raises. The voice we hear today is not against the system itself, but against the actions of leaders and officials responsible for it."

He urged leaders to improve their performance and pass responsibilities to the younger generation, noting that today's youth expect more accountability. Shrestha echoed the sentiment. Singer and actor Prakash Saput encouraged two brothers, Sunil and Sachin, to join the protests, noting on Thursday that he had sent them Rs25,000 each from YouTube earnings. He advised them to distribute the money for water, stay hydrated, remain disciplined, and not tire themselves by acting all at once.



(Clockwise from left) Demonstrators gather near the Parliament during a protest against corruption and the government's decision to block several social media platforms, in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. One protester is seen jumping from the Parliament gate, while another hurls a tear gas shell toward riot police officers.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Indonesia replaces minister after protests

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto yesterday removed Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati in a cabinet reshuffle following deadly anti-government protests across the country.

Sri Mulyani is an influential figure who once served as managing director of the World Bank and was finance minister under three different presidents. Her house was ransacked during the recent protests over lavish perks for lawmakers.

Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa, an economist who previously served as the chief commissioner of the Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation, was appointed as her successor, according to a presidential decree.

Nearly 600 people are still in detention following the protests, police said.

Prabowo did not give any reason for Sri Mulyani's removal from the cabinet.

US sanctions won't shift Russia's path

Says Kremlin on Ukraine war; Russian forces attack power station in Kyiv region

REUTERS, Moscow

The Kremlin said yesterday that no sanctions would ever force Russia to change course in the Ukraine war, hours after the United States and the European Union indicated they were considering additional economic restrictions.

The West has imposed tens of thousands of sanctions on Russia over its 3-1/2 year-old war in Ukraine and its 2014 annexation of Crimea in a bid to hobble Russia's \$2.2 trillion economy and undermine support for President Vladimir Putin.

Putin says the Russian economy, which has grown faster than those of G7 countries and defied Western predictions of a crash, not least thanks to spending on the war effort, has endured well. He has ordered businesses and officials to defy the sanctions in every way they can.

"No sanctions will be able to force the Russian Federation to change the consistent position that our president has repeatedly spoken about," Peskov told Kremlin reporter Alexander Yunashev.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he was ready to move to a second phase of sanctioning Russia, the closest he has come to suggesting he will tighten sanctions against Moscow or those who buy its oil.



EU Council President Antonio Costa said new European Union sanctions were being closely coordinated with the US. Meanwhile, Russian forces struck a thermal power generation facility in the Kyiv region as part of an overnight attack, Ukraine's energy ministry said yesterday, provoking localised blackouts and gas outages.

The strikes followed a day after Moscow's largest air attack of its three-and-a-half year war on

Ukraine. "The goal is obvious: to cause even more hardship to the peaceful population of Ukraine, to leave Ukrainian homes, hospitals, kindergartens and schools without light and heat," the ministry wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

It added that rescuers and technicians were working on site yesterday. Russia's defence ministry confirmed that it had hit Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

Moscow has regularly bombed Ukraine's energy facilities since it launched its full-scale invasion in 2022, causing massive blackouts in previous years.

Ukraine's electricity grid operator Ukrrenergoprojekt said yesterday that Russia had attacked power infrastructure in several regions of Ukraine, which had caused localised blackouts.

Mykola Kalashnyk, the governor of Kyiv region, said the attack had damaged the local gas grid and that over 8,000 properties in eight settlements would be disconnected from their gas supply over the next two days as repairs were carried out.

Resist all forms of protectionism Xi calls on BRICS countries

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday called on BRICS countries to safeguard the multilateral trading system and resist all forms of protectionism as he addressed a virtual summit of the group, state media Xinhua reported.

Xi also urged BRICS nations to tap into their own advantages and deepen cooperation in various fields including trade and economy, finance and technology.

"The closer the BRICS countries cooperate, the more confidence, options, and effective results they will have in addressing external risks and challenges," Xi was quoted as saying.

It is imperative for the world that economic practices are fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit, India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar said in the virtual summit.

Pak police arrest dozens at protest over suicide attack

AFP, Quetta

Police arrested at least 60 people and fired tear gas in Pakistan's poorest province during a strike yesterday, as protesters demanded accountability over a suicide attack claimed by the Islamic State.

Businesses shut and demonstrators took to the streets across more than a dozen cities in Balochistan in response to a September 2 bombing at a political rally that killed 15 people.

In provincial capital Quetta, police arrested protesters blocking a road and fired tear gas to disperse them. "The government has already warned the protesters

that although they have their democratic right to protest peacefully, they have no right to force people to be off the roads or disrupt the vehicle traffic and force the people to close their businesses," a senior police official told AFP.

Balochistan, a turbulent province on the border with Iran and Afghanistan, is regularly the scene of violence, often carried out by jihadists from the regional branch of the Islamic State, IS-Khorasan, as well as by IS Pakistan or Baloch separatists.

Ahead of the strike, the Balochistan National Party (BNP) urged the public to unify across political, tribal and class lines to demand those behind the attack to be exposed.



Total literacy elusive after Tk 4,000cr spent

FROM PAGE 1

concept of reading, writing and counting skills. It encompasses the ability to identify, interpret, create and communicate in an increasingly digital, text-driven, information-rich and fast-changing world.

Literacy is attained through formal education and adult literacy programmes, but in Bangladesh, the focus has largely remained on the former, with the latter receiving less attention.

Since 1991, successive governments have undertaken multiple efforts to eradicate illiteracy, with the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) implementing at least nine projects ranging from basic and post-literacy to non-formal education schemes.

The first project, taken up in 1991 by the BNP government, cost Tk 10.7

crore. When the project was discontinued in 1997, Bangladesh's literacy rate stood at 51 percent, up from 35.2 percent when it was taken up, according to Education For All Progress Report Bangladesh-2012.

In the meantime, the government in 1995 formed the Directorate of Non-Formal Education. Four more projects were implemented under DNFE before it was transformed into BNFE in 2005.

After the Awami League came to power in 1997, it took up the "Total Literacy Movement" project.

However, the BNP government cancelled the project in 2003 on allegations of irregularities and mismanagement. The BNP government instead took up the Basic Literacy Project in 2004, targeting working children (10-14 years) in urban areas.

The BNFE spent around Tk 2,912 crore on the projects, according to BNFE officials, EFA Progress Report of Bangladesh 2012, and Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the planning ministry.

Then in 2014, the AL government took up the Basic Literacy Project, and in 2018, a Tk 1,320 crore project to provide non-formal education to 9 lakh children who are either school dropouts or have never attended school.

In September 2023, the government launched a pilot project titled "Skill-Based Literacy for Out-of-School Adolescents (SKILFO)" in Cox's Bazar.

Under the project, completed this June, 6,825 adolescents received literacy and technical training in 13 occupations and more than 6,000 of

them were linked to jobs.

Now, the BNFE is preparing two more projects.

Based on the experience of SKILFO, it has prepared "SKILFO-2" project that will be implemented in 16 districts at a cost of Tk 460 crore if approved by the government.

The other project titled "Alternative Learning Opportunity" will be launched in one upazila with low literacy rates in each of the 64 districts.

The three-year-long project worth Tk 188 crore is expected to commence in October if approved.

Educationists, however, are sceptical about eradicating illiteracy with such a project-based approach.

"All literacy initiatives have followed a piecemeal approach, which means that the drive ends when

the project expires," said noted educationist Rasheda K Choudhury.

Literacy should be planned as part of the broader education system, not treated as a short-term intervention.

She also cast doubt on the accuracy of Bangladesh's literacy rate, saying the previous government raised the figure by two percentage points each year, which hardly reflected the ground reality.

"If this [interim] government relies solely on such data without taking the actual ground situation into consideration, it leaves us deeply frustrated."

Rasheda, also the executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, stressed the need for designing a long-term, integrated literacy programme that spans

early childhood through adulthood, ensuring continuous learning opportunities across all age groups.

Contacted, Devabrata Chakraborty, director general (additional charge) of BNFE, said: "We are no longer focused only on literacy. Now we are more focused on functional literacy."

Mentioning the SKILFO project, he said it is often difficult to bring students who dropped out back to formal schools. For them, flexible learning has been introduced: 100 hours of literacy lessons with 360 hours of vocational training.

The goal is to fully realise the objectives of SDG 4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, Chakraborty said.

London's Tube network shuts

Workers begin week of strikes

REUTERS, London

London's Tube network came to a standstill yesterday as its workers began a week of strikes over pay and working conditions, disrupting travel for commuters and tourists in the British capital.

Almost no London Underground trains are expected to run between yesterday and Thursday. Additionally, the Docklands Light Railway, which connects the financial centres of Canary Wharf and the City of London, will not run today and Thursday.

Londoners reported making longer journeys to get to work yesterday morning, with many choosing to cycle and others taking detours.

"The prospect of it being all week, it's a bit of a nightmare... it's probably taken me twice as long to get in this morning," said legal counsel Laura Sutton, 46, who was near London Bridge station.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
"BSC Bhaban", Saltgola road, Chattogram.
REF: 18.16.0000.373.02.265.25 Date: 07.09.2025

Re-Tender Notice

S.L No.	Tender ID	Name of the Tender	Tender Closing & Opening Time & Date
1	COMC-07092025 DATED: 07.09.2025 REF: 18.16.0000.373.03.265.25	BADC-265// INTERNATIONAL LIMITED FREIGHT RE-TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF 2ND LOT OF 40,000 MT (+/- 10%) DAP FERTILIZER IN BULK FROM FANGCHENG PORT, CHINA AND DELIVERY IN 50 KG NET BAG TO TRANSPORT AGENT LOCATED AT CHATTOTGRAM AND SHIROMONI GHAT (KHULNA) VIA OUTER ANCHORAGE OF CHATTOTGRAM PORT (A/B/C ANCHORAGE), BANGLADESH AND/OR HARBARIA, MONGLA PORT, BANGLADESH AS PACKAGE BASIS (RATIO: CTG & MONGLA : 40%:60%) LAY CAN 11-15 SEPTEMBER, 2025 A/C BADC.	09.09.2025 11:30 HRS (LT) & 09.09.2024 11:35 HRS (LT)

Website address: Detail information & tender document will be available in the website of www.bsc.portal.gov.bd.

Capt. Md Mozibur Rahman
General Manager (Chartering)
Phone: 031-728269
E-mail: gcm-cht@bsc.gov.bd

GD-1961

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE Survivors refuse to return to villages, fearing landslides

REUTERS, Masud

Haunted by the fear that aftershocks could bring rocks crashing down from the mountains, survivors of Afghan earthquakes vowed not to return to destroyed villages but camp in fields and on riverbanks instead, even without tents to keep off the rain.

"We have no shelter, not even a tent," said 67-year-old farmer Adam Khan, leaning on a stick outside his ruined home in the village of Masud

in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar. "It rained last night, we had no place to take cover," he added. "Our biggest fear is the big rocks that could come down at any moment."

Two earthquakes since around midnight on August 31 killed more than 2,200 people and injured over 3,600 across the region, flattening thousands of homes, while aftershocks brought fresh landslides, leaving families trapped between unstable mountains and swollen rivers.

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

ইংরেজি ২০২৬ সালের জন্য ২০,০০০ (বিশ হাজার) পিস
খামসহ ৮,৫০,০০০ (আট লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) দেয়াল
ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র)

কাজের নামঃ Printing and Supplying of 8,50,000 (Eight Lac Fifty Thousand) Pieces of Wall Calendars & 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) Pieces of Envelopes.

টেন্ডার রেফারেন্সঃ 2025/96 Date: 07/09/2025

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্য সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর Website www.sonilbank.com.bd এর Tender Board এ রয়েছে।
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