



Shibir leading in top two Ducsu posts

Counting going on till 2:45am report; turnout 78% in polls marked by festivities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed vice-president candidate Abu Shadik Kayem was leading the Ducsu polls in six out of 18 halls of Dhaka University.

The results announced by the presiding officers of respective halls showed that Shadik won a total of 5,676 votes while his nearest candidate Abidul Islam Khan, from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel, got 1,509 as of filing this report at 2:45am today.

The total number of votes from Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, Amar Ekushey Hall, Fazlul Huq Hall, Kabi Sufia Kamal, Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall and Shamsunnahar hall is 15,324. Around 78 percent of



Shadik Kayem (VP)



SM Farhad (GS)

39,775 votes were cast.

Meanwhile, Shibir-backed general secretary candidate SM Farhad was leading in three halls, polling 2,019 votes. JCD-backed Tanvir Barea Hamim was second in line with 810 votes.

Both Shadik and Farhad contested the polls under "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" panel. Shadik is immediate past president of Shibir's DU unit while Farhad currently holds the post.

Meanwhile, thousands of Dhaka University students and candidates waited anxiously for the announcement of the Ducsu election results until 2:30am today, over 10 hours since votes were cast in the much-anticipated polls.

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Smoke rises from the parliament complex as protesters set fire to it during a curfew in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Gen Z-led protests topple Nepal govt

PM resigns; horrific scenes as protesters defy curfew, torch parliament, ministries, homes, offices of politicians and parties

AGENCIES

Nepali youth protesters yesterday set parliament ablaze as Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli obeyed furious crowds to quit, a day after at least 19 people were killed in one of the crackdowns in country's history.

Protesters flooded the streets of Kathmandu, some jubilant and celebrating, others setting fire to government buildings and brandishing automatic rifles.

The rapid descent into chaos shocked many, and Nepal's military warned against "activities that could lead the country into unrest and instability" in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people.

Protests began on Monday with demands that the government lift a ban on social media and tackle corruption, with police trying to crush the rallies -- including using live ammunition, according to Amnesty International.

Yesterday, despite the government rolling back its order and the apps returning online, protests reignited, spreading from the capital to multiple cities nationwide.

"The Nepal government has fallen, the youth have won the protest," said key protest figure Sudan Gurung, in a post on newly-restored Instagram. "The future is ours."

The unrest is the worst in decades in the poor Himalayan country, which is wedged between India and China and has struggled with political and economic instability since protests led to the abolition of



- Protesters demand end to graft, nepotism
- Prominent politicians assaulted; airport shut
- UN, India urge calm; Nepal army call for restraint
- Social media ban lifted after 19 killed in clashes
- Dhaka urges citizens in Nepal to stay safe
- India tightens security along Nepal border

its monarchy in 2008. Since then, the country has seen 13 governments.

Young Nepalis have for years been frustrated at the lack of jobs, and millions have gone to work in the Middle East, South Korea and Malaysia, mainly on construction sites, and send money home.

A key trigger for the protests, say activists and experts, has been a growing perception that the families

of the ruling elite live lives of relative luxury in an otherwise poor nation, exposing deep inequalities.

On Nepali social media, the term "nepo kids" -- a play on nepotism -- was viral in the weeks leading up to Monday's protests. The term is commonly used to refer to the children of top government officials and ministers.

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Smiling students show their cards as they wait in a queue to cast their vote at Dhaka University's TSC centre during Ducsu polls yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Some allegations in otherwise smooth voting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voters stood in long queues in blazing September heat yesterday, eager to cast what was, for most, the first ballot of their lives.

From Curzon Hall to Udayan Higher Secondary School, polling centres teemed with students, the campus buzzing with festivity despite scattered allegations of irregularities and rival panels trading charges throughout the day.

The long-awaited polls began at 8:00am and continued till 4:00pm across eight centres. The Daily Star correspondents stationed on the ground observed that voting remained largely peaceful and orderly.

At Udayan, covering 6,169 voters from four halls, ballot boxes had been shown empty to polling agents and journalists before voting began. Within the first hour, around 900 ballots were cast.

Students took an average of 7-8 minutes to fill 41 Ducsu and 13 hall

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A new breed of politics may take shape

Says former Ducsu GS Mushtuq Husain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mushtuq Husain, who was elected Ducsu general secretary in 1989, expects the rise of a new generation of politics in Bangladesh in the wake of this year's central student union polls in Dhaka University.



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PSC working to cut BCS recruitment time to 1 year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission is working to reduce the duration of recruitment process from three and a half years to one year, under the slogan "One BCS, One Year," in an effort to establish a merit-based and discrimination-free institution.

Its member Prof Chowdhury Saima Ferdous said they want administrative independence and full autonomy of the organisation to achieve this target.

The PSC eyes to achieve the one-year target by adopting measures including a customised circular system, an in-house printing press, an assessment centre, a revised syllabus, enhanced question confidentiality, capacity

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People rush towards a TCB truck offering a limited supply of essential commodities at subsidised prices. In the scramble, an elderly man stumbles and falls. With market prices still high, many from lower-income groups find themselves in a desperate bind. The photo was taken on the capital's Abdul Gani Road yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Women's unpaid labour worth Tk 570,000cr

Says BBS report with data from 2021

NILIMA JAHAN

Women in Bangladesh carried out an estimated Tk 570,000 crore worth of unpaid household and care work in 2021, according to the country's first Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA).

Unpaid work overall was valued at Tk 670,000 crore, which is equivalent to 18.9 percent of the country's GDP -- with women performing 85 percent (16.14 percent of GDP) of this labour, according to the report, which was released yesterday.

The monetary value of unpaid household work alone stood at Tk 400,000 crore, with women contributing Tk 340,000 crore.

Meanwhile, unpaid care work was valued at Tk 270,000 crore, with women responsible for Tk 230,000 crore alone.

Men's contribution remained significantly lower, totalling around Tk 100,000 crore.

Prepared by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UN Women Bangladesh, with support from the global Women Count programme and technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the HPSA draws on data from the Time Use Survey 2021 and the Labour Force Survey 2022.

The initiative followed the interim government's pledge in 2025-26 fiscal year's budget to integrate unpaid labour into official GDP calculations.

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- Unpaid work in 2021 valued at Tk 670,000cr
- Women's share 85% of total, 16.14% of GDP
- Women spend 7.3 times more time than men on unpaid work



(From right, anti-clockwise) A protester, wearing a police vest and holding a riot shield, celebrates the ouster of the Nepali government in Kathmandu; flames rise from the burning Singha Durbar office complex that houses the Nepali prime minister's office and other ministries; and a protester wields a firearm during protests in the Nepal capital.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Democrats share Trump's 'birthday note' to Epstein White House rejects it

REUTERS, Washington

Democrats in the US House of Representatives on Monday made public a birthday letter Donald Trump allegedly wrote to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein more than 20 years ago, though the White House quickly denied its authenticity.

The letter, the existence of which was reported by the Wall Street Journal in July, appears to have been signed by Trump, but he has denied doing so and has said it does not exist.

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released the letter after Congress received the 2003 "birthday book" from Epstein's lawyers. The letter is dated three years before allegations of sex abuse by Epstein became public in 2006.

Later on Monday, Republicans who control the Oversight Committee released hundreds of pages of documents turned over by Epstein's lawyers, including the full "birthday book," Epstein's will and his 2007 non-prosecution agreement with prosecutors in Florida.

The birthday letter contains text of a purported dialogue between Trump and Epstein in which Trump calls him a "pal" and says, "May every day be another wonderful secret." The text sits within a crude sketch of the silhouette of a naked woman.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Taylor Budowich denounced the release, saying the signature on the letter was not Trump's and alluded to Trump's lawsuit against the Journal's parent company, News Corp.

Shibir leading in top two Ducsu posts

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A tense situation prevailed on the campus with a large number of supporters of candidates from various panels gathering in and outside Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban from where the final results were set to be announced. The building's conference room was fully packed, with candidates and supporters chanting slogans.

Students and supporters of different candidates were also seen in front of all polling centres and major points, including TSC and Shahbagh. Many of them expressed frustration over the delay in announcing the result even 10 hours after the end of voting across eight centres. "We have been hearing that the results would be announced soon, but there is no such thing coming. How long does it take to announce the results?" said Akramul, a student of Amar Ekushey Hall.

Around 1:45am, authorities in charge of different centres started announcing results. DU officials said the final result will be declared after the centre authorities finish their result announcements.

Explaining the delay, Prof SM Shamim Reza, returning officer at the Udayan School centre, told reporters around 11:00pm last night that voting was completed at 4:00pm and all ballot boxes had to be brought to a central location afterwards, which took another hour.

"Then the ballots had to be processed, sorted, and extracted -- this sorting is taking considerable time because the ballots were marked in various ways," he said, adding that the ballots for the hall union elections were being scanned first, and one set of Ducsu had also been scanned.

"Based on what our technical team is saying, it could go past midnight."

Yesterday's voting was mostly peaceful, except scattered allegations of irregularities. The atmosphere remained electric as groups of students rallied behind their preferred candidates, engaged in debates, and made last-minute decisions before stepping into the polling booths from

early morning.

Ten correspondents and photographers of The Daily Star reported that students turned out in large numbers from 8:00am to 4:00pm across eight designated centres.

Alongside the central student union, votes were also cast for hall representatives. There were 471 candidates vying for 28 Ducsu posts and 1,035 for 234 posts in 18 hall unions.

Meanwhile, the DU administration last night announced that no classes or exams will be held today.

For 13 days, the campus buzzed with vibrant campaigning, colourful leaflets, and fiery debates as candidates vied for the Ducsu elections -- long seen as one of the country's most influential student bodies and a launchpad for national leadership.

However, supporters of various candidates were seen distributing campaign material at entry points, violating the electoral code, annoying many voters.

For many, especially first-time voters, the day was more than just about casting a vote -- it was a rite of passage into civic participation. "I was too excited to sleep last night. This is my first time voting in a democratic environment," said Imdadul Haque, a Muktioddha Ziaur Rahman Hall student, at the Udayan School centre.

A second-year student from Ruqayyah Hall said, "We want winners who'll stand up for the rights of general students and uphold academic interests, not pursue political agendas."

As the day progressed, voter numbers rose. Some braved the heat, waiting in line for nearly an hour.

VOTER TURNOUT

According to returning offices, the highest turnout was recorded at Surya Sen Hall, with 88 percent, followed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall at 87 percent and Kabi Jasimuddin Hall at 86 percent.

Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall witnessed 68.39 percent turnout and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall saw 67.08 percent turnout, the lowest rate.

DU authorities could not immediately provide the voter turnout of the previous elections since independence, but former Ducsu candidates and student politics historians said turnout in yesterday's polls was significantly higher.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, twice-elected VP in 1979 and 1980, said turnout in his time was about 60 percent. Professor MM Akash, a 1982 GS candidate, recalled participation above 50 percent.

Public health expert Mohammad Mushtuq Husain, elected GS in 1989, said turnout hovered around 60 percent in both 1989 and 1990.

The last Ducsu polls in March 2019, held after 28 years, saw 59.5 percent turnout.

Historian Mohammed Hannan described yesterday's turnout as highly encouraging, reflective of students' strong preference for democracy.

He noted the election timing -- a year after the student-led July uprising -- inspired many, especially women, to vote. He recalled turnout was also high in the first Ducsu election in 1972 after Liberation.

The Ducsu was formed in 1922, a year after the university was founded. Its mission was to promote cultural activities and foster cooperation among students across dormitories.

Over time, it became one of the most powerful and historically influential student bodies in the country, often termed as a launching pad for future national leaders.

Women's unpaid labour worth Tk 570,000cr

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The HPSA highlighted the economic importance of unpaid domestic and care work, including cooking, cleaning, laundry, household management and caregiving for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and those with health conditions.

Despite being essential to the functioning of families and the economy, this work has long remained invisible in national accounts.

Women spend 7.3 times more time than men on unpaid and care work, according to the BBS Time Use Survey 2021.

The HPSA report also provided a breakdown of the top unpaid activities by gender.

For women, these are food and meal management and preparation (Tk 240,000 crore), children and instruction (Tk 220,000 crore), and cleaning and maintaining their own dwelling and surroundings (Tk 47,000 crore).

For men, the top activities are: shopping for their household and family members (Tk 15,200 crore), children and education (Tk 34,300 crore), and travelling, moving and transporting (Tk 12,600 crore).

Nubayra Jehen, programme analyst at UN Women Bangladesh, set the context for the report using

a care calculator, a tool that allows individuals to measure the time they spend on unpaid household and care tasks and their economic value, both daily and annually.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the HPSA marks a milestone for women's dignity and empowerment.

"For years, we have stressed that women support society in countless ways, yet their efforts often went unnoticed and unmeasured. That recognition has finally come now."

"Through our advocacy, and with my personal engagement with the finance adviser, a commitment was made that was even highlighted in his budget speech. I believe it will not only transform women's position within the family but also strengthen their dignity in society," she added.

The report underscored the urgent need to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work. It called for the establishment of an inter-ministerial mechanism to integrate unpaid work into laws and policies, prioritising care in national budgets and development strategies, and engaging the private sector to promote decent care jobs and family-friendly workplace policies.

It also emphasised the importance of sustained financing and regular data collection on unpaid work,

and challenging social norms by encouraging men and boys to share care responsibilities.

Women and Children's Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid said this research will inform gender-responsive policymaking, planning and budgeting going forward.

"The care economy demands a different value system. Evidence and data are critical tools for shifting mindsets, and this takes time."

To ensure recognition of women's unpaid work, an inter-ministerial coordination framework needs to be established at the national level, she added.

UN Women Representative Gitanjali Singh said the persistent undervaluation of care work reflects deep-rooted gender inequalities and entrenched social norms, leaving women's contributions largely uncounted in traditional economic measures.

"Care is not a cost -- it's an investment. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and uphold the spirit of CEDAW and the SDGs, we must reaffirm our commitment to a future where women's work -- paid or unpaid -- is fully recognised, valued and supported for a more just, equitable and prosperous Bangladesh," she said.

Some allegations in otherwise smooth voting

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union ballots, though many took longer, leading to long queues by midday.

Delays were particularly notable at booths designated for Jasimuddin Hall, prompting Returning Officer and House Tutor Mohammad Rashed Alam Bhuiyan to urge voters to complete voting within the usual time. One student was caught filling a ballot outside the secret booth and was warned. By 2:45pm, 4,900 votes, 79.4 percent of the registered voters, had been cast, rising to at least 84 percent by day's end.

Breaches in conduct were noted around noon, including candidates distributing leaflets or holding voters' belongings while they cast their votes.

The VP candidate nominated by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), along with VP and GS candidates from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel, voted at this centre.

At Curzon Hall, three polling rooms were designated for 5,055 students from Amar Ekushey, Fazlul Haq, and Shahidullah halls. While students waited patiently in long queues, campaigners lined the entrance, forcing voters to walk through them, causing congestion and delays. Many campaigners shouted at voters to support their candidates, violating the election code of conduct.

Fazlul Haq Hall Returning Officer Al Amin said, "We've been trying to bar the campaigners from obstructing the voters. But they aren't listening."

He lamented a lack of plan in controlling the crowd of campaigners. Authorities later roped off areas in Shahidullah Hall to reduce congestion, yet campaign materials and ballot numbers were found scattered across all rooms.

VP candidate Umama Fatema posted a photo on social media showing a list of candidates, which she said was being distributed outside the polling centre designated for Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Hall. "On one side is the list of candidates of the Oikyabaddho Shikharthi Jote supported by Chhatra Shibir, and on the other side is the list of candidates contesting the hall union election, identifying themselves as independents. Rumour is that this list was scattered under the desk of the polling booth," she wrote.

Abdul Qader, VP candidate from the "Boishommo Birodhi Shikharthi

Sangsad" panel, alleged a lack of discipline, claiming that ballots had been pre-filled. A similar incident occurred at Amar Ekushey Hall, leading to the removal of a polling officer.

Shibir-backed VP and GS candidates Shadik Kayem and SM Farhad alleged that the JCD panel and polling officers stuffed ballots. Farhad said, "We saw that the JCD and the polling officers were stuffing papers pre-filled with votes for all of their candidates. When we alerted the administration, they took action."

The returning officer described the incident as an "unintentional mistake". He explained that one voter was mistakenly given six sets of ballot papers instead of five and filled them all. "When the next voter arrived, the polling officer mistakenly gave them the previously filled-out ballot paper. That's where the misunderstanding began," he said. The officer involved was later removed from duty.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan said, "A minor incident occurred at Curzon Hall due to an error. We took immediate action. Nevertheless, we will investigate and take measures if anyone is found responsible. We hope both winners and the defeated will accept the results and acknowledge the transparency."

Speaking to reporters, independent candidate Rupaiya Shrestha Tanchangya claimed one voter from Ruqayyah Hall told her that she received a pre-filled paper at table number one.

Polling officer Rumana Parvin also acknowledged the case. "After coming out, a female student complained that her paper already had votes cast in favour of two candidates. She was then given a new ballot paper," she said.

The Physical Education Centre, hosting voters from Salimullah Muslim Hall, Jagannath Hall, and Zahurul Haq Hall, recorded turnouts between 82.44 percent and 84.56 percent.

Teachers and officials ensured order by intervening promptly when disputes arose. Some candidates were campaigning near the gates, and shortly after 2:00pm, a Jagannath Hall candidate accused a rival of campaigning inside a booth, but these incidents did not escalate.

Three observer teams monitored the centre. One of the observers, Prof Asif Shahan told The Daily Star, "The voting environment was acceptable and peaceful, with no major

irregularities."

Prof Samina Luthfa, present throughout the day, said around 2:30pm, "Voting is going smoothly."

JCD-backed VP candidate Abidul Islam said his panel submitted 12 formal complaints to the university authorities.

At booths for Ruqayyah Hall, he alleged, there were pre-marked ballots for Shibir-backed candidates. "A female student coming out of the polling centre alleged that the ballot they were given already had cross marks beside the names of Shadik Kayem and SM Farhad. The same thing also happened at booths for Amar Ekushey Hall," he said, adding, "Probably many other ballots had been marked in advance."

After voting ended, JCD President Rakibul Islam submitted complaints to the VC, claiming Jamaat Shibir members were gathering to "carry out criminal activities". In a heated exchange, he warned, "If any incident occurs, Jamaat and the VC will be responsible."

VC Prof Niaz said he was not aware of any such gatherings and refuted claims of inaction.

Shibir-backed and independent candidates alleged they were barred from entering polling centres, while Abidul had unbarred access. Farhad said, "When we raised the issue with the Chief Returning Officer, he told us at 1:30pm that we too would be allowed access."

A Daily Star correspondent saw Abidul enter the Physical Education Centre. Though the returning officer initially said this violated the code, he later retracted his statement.

The University Teachers' Network described the election as participatory. Prof Gitiara Nasreen said, "Apart from minor irregularities, we did not feel the election was unacceptable."

Prof Samina Luthfa noted gaps in transparency. "Mismanagement remained... Passes for polling agents did not reach all parties on time. Slowdowns occurred at Jagannath Hall and TSC. Cross-marked ballots were found at two centres. The process of appointing polling officers was opaque."

Despite these issues, voting proceeded largely smoothly, with teachers, officials, and observers ensuring order. Students participated enthusiastically, marking the Ducsu polls as one of the most participatory in recent memory.

A new breed of politics may take shape

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Pointing to the large turnout and the presence of independent candidates, he expressed hope for the future of student politics: "If elections like this are held regularly at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University, and others, then student politics will gain momentum. Political parties can enrich themselves if they correctly interpret the mindset of the students," he told The Daily Star last night.

The similarity between the Ducsu election during his time and this year's one, he said, is how participatory and competitive it was. "The difference is that in our time, we held the election amid a mass movement against military rule. But this time, it was held in a post-uprising phase."

He added that during their time the established student organisations dominated the entire election process, including setting the agendas, but this time, a large

number of new, independent, and recently formed student groups have entered the scene. "Some of them have already turned into political parties. This is something new and outside the traditional political trend."

"Another difference is the huge participation of female students. Compared to the past, it was significantly higher this time. Though female students are still not proportionately represented, their participation this time was much better than before."

In the aftermath of the July uprising, he said, students are no longer invested in conventional political activities. They want to create a new political space as existing parties -- especially those that have ruled the country for long periods -- are failing to deliver. "Progressive parties still exist, but their organisational base has shrunk, so students don't fully trust them either. If they cannot organise effectively, others will attract support."

Mushtuq also said, "In Sri Lanka, the progressive forces made mistakes, but the younger generation's aspirations were captured successfully by new actors through democratic processes. In Nepal too, youth movements against the monarchy brought major change."

"In Bangladesh, the same is possible. If political forces keep their eyes and ears open, without clinging to rigid ideologies, and if regular student elections are ensured, then politics will be shaped by fresh student voices. Otherwise, if elections are manipulated or results are rejected, students' distrust in mainstream parties will only grow. That's why the existing student organisations and their parent political parties must handle the election results responsibly."

He warned, "If they fail to act responsibly, the same weaknesses exposed during the 2024 uprising will surface again."



DUCSU POLLS AFTER SIX YEARS... With enthusiasm and excitement, students of Dhaka University thronged the university campus yesterday as the long-awaited Ducusu election was held after six years. Voting began at 8:00am across eight centres on the campus, with nearly 40,000 registered voters and 471 candidates contesting 28 central posts. Students waited in queues, cast their ballots, and roamed the campus with friends to witness the election festivity. The balloting took place in 810 booths amid tight security and continued until 4:00pm. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Candidates make final push ahead of Jucusu polls



JU CORRESPONDENT

The 12-day campaign for the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucusu) and hall elections, which began on August 29, ended yesterday.

The long-awaited election will take place tomorrow from 9:00am to 5:00pm, marking the first Jucusu election in 33 years since 1992.

A total of 620 candidates are contesting 340 posts across the central and hall unions, including 448 men and 172 women.

For the 25 central union posts, 179 candidates are in the race — 132 men and 45 women.

An analysis shows nearly 60 percent of hall posts are either uncontested or vacant. Out of 315 positions across 11 male and 10 female dormitories, 131 are uncontested and 68 remain vacant.

There are 11,919 registered voters, including 6,102 men and 5,817 women.

With women making up almost half of the electorate, most panels pledged

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Will rise above party lines to work for all

Jucusu VP candidate Sheikh Sadi tells *Star*

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Sheikh Sadi Hasan, vice president candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel in the Jucusu election, has pledged to ensure that the culture of guestrooms and gonorooms never returns to the campus if he wins.

The Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sadi, president of the Chhatra Dal unit of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall, said he was nominated as his organisation found him capable.

"Chhatra Dal has always carried out student-friendly activities across institutions. Students have benefited from our initiatives, which is why I believe they will vote for me," he said.

"Over the past 15 years of fascist rule, guestrooms and gonorooms [common rooms] plagued educational institutions. My top priority will be to make sure this toxic culture never returns. I will prove this

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Want to adopt a structural master plan for JU

Jucusu GS candidate Sharan Ehsan tells *Star*

ABU TALHA

Mohammad Sharan Ehsan, general secretary candidate for the left-leaning "Sampriti Oikya" panel in the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election, will work to include the election schedule and dates in the academic calendar to ensure continuity if elected.

The Jucusu election, scheduled for tomorrow, is being held for the first time in 33 years, since 1992.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sharan, a student of the Department of Drama and Dramatics, said he decided to contest after receiving trust and encouragement from fellow students and well-wishers.

"In their opinion, just as there was a lack of trust in Chhatra League or Awami League before August 5, many political parties and organisations also failed to retain students' trust afterwards. But cultural activists like us have always been seen as a place of trust," he said.

Confident about his chances, Sharan

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Will work to build a student-friendly campus

Jucusu VP candidate Arifullah talks to *Star*

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Arifullah, the vice president (VP) candidate of the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Samannito Shikkharthi Jote panel in the Jucusu polls, has pledged to resolve session jams and build a student-friendly campus, if elected.

The Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election is scheduled for September 11.

He also expressed a strong stance on holding Jucusu elections regularly.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Arifullah, a student of the Pharmacy Department, said, "Our first pledge is that Jucusu elections must be held every year. We will try our best to ensure that Jucusu is implemented annually."

Speaking about problems faced by students, he said, "Many departments are suffering from severe session jams. For example, in Pharmacy, it takes seven years to complete a five-year honours degree. Around 10-11 departments face the same issue."

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77 percent pregnant, postpartum women face depression, anxiety

Finds icddr,b study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pregnant and postpartum women in the country face serious mental health challenges, according to a recent study by icddr,b's Advancing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (AdSEARCH) programme.

The study found that 77 percent of women visiting health facilities during pregnancy or after childbirth were diagnosed with depression or anxiety, with 66 per cent experiencing both conditions simultaneously.

Conducted between 2022 and 2025 across seven district and sub-district hospitals, the research observed 7,500 women.

Common symptoms included mood swings, fatigue, sleep disturbances, agitation, lack of concentration, and suicidal thoughts. Anxiety symptoms such as nervousness, restlessness, and fearfulness were also widespread.

The findings of the study, titled "Enhancing Access to Mental Health Service Through Telemedicine Health Service at Wellbeing Centre in Bangladesh",

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand Wellbeing Centres
- Increase govt investment in mental healthcare
- Ensure implementation of Mental Health Act and Policy
- Prioritise follow-up care for women receiving counselling
- Address mental health as a national development priority

were presented at an event at icddr,b headquarters in Mohakhali yesterday.

At the programme, experts said mental health issues during pregnancy and postpartum not only affect mothers' well-being but also raise the risk of serious physical complications and even suicide.

Bangladesh faces a severe shortage of mental health professionals, with only 260 psychiatrists and 565 psychologists

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A protest rally at the capital's Shyamoli Park yesterday demanded protection of the Sundarbans from pollution caused by coal-fired power plants in various coastal districts. Organised jointly by Dhoritry Rokkhaiy Amra, Bangladesh Krishok Federation, Riverine People, and 17 other groups, the event called for urgent action to safeguard the Unesco World Heritage site.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Man arrested over murder of CoU student, mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police yesterday arrested a man in connection with the murder of Comilla University student Sumaiya Afrin and her mother, Tahmina Begum.

The suspect, Mobarak Hossain, 29, a khadem (caretaker) of a local madrasa in Kaliarjuri, was identified from CCTV footage, according to Cumilla District Police.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Nazir Ahmed Khan said Mobarak frequently visited the family, performing "spiritual healing". On the day of the incident, he stayed at their home for nearly two hours.

At one stage, when Tahmina went into another room, Mobarak attempted to rape Sumaiya. As her mother witnessed the attempt, Mobarak suffocated her with a pillow and killed her. He then strangled Sumaiya, police said.

After the killings, he stole four mobile phones, a laptop, and chargers, fleeing with them in a bag.

Police arrested him from the Durgapur area on the outskirts of Cumilla while he was attempting to escape by train. All the stolen items were recovered from his possession.

"The suspect has confessed to the murders. The case will be properly investigated based on the postmortem report and his confession," SP Nazir Ahmed told journalists at a briefing yesterday afternoon.



Vehicles struggle to move through waterlogged streets in Khulna city after just an hour of continuous rain left roads submerged, causing severe inconvenience to residents. The photo was taken from Royal Mor yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Chhatra Union faction declares panel for Rucsu election

RU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra Union has announced that it will contest the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu) election under the panel titled "Aparajeyo 71, Oprotiroddho 24".

The announcement came yesterday noon at the Transport Market premises on the campus, where the panel was declared by Masud Kibriya, president of the faction.

Out of the 23 central posts, the panel is contesting in eight.

Masud Kibriya, a student of the Department of Theatre (2018-19 session), has been nominated for the post of vice president (VP); Parama Parmita from the Department of Fine Arts (2018-19 session) for the general secretary (GS) position; and Sanjid, from the Department of Fine Arts (2019-20 session) for assistant general secretary (AGS).

Kibriya currently serves as president of the RU unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Parama as the unit's general secretary, and Sanjid as a general student representative.

77 percent pregnant, postpartum women face depression, anxiety

FROM PAGE 3

nationwide, mostly based in urban areas, making access to care difficult in rural regions, they noted.

The study also evaluated Wellbeing Centres providing tele-mental health counselling. Women who received online sessions reported the service as safe, helpful, and effective, though follow-up attendance remains low.

Additional research

presented at the event showed that 4-5 percent of reproductive-aged women nationwide suffer from moderate to severe anxiety or depression, with higher rates in disaster-prone regions.

The study also highlighted the impact of cyberbullying on adolescent girls, which significantly increases the risk of depression.

Among those affected, 31 percent had severe

depression, nearly four times higher than girls who were not bullied.

Experts called for the expansion of Wellbeing Centres, increased government investment, and wider implementation of tele-mental health services to ensure all women in Bangladesh have access to care.

Professor Dr Saeba Akhter said, "Mental health is not given the

same importance as physical health. For women, this problem is even more severe. To progress as a nation and an economy, we must collectively focus on mental health."

Kazi Delwar Hossain, additional secretary of the health ministry, outlined government priorities, stressing proper implementation of the Mental Health Act and Policy.

Candidates make final push ahead

FROM PAGE 3

women's empowerment and a gender-friendly campus during their campaigns.

On the last day of campaigning, candidates actively spent a busy day reaching out to voters at TSC, the central library, Murad Chattar, Bot Tola, and other busy spots.

In the evening, they visited residential halls to meet students.

At Bot Tola, Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal-backed VP candidate Sheikh Sadi Hasan said, "We are getting huge support. We are confident of a historic victory on September 11."

Independent VP candidate Abdur Rashid Jitu, campaigning at Murad Chattar, said, "I'm hopeful. I will win by a large margin."

JCD-backed general secretary candidate Tanzila Hossain Boishakhi, campaigning at the

campus Shaheed Minar, said she would work to eliminate gender discrimination. "I am the only female candidate for this post and expect strong support from female halls," she added.

Touhid Siam, GS candidate from the Shikharthi Oikya Forum panel backed by Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, campaigned in the male dormitory areas in the afternoon to mark the end of electioneering.

"I want to keep Jucusu active, if elected," he said. There were also allegations of violations of the election code of conduct on the last day of campaigning.

Left-leaning partial panel Sangshaptak Parishad, backed by Chhatra Union and Chhatra Front, alleged cash distribution during the campaign.

Female joint secretary candidate Sohagi Samia said, "Cash is being widely distributed, but the commission has remained silent despite violations of the code of conduct."

On the election day, the university administration will deploy 1,200 police, including plainclothes officers.

Proctor and Election Commission member secretary Prof Rashidul Alam said the army has also been requested as a striking force.

Meanwhile, the university authorities conducted mandatory dope tests for all Jucusu candidates at the medical centre yesterday."

Several candidates criticised the timing, saying it disrupted campaigning. GS candidate Touhid Siam said, "The results will take time, and there is no scope for appeal. Why contest this on the last day?"

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Sohel Ahmed, however, said the arrangement followed a request from the Election Commission and candidates participated

willingly. ANANNYA WITHDRAWS, AMARTYA RAY LOSES CANDIDATURE

Independent GS candidate Syeda Anannya Fariya withdrew her candidature yesterday.

At a press briefing held at the university Shaheed Minar, she said, "I stand for equality and cultural unity. For greater unity among those who believe in the spirit of the Liberation War of 1971 and the 2024 mass uprising, I am stepping down."

Meanwhile, Amartya Ray, a VP candidate from the left-leaning Sampriti Oikya panel, will not contest the polls after the Supreme Court chamber judge stayed a High Court order that had directed the JU authorities to allow him to participate.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, passed the order following a petition filed by JU's vice chancellor challenging the High Court decision.

JU's lawyer Shishir Manir told The Daily Star that the SC chamber judge stayed the HC order because Amartya is an irregular student and therefore cannot contest the Jucusu election under the relevant law.

Earlier in the day, the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Bishwajit Debnath had directed the JU authorities to allow Amartya to contest the polls as a vice-president candidate. The directive came after Amartya filed a writ petition challenging the cancellation of his candidature by the JU authorities.

He filed the petition yesterday.

The Jucusu election commission had originally cancelled Amartya's candidature on September 6, eight days after the publication of the final candidate list.

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 10

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

70 rare parrots rescued in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Benapole

In a joint operation, the Forest Department, local administration, and police have rescued 70 rare species of parrots in Chuadanga.

The incident took place near the Dingedah Oil Pump area of the district town on Monday evening.

According to police and witnesses, around 200 parrots -- locally known as hiramon parrots -- were being smuggled in an auto-rickshaw.

Acting on a tip-off, environment officials intercepted the vehicle. The smugglers, however, managed to flee, abandoning the auto-rickshaw.

Inside a cage, authorities found 70 parrots, which were later released in a safe area in the presence of the Forest Department, local administration, and local residents.

Sadar Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Ashish Montaz said the birds were being smuggled to India.

Shahin Sarker, a local environmental activist, said large numbers of these parrots migrate to border areas during the month of Bhadra, making them easy targets for poachers. "Each bird is sold for Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000," he added.

The Forest Department and local authorities have urged the public to comply with the Wildlife Conservation and Security Act, 2012.



Journalist dies while covering Ducsu election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist died yesterday while covering the Dhaka University Central Students' Union election at Curzon Hall on campus.

The deceased was identified as Tarikul Islam Shibli, 40, who worked as a city reporter for Channel S Television.

He fell ill while reporting on the Ducsu polls and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Quoting duty doctors, Inspector Md Farouk, in-charge of DMCH Police outpost, said the journalist died of a cardiac failure. His body has been kept at the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Shibli hailed from Ebarpur village under Cumilla's Burichang upazila. He was residing in Uttara, along with his wife and two daughters, reports BSS.

USED VEHICLE FOR SALE
Nissan X-Trail 2015 (1 unit, 2000 CC)
Inspect by appointment: 10-15 Sep (+8801313-209012)
Submit sealed offers by 16 Sep with 10% refundable deposit.
Company may accept/reject any offer.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Resilience Urban and Territorial Development Project
Kaligonj Pourashava, District: Jhenaidah, Bangladesh
Memo No. KALI/Poura/RUTDP/2025/422 Date: 09/09/2025
e-Tender Notice: 01/2025-2026(NOTM)
e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
1142612	RUTDP/KAL/2024-25/W-01	(1) Improvement of Ganna Ponds Road from H/o. Rawshan to Ganna Road via Shop of Siddique (Ch 0+00 to 1+350m), (2) Improvement of Murgi Hat to Kola Huta Road (Ch 0+00 to 0+870m) & (3) Improvement of Kashipur Road from House of Md. Siraj Islam to Rokonpur Road (Ch 0+00 to 0+905m) via House of Md. Jalil Mia under Kaligonj Pourashava, Jhenaidah.	10-Sep, 2025 at 12.00am	13-Oct, 2025 at 12.00am

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

Signed
Md. Kabir Hassan
Executive Engineer
Kaligonj Pourashava
District: Jhenaidah

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Narsingdi
www.eed.narsingdi.gov.bd
Memo No. 37.07.6800.000.101.18.25.1015 Date: 08/09/2025
e-Tender Notice No. 08/2025-26
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work, details is given below.

S. L	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID & procurement method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	EED-NAR-SHED-7016-BMNC-01/2025-26	Construction of Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st and 2nd Floor) Including Sanitary, Water Supply and Electrification Works of Birsrestho Motiur Nagar College at Raipura Upazila, Narsingdi District.	1149051 (OTM)	24-Sep-2025 16:00	25-Sep-2025 13:00
2	EED-NAR-SHED-7016-ALGNKHS-02/2025-26	Construction of Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st and 2nd Floor) Including Sanitary, Water Supply and Electrification Works of Akanagar Lieutenant General Nuruddin Khan High School at Monohardi Upazila, Narsingdi District.	1149052 (OTM)	24-Sep-2025 16:00	25-Sep-2025 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<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 as mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Zahid Karim
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Narsingdi
Email: ee_nor@eedmoe.gov.bd

Rupali Bank PLC
Procurement Division
Head Office
Eunoos Trade Center (Level-14), 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Telephone: +8801789706550; e-mail: ho-procurement@rupalibank.org ;
Website: www.rupalibank.com.bd

Invitation for Tender
Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Ref. No: Proka/Prokibi/Meca/2025/1684 Invitation No: Mechanical/OTM/2025/31 Dated: 09.09.2025

Name of work	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Price of Tender Document (Non-Refundable)	Tender Security (Refundable)	Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF VRF TYPE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM OF 01 SET 204000-216000 BTU/HR COOLING CAPACITY FOR OUTDOOR UNIT AND 03 SET 12000-12500 BTU/HR, 02 SET 22500-24000 BTU/HR, 02 SET 46000-48000 BTU/HR COOLING CAPACITY FOR INDOOR UNIT AT NIKUNJA CORPORATE BRANCH, DHAKA OF RUPALI BANK PLC.	23.09.2025 up to 4.00 PM	BDT 2,000.00 (Two Thousand Taka Only)	BDT 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Taka Only)	24.09.2025 Time: 3:15 PM

Note: Details in Rupali Bank PLC Web Site: rupalibank.com.bd

Signed
(MD. TAJUDDIN MAHMUD)
Deputy General Manager
Rupali Bank PLC
Eunoos Trade Center (Level-14)
52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

China silent on exit of Nepal ex-PM Oli

Russia closely monitoring situation, advises its citizens to observe caution

AGENCIES

China has yet to officially react to the fall of Nepalese prime minister K P Sharma Oli, regarded as its steadfast ally, and the prevailing violent student movement against the political class of Nepal.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency carried a brief report of Oli's resignation and news of protests breaking out in Nepal on Monday in Kathmandu and other parts of the country.

Russia is closely monitoring the situation in Nepal, its embassy in Kathmandu said yesterday as it advised its citizens to observe caution in the wake of massive anti-government protests in the Himalayan nation.

The Russian Embassy in Kathmandu said it is constantly monitoring the situation, adding that its citizens are safe, state-owned TASS news agency reported.

The embassy is geared to arrange the safety of its citizens, it said. However, there are no plans to evacuate its diplomatic staff, it added.



Smoke billows from the Supreme Court building, set ablaze by protesters in Kathmandu yesterday; protesters walk with looted items from Singha Durbar, the main administrative building of the Nepal government; and young people celebrate after the fall of the government in Nepal.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Four killed in Indian Kashmir clash

AFP, Srinagar

Two suspected rebels and as many soldiers were killed during a two-day clash in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said yesterday.

The gun battle started Monday in forests in southern Kulgam in the disputed territory when soldiers launched a search for armed militants after receiving a tip-off.

It triggered a "fierce exchange of gunfire" over two days leading to the deaths, the army's Chinara Corps said on social media.

"#IndianArmy expresses deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families" of the slain soldiers, the statement added.

The identities of the militants were being investigated.

Muslim-majority Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947, and both claim the territory in full.

Rebel groups have waged an insurgency against Indian rule since 1989, demanding Kashmir's independence or its merger with Pakistan.

Russian strike kills at least 24 pensioners

Zelensky slams strike on civilians, urges allies to put more pressure on Moscow

REUTERS, Yarova

A Russian airstrike killed 24 elderly people who were collecting pensions in a village in eastern Ukraine, officials said yesterday, prompting President Volodymyr Zelensky to urge Kyiv's allies to increase pressure on Moscow to end its war.

Russian troops have pressed a grinding offensive across much of the eastern Donetsk region as diplomatic efforts to achieve peace in the 3-1/2 year-old war have largely stalled.

Zelensky said a guided bomb had struck the village of Yarova, about 15 miles (24 km) from the city of Sloviansk, a Ukrainian stronghold, and several kilometres behind the front line.

"Directly on people. Ordinary civilians. At the very moment when pensions were being disbursed," he wrote on X alongside footage showing bodies strewn across the ground.

Twenty-four people were killed and another 19 people were wounded, the State Emergency Service said. All of the dead were elderly, said regional governor Vadym Filashkin.

"The world must not remain silent," Zelensky said. "The world must not remain idle. A response is needed from the United States. A response is needed from Europe. A response is needed from the G20."

Hours after the morning attack, workers were still digging through debris and personal items littered

across a yard. A small black cell phone rang unanswered.

"Who's left here? All pensioners and old folks," said local resident Vasyly Nehodyuko, 65. "There's no one else."

He added that he saw what he described as a reconnaissance drone fly



overhead before the strike.

Russia did not immediately comment on the attack. Moscow has denied targeting civilians, but tens of thousands have died since its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Last week, a Russian airstrike near the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv killed two people from a Danish-sponsored humanitarian demining mission.

"Is this what Russia means when it talks about peace? When will Russia stop killing people?" wrote European Council President Antonio Costa on X.

PHONE-TAPPING Pakistan spying on millions

Says Amnesty

REUTERS, KARACHI

Pakistan is spying on millions of its citizens using a phone-tapping system and a Chinese-built internet firewall that censors social media, in one of the most comprehensive examples of state surveillance outside China, Amnesty International said.

The rights watchdog said in a report released yesterday that Pakistan's growing monitoring network was built using both Chinese and Western technology and powered a sweeping crackdown on dissent and free speech.

Already restricted political and media freedoms in Pakistan have tightened in recent years, particularly after the military broke with then-Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022, who was later jailed and thousands of his party activists were detained.

Pakistan's spy agencies can monitor at least 4 million mobile phones at a time through its Lawful Intercept Management System, while a firewall known as WMS 2.0 that inspects internet traffic can block 2 million active sessions at a time, Amnesty said.

SOARING TENSIONS WITH TRUMP Venezuela deploys troops to borders



AGENCIES

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said he had deployed 25,000 troops along the Caribbean coast and the border with Colombia amid soaring tensions with US President Donald Trump.

In a message Sunday night on social media Maduro said he had deployed "25,000 men and women from our glorious National Bolivarian Armed Forces" to the frontier with Colombia and the northeast coast, where the country's biggest oil refineries are situated.


The deployment aimed to ensure "the defense of national sovereignty, the security of the

country and the fight for peace," he added.

He did not expressly refer to Trump, who has cited the need to combat Venezuelan drug traffickers particularly in ordering the biggest naval buildup in the Caribbean in years, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told sailors and Marines on a warship off Puerto Rico on Monday that they were not deployed to the Caribbean for training but instead sent to the "front lines" of a critical counter-narcotics mission.

Hegseth's remarks came during a surprise visit along with the top US general to Puerto Rico amid escalating tensions with Venezuela.



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

E/M DIVISION-4, KURMITOLA, DHAKA.


File No. 30.31.0000.414.07.001.25/192 Date: 09-09-2025

e-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) For the procurement of following goods:

Sl. No.	Name of Tender	Tender ID	Tender Package No.	Last date & Time of selling	Last date & Time of closing
01	Procurement of different Capacity Energy Saving Bulb, LED Flood Light, 100 Watt Street Light, Ceiling Fan etc i/c other necessary E/M Works at SMA Rajshahi.	1148415	GR- 01 Code-3258107-SMA RAJSHAHI	23-Sep-2025 16:00	24-Sep-2025 12:00
02	O & M of E/M works at Barishal Airport. During the year 2024-2025 (S,H: Rewiring & fitting /Fixture, light, Fan, switch, Socket, MDB, SDB etc of Rest house, H-Type Building, New Ansar brick, New Fire at Barishal Airport.)	1132522	30.31.0000.000.40 1.31.0194.25.1032	23-Sep-2025 16:00	24-Sep-2025 12:00
03	Providing, fitting/fixing 5 Ton Air Condition Machine (Departmental supply) Departure Laung at Barishal Airport.	1130420	30.31.0000.000.40 1.31.0094.25.562	23-Sep-2025 16:00	24-Sep-2025 12:00
04	O & M of E/M works services at Barishal Airport, Barishal. During the year 2024-2025 (S,H: Carefully checking, testing, repair & maintenance works for 2 x 150 KVA Engine Generator set at Barishal Airport.)	1130771	30.31.0000.000.40 1.31.0193.25.1020	23-Sep-2025 16:00	24-Sep-2025 12:00
05	O & M of E/M works services at Ishurdi airport During the year 2024-2025 (S,H: Providing & Replacement of LT panel & Laying of cable for T/B & R/A in/c other works at Ishurdi Airport)	1123087	30.31.0000.401.31 .0159.25.760	23-Sep-2025 16:00	24-Sep-2025 12:30

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 is required. The fees, for downloading the e-tender document from the national e-GP system portal, have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in national e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Jahangir Arif)
Executive Engineer (E/M)
E/M Division-4, CAAB, Dhaka.

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.৪১.০০১.২৫/৪১৪
তারিখ: ০৯/০৯/২০২৫ খ্রি.

GD-1971



Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রুতী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করন উদ্ধাচার চর্চা করি সমৃদ্ধ সোনার বাংলা গড়ি বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No. 28.16.9100.098.07.013.25/104 Date: 09/09/2025

Invitation for International Tender

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources /EMRD
02. Agency	: Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (PETROBANGLA)
03. Purchaser name & district	: Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. (JGTDSL), Sylhet.
04. Invitation for	: Procurement of Diaphragm Meter & Rotary Meter.
05. Invitation Ref. No. & date	: 28.16.9100.098.07.013.25/104; Date: 09/09/2025
06. Procurement method	: Open Tendering Method [ICT]
07. Budget & source of fund	: JGTDSL's own fund
08. Tender publication date	: 10/09/2025
09. Tender selling start date	: 11/09/2025
10. Tender selling last date	: 26/10/2025 (During office hours on all working days.)
11. Tender closing date & time	: 27/10/2025, 11-00am (BST)
12. Tender opening date & time	: 27/10/2025, 11-10am (BST)
13. Name & address of the offices	
(i) Selling tender document	: i) Liaison Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd, Petrobangla, Petrocenter (13th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. ii) Cash Counter, Gas Bhaban (1st Floor), JGTDSL, Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
(ii) Receiving tender	: Committee Room, Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), JGTDSL, Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
(iii) Opening tender	: Committee Room, Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), JGTDSL, Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
14. Eligibility of tenderer	: (i) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of gas pipeline materials. (ii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of gas meter of at least 01 (One) contract successfully completed within the last 05 (Five) years with a value of at least Euro 1,00,000.00 (Euro one lac) or equivalent currency. (iii) The valid ISO 9001:2015 certificate regarding manufacturing of meter in favour of the manufacturer. (iv) Type Approval certificate of the meters in favour of manufacturer as per OIML guideline from the International Legal Metrological Institute/authority. (v) All other detailed Terms & Conditions are given in the Tender Document.
15. Brief description of goods	: Diaphragm Meter (3/4" and 1" dia): 615 Nos. Rotary Meter (2" dia): 75 Nos.
16. Price of tender document	: BDT 2,000 (non-refundable)
17. Location	Sylhet, Bangladesh
Tender security amount	BDT 4,80,000.00 (Taka four lac eighty thousand) or USD 3950.00 (US Dollar three thousand nine hundred fifty) or EURO 3400.00 (EURO three thousand four hundred) or equivalent currency.
Delivery period	90 (ninety) days from the date of L/C opening to hand over the materials to shipping agent at the port of loading.
18. Name, designation & address of the official inviting tender	: Engr. Mohammad Sarwar Jahan Mahmud, General Manager (Planning & ICT Division), Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh. E-mail: gm_planning_ict@jgtdsl.gov.bd , Tel. No. 02997700612

The purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

Engr. Mohammad Sarwar Jahan Mahmud
General Manager
Planning & ICT Division

GD-1970

Judiciary must reduce its case backlog

Persistent judge crisis requires urgent interventions

It is alarming that the administrative needle on judge recruitment is not moving fast enough, despite the sheer crisis of judges, sufferings of justice seekers, and recent efforts to strengthen the judiciary so that it can function better. According to a report by this daily, Bangladesh has 2,307 judges for 18 crore people—or one judge for every 78,023 citizens—giving it one of the lowest judge-to-population ratios in South Asia. For context, India has one judge for every 68,775 citizens, Nepal one for every 63,000, and Sri Lanka one for every 55,000, as per data from Law Lab. Pakistan and Afghanistan, understandably, fare worse, while the Maldives and Bhutan maintain far higher ratios.

The effects of such a crisis cannot be overstated. In Bangladesh, this is a major factor behind its staggering backlog of 46.52 lakh cases—with each judge handling an average of 2,016—meaning that millions remain trapped in prolonged legal limbo. The severity of the problem is further illustrated by the fact that the Appellate Division has only seven judges handling a total of 37,000 cases. Without urgent action to recruit more judges and overhaul or strengthen the existing judicial infrastructure, trust in the justice system cannot be restored. Ongoing efforts have left a lot to be desired, however.

Although 25 judges were recently appointed to the High Court Division, bringing its strength to 113, several currently remain on leave or sidelined from judicial duties. Moreover, the newly appointed judges have yet to start presiding over benches. These problems compound one another, as the huge backlog of cases makes it extremely difficult to secure hearing dates even for urgent cases. It's worth recalling that the Judiciary Reform Commission suggested raising the number of lower court judges to at least 6,000 from around 2,000. According to sources, there are plans to appoint judges to the lower courts through the Judicial Service Commission, with the appointment of around 100 said to be in its final stages. These initiatives, along with the formation of 13 monitoring committees comprising High Court judges, are meant to keep the backlog at a manageable level.

However, given the scale of the shortage and the mounting caseload, much more needs to be done, and faster. As an expert has said, at least 1,000 judges should be appointed within the next few months both in higher and lower courts, and there should be a centralised system for prioritising cases based on urgency with strict time limits for hearings. One also hopes that the recent High Court ruling—restoring the Supreme Court's authority over the transfer, posting, and discipline of lower court judges, and forming a separate judicial secretariat—will lead to better administration and stronger accountability. But change will not materialise automatically; it will require sustained effort to ensure meaningful reforms that can finally address our crippling backlog, among other problems.

Rein in mob attacks before the election

Frequent lynchings and crimes call for stronger law enforcement

We are disturbed by the persistent occurrence of mob violence in the country. Between January and August this year, there have been 124 deaths from mob attacks as per data from Ain o Salish Kendra. Continuing this trend, just days after a mob exhumed and set fire to the body of a self-proclaimed spiritual leader in Rajbari, three lynchings occurred this Monday, raising doubt about whether government initiatives in addressing this type of violence are at all working. According to a *Samakal* report, in Dhaka's Mohammadpur, a young man suspected of mugging was killed. In Narayanganj, an alleged robber met the same fate, and in Moulvibazar, a man was lynched for attempting to steal an auto-rickshaw. In each case, ordinary citizens took the law into their own hands.

While there can be no justification for such crimes, it can be said that people often take part in mob violence when they lose confidence in law enforcement to prevent crimes. Indeed, crime statistics by Bangladesh Police show an upward trend in theft and burglary cases between March and July. Crimes like murder, abduction, and robbery continue to persist. Alarming, many areas in the capital, too, have become notorious for crime, including brutal muggings. Recently, Mohammadpur made the headlines as the tyranny of teen gangs forced several residents to leave their homes and shift elsewhere. Similarly, Narayanganj made the news because of the activities of highway robbers. Yet, police response continues to frustrate citizens.

Police are evidently still on edge following last year's uprising and its violent aftermath. They often shy away from taking action during mob violence. In fact, there have been at least two recent instances when police came under planned attacks. But the attackers have not been arrested yet. Meanwhile, the army, which was given magistracy power last year to address law and order issues when the police force was not fully functional, has not been effective in controlling mob violence either. At a press conference on Monday, an army official acknowledged this, saying that they are often called in too late to intervene.

These shortcomings from responsible agencies are only fuelling public frustration. The country's worsening economic conditions—rising poverty, food prices, and unemployment—are also creating desperation and consequently leading to increasing mob formation. Furthermore, certain groups are exploiting politics and religion to stir up violence. To address this multi-dimensional crisis, the interim government also needs to adopt a multi-dimensional approach to restore order. Visible and decisive actions are essential to rebuild confidence in the rule of law and ensure stability ahead of the national election.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

First test of Large Hadron Collider

On this day in 2008, the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful particle accelerator, conducted its first test operation. The machine allows physicists to test the predictions of different theories of particle physics and to try to figure out the build of the universe.

Article 116 restored: Judiciary's long road back to itself



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KHAN KHALID ADNAN

Recently, the High Court did what generations of lawyers, scholars and, frankly, frustrated litigants wanted the constitution to do for itself: it restored the Supreme Court's authority over postings, promotions, and discipline of the subordinate judiciary, and directed the creation of a separate judicial secretariat within three months. Delivered on September 2, the ruling resolved a previously issued ruling on the matter. This is more than an administrative rejig, however. It's a structural reset that aims to take the lower benches out of the shadow of the executive and put them back where the 1972 constitution intended—under the guardianship of the Supreme Court.

To understand its significance, follow the text. Article 116, as it stood until recently, vested "control" of the judicial service in the president, exercised "in consultation with the Supreme Court." That soothing phrase—"consultation"—enabled decades of executive leverage over careers and discipline in the lower

For so long, executive 'consultation' with the Supreme Court—too often a one-way memo—has been the quiet mechanism for signalling who should rise and who should stall in the lower judiciary. That mechanism is now constitutionally suspect. Expect resistance dressed up as 'efficiency concerns,' but also expect a more credible judiciary if the Supreme Court uses its restored power with transparent criteria and published reasons in place of back channel choreography.

courts. By declaring parts of Article 116 unconstitutional and void, the High Court has hollowed out that leverage and returned the locus of control to the Supreme Court. It is not radical



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

restoration; it is restitution of the original constitutional design.

The ruling also completes a narrative arc many of us were taught but rarely saw honoured in practice. The original constitution placed the control of the subordinate judiciary with the Supreme Court. The Fourth Amendment in the mid-1970s diverted that control to the president, and the familiar "in consultation with the Supreme Court" compromise locked in a long stalemate. The recent landmark judgment breaks that stalemate in favour of judicial independence.

The court's order to set up a separate secretariat is the operational hinge on which this decision will swing. Without an autonomous administrative backbone—with its own HR, budgeting, and postings pipeline—"control" is performative. With a neshuti and discipline. With a secretariat, the Supreme Court can align articles 109 (superintendence of the High Court Division), 115 (appointment framework), 116 (control and discipline), and 116A (independence of judicial officers) into a single chain of accountability. That is how separation of powers becomes separation of payrolls and postings, which is how independence is actually lived.

This moment also converses with the *Masdar Hossain* line of cases—the jurisprudence that dragged the separation of the judiciary from PowerPoint aspiration to policy reality in 2007. That "formal" separation was a watershed, but it was never complete so long as Article 116 kept a handbrake in the law ministry. This historic ruling picks up where *Masdar Hossain* left

hands off the scales of justice.

None of this erases the hard implementation questions, however. Article 115 still makes the president the appointing authority "in accordance with rules." Those rules now need urgent alignment with a Supreme Court-led control regime so that appointments, postings, promotions, and discipline form one coherent pipeline. If the law ministry still writes the rules while the Supreme Court tries to run the shop, we'll get institutional whiplash and, worse, forum-shopping for influence. The High Court's three-month notice for a separate secretariat is a deadline that should discipline the bureaucracy and the bench alike.

There is also a blind spot we should call out. For years, "mobile courts" and executive magistracy have blurred the line between administration and adjudication. Even after the 2007 separation, those arrangements handed slices of judicial power back to the executive in the name of expediency. The present ruling will not fix that by itself. But it gives the Supreme Court a stronger footing to police those edges and insist that judicial functions—where liberty and property are on the line—remain within the judiciary. If we are serious about independence, we cannot keep exceptions that eat the rule.

The other lesson is institutional humility. This verdict curtails executive overreach, but it equally demands that the Supreme Court earn the trust it now holds. That means building a meritocratic postings and promotion matrix, publishing disciplinary outcomes with reasons, and insulating case assignments from factional pull. It also means confronting performance bottlenecks in the lower courts with data, not folklore—budgeting for more judges and staff, digitising cause lists, and standardising case management. A separate secretariat is only as good as the governance culture it embeds.

Let's be candid: Bangladesh has oscillated between constitutional text and political expediency for half a century. This judgment marks a much-needed return to the framers' architecture: the High Court's superintendence is not decorative; the Supreme Court's control of the judicial service is not optional; and independence is not a poetry word to be recited on anniversaries. If implemented with urgency and transparency, this ruling can finally stitch together the doctrinal wins of *Masdar Hossain* with the practical machinery the lower judiciary deserves. The executive will still wield enormous power, as it should in a functioning state. It just won't be able to reach, quite so easily, into the careers of the judges who must sometimes tell it "no."

Digital wages can unlock women's economic power

Stefan Liller is resident representative at UNDP Bangladesh.

L. Nshuti Mbazzi is managing director at United Nations' Better Than Cash Alliance.

STEFAN LILLER and L. NSHUTI MBAZZI

Bangladesh's garment factories once marked payday with long queues and thick bundles of cash. Today, in many of those same factories, wages land in workers' mobile wallets with a single tap. This quiet shift from cash to digital wages is doing more than speeding up payroll. It is opening accounts, building credit histories, and giving millions of women greater control over their earnings. Among Bangladeshis who have a bank account, 78 percent used digital payments in 2024, evidence that usage follows access.

The country's economic rise is undeniable. Its GDP increased from just over \$100 billion in 2009 to more than \$450 billion in 2024. Yet, prosperity has not kept pace with everyone. Less than 40 percent of Bangladeshi women participate in the labour force, and most who do are in informal and insecure employment. Over half of the world's unbanked adults—which is 53 percent or more than 650 million—live in just eight economies, including Bangladesh.

Nationally, according to the 2025 World Bank Global Findex, 34 percent of adults made or received a digital

payment in 2024, while 11 percent saved and 13 percent borrowed formally. Basic connectivity exists as 82 percent own a mobile phone, but only 44 percent use the internet. Closing the gender gap in financial inclusion could add an estimated 14 percent, or around \$50 billion, to the national output. Much of today's growth is driven by the RMG sector, which exports apparel worth close to \$40 billion and employs more than 40 lakh people. Yet, many of these workers still receive wages in cash, leaving them outside formal finance.

These women, often unseen and unheard, are the invisible engine powering Bangladesh's exports. Every day, they craft the garments that hang in shop windows from Stockholm to Sydney. Most are young. Studies suggest that the majority are 29 years old or younger, yet for decades, their labour was paid in the least empowering way possible: in cash, handed out under fluorescent lights, overseen by male supervisors, and later often handed over to their husbands or other male family members.

A 2019 public-private pledge—to digitise 90 percent of garment wages and the rapid push that followed during Covid—proved what is possible. At the pandemic's peak, 82 percent of factory wages were paid digitally, phone ownership among female workers in supported factories jumped to over 90 percent, and savings account use more than doubled. When incentives ended, some factories reverted to cash, but the lesson was clear: with the

right ecosystem, paying wages electronically works.

However, progress in Bangladesh and in South Asia remains uneven. Among account owners, women's adoption of digital payments lags behind men's across the region by 15 percentage points. A recent review of garment payrolls in Bangladesh and the National Digital Payments Roadmap shows that uptake is high for receiving wages but low for saving, spending, or borrowing. Nearly half of the workers resist cash-out fees, and cost-sharing rules remain unclear.

Weak onboarding and patchy merchant acceptance push many users back to cash. Discomfort at agent points affects one in three women, while women-led micro and small enterprises still face disproportionately high loan rejection rates. Closing these gaps through clearer fee policies, consumer-first design, stronger merchant networks, and targeted digital literacy are critical areas for support.

Bangladesh's next transformation lies in the informal economy. Beyond the loom and needle, 78 lakh small and medium enterprises—employing 2.1 crore people—offer enormous potential. Yet, a large share of them remains unregistered, unbanked, and offline. Women lead many of these ventures, balancing budgets and managing micro shops, but often remain invisible to formal finance.

Building an inclusive digital economy already aligns with Bangladesh's broader development priorities: stronger financial

ecosystems, greater resilience, and increased opportunities for women and young entrepreneurs. Digital wages are only the first step. Pairing them with skills training, safe savings products, and access to markets turns digital payments into a pathway out of poverty.

Several small-scale programmes in climate-affected districts show what is possible. When low-income women received short-term jobs paired with savings groups and mobile wallets, household incomes nearly tripled, and mobile payment use reached almost universal levels. Scaling such community initiatives, backed by evidence, can turn today's isolated successes into national progress and keep Bangladesh on course to meet its 2030 ambitions.

By 2030, digital finance could be near-universal in Bangladesh, but only if every common payment flow runs on responsible, interoperable rails. The task now is to move from access to active use, especially for women workers and women-led businesses, by fixing frictions in the last mile and making digital the path forward.

It is time to scale what is working. Tracking progress on the three core World Bank Global Findex indicators—account ownership (43 percent), digital payment use (34 percent), and the women's account gap (20 percentage points)—would make inclusion targets concrete and comparable. Implementing the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2022-2026) and monitoring progress across sectors will be key.

When the state falters, the streets make the rules



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BOBBY HAJJAJ

Every morning now begins with a negotiation. Will the university gates open for classes or chaos? Will Shahbagh hold under the slogans and horns, or collapse into confusion? Will the thin line between rally and riot stay thin, or snap? Bangladesh is living through what I call daily un-governmentality—an everyday sense that order is temporary, bargained over by megaphones and hashtags.

Recently at Chittagong University, clashes between students and locals left hundreds injured; classes were closed, and Section 144 imposed, before the campus choked on tear gas and rumour. Around the same time, engineering students—Buet and their peers nationwide—moved from exam halls to city arteries, shutting down traffic and facing batons with the demand for recognition and a fair path from study to work. These are not stray sparks. This is the new weather.

When authority falters, everyone learns the choreography of defiance. Last year's uprising—born in a dispute over quotas, baptised in blood—retrained a generation. A UN fact-finding report estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed in a matter of weeks. The lesson young people drew is brutally simple: institutions don't listen until the road is blocked. Add to that the maths: nearly 40 percent of 15-24-year-olds are NEET (not in education, employment or training), and 60 million active social media users able to turn a grievance into a citywide shutdown. And you get a polity where governance is performed after disruption, not before it.

We've seen this before, just elsewhere, in other costumes. Consider Thermidorian France (1794-95). The Terror ends, Robespierre falls, but peace does not follow. Instead comes a carnival of revenge. The White Terror sweeps the streets; the muscadins—gilded youth in scented cravats—beat Jacobins with canes while the state looks away. When the Directory finally asserts itself, it does



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

so with grapeshot—Napoleon clearing Parisian boulevards with artillery to restore "order." The lesson is clear: when the state's monopoly of force is absent or uncertain, rival young men improvise one of their own. We remember the cannonade, but forget the drift that invited it.

Or consider Russia after February 1917. The tsar falls and "dual power" enters. The Provisional Government holds the parchment; the Soviets hold the streets. Order No. 1 tells soldiers to obey officers only if the Petrograd Soviet agrees. Factories elect committees. The command chain dissolves

into parallel signatures. Authority multiplies; compliance fractures. No one knows whose "law" will govern any given day. In that unstable chemistry, the most disciplined minority wins.

Fast-forward to Cairo, post-Arab Spring. The square sings, the president falls, and the system re-learns its oldest trick: ban the street, prize the file. Law 107 effectively criminalises

appears, because the road, lately, works.

Political science has language for this. Samuel Huntington warned that when mobilisation outruns institutionalisation, politics decays into a contest of disruptions—a race between new social energies and the state's capacity to absorb them into rules. That is where we stand now: a society that mobilises in hours, and institutions that

warns that dual power ends with the best-organised faction, not the most popular. Egypt shows that criminalising dissent buys silence, not consent. The wiser path is duller, harder.

It starts with clarity: one policing code for all gatherings, published, body-cam-verified, and audited by a civilian inspectorate. No partisan "youth wings," no freelance enforcers. It requires credible short-term gains: paid apprenticeships, transparent recruitment with merit-plus-equity scoring, and timelines that can be checked. (A youth cohort with a 40 percent NEET rate won't stop protesting because you lecture it; it will stop when you hire it.) It demands dignity on campus: ombuds panels that resolve cases in weeks, not semesters, with results posted, not whispered. These aren't romantic solutions; they are practical. They turn politics back into administration before administration is forced back into politics.

But rules and jobs are not enough. Movements are also stories. July minted a myth of salvage—students as the nation's emergency service, called when the state goes missing. Unless we replace that myth with a continuous civic narrative, we will replay it endlessly. That narrative must say: the "win" was not a coronation but a contract. A contract with milestones—policing code by this date, quota-merit reform by that date, apprenticeships by year's end—and co-signers beyond government: universities, bar councils, business chambers, unions. Publish the dashboard, debate it in public, and meet the dates. When the calendar becomes the arena, the street can rest.

Arundhati Roy once wrote of "the exquisite, excruciating ache of possibility." That ache hangs over Bangladesh now. We can normalise the daily haggle—today's detour, tomorrow's curfew—or we can tame contention, folding it into institutions that respond faster than a viral call-to-action. Thermidor's dandies, Russia's committees, Egypt's bans—take your cautionary pick. Or choose the slower revolution: a state whose first reflex is to answer, not to wait; a politics that tells young people the road is not their only megaphone; and a narrative that binds victory to the humbler heroism of keeping one's word, on time.

respond in months. Charles Tilly adds that people learn repertoires of contention. If roadblocks and campus occupations worked last season, they become the default this season; imitation beats deliberation. And James Scott reminds us that resistance is not only spectacular but everyday: slow refusals, small sabotages, foot dragging—the quiet cousins of headline riots. Put together, you have a country that looks calm until the moment it isn't.

History suggests exits that aren't just cannons or crackdowns. Thermidor shows how dithering breeds private militias. Russia

assembly; universities, once engines of dissent, are policed into submission. A security state governs by pre-emption and paperwork, while unemployment and blocked mobility fester below. The public sphere is pacified, but legitimacy never returns.

These three stories rhyme in Bangladesh today. Our youth do not wake as nihilists, they wake as accountants of credibility. Who can give an order that feels like law rather than a dare? Where is the procedural justice that makes compliance rational? When do promises turn into pay cheques or admission letters? If the answers are vague, the road

Inflation and inequality fuelling a geography of despair



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MAHJABIN RASHID LAMISHA

There is a tinge of pessimism that seems to run through all of us, a quiet sense of doubt about whether things in the country are truly improving. Financial strain and food inflation have long been familiar concerns, but in recent years, anxiety around social security and political stability have joined them, making daily life feel more uncertain. This sentiment, so often heard about in daily exchanges, is not merely anecdotal. It is reflected in data. The national survey on the State of the Real Economy, conducted by PPRC, shows that pessimism is emerging as a defining feature of households in Bangladesh, weighing heavily on the poor.

Data says that the mood of the economy isn't very optimistic. One in three households (33 percent) in the lowest income decile state that they are pessimistic about their future. When the scope is widened to include the bottom two deciles, nearly a quarter (24 percent) still carry the same bleak outlook. By contrast, data show that 62 percent of the top two deciles express optimism, buffered by resources and networks cushioning them against volatility. This stark divide is not just about material inequality; it also reflects an emotional level. A geography of hope and despair is mapped neatly onto income levels.

What explains such divergence? For poorer families, pessimism is grounded in lived realities. Over a quarter of the bottom decile report being "always in shortage," and nearly four in ten "occasionally in shortage" to describe their current household condition. These are not abstract measures. They mean skipping meals, borrowing to buy necessities, or having a heavy debt burden. By contrast, the top two deciles live in a different reality: nearly half of them report they are "doing well," with another 11 percent describing themselves as "very well off." For this income class, shortage is not a daily condition that affects their day-to-day life.

While the survey explored concerns in many domains, inflation overshadowed them all.

Households across all groups named price hike as their biggest economic concern. But the poor experience it with particular cruelty. Nearly two-thirds of the bottom decile name price hikes as their number one worry. It is the price of onions, of rice, of cooking oil—each hike felt in smaller portions, diluted curries, and unpaid debts at the local grocer. For the poor, it is about whether tomorrow's meal can be secured. While for

The national mood can best be described as fragile resilience. Hope is still alive, but it is uneven. The danger is that pessimism will harden into disillusionment—not only with the economy but with the very idea of upward mobility. The data, thus, is not just a story of despair. It is also a call to action. Policymakers must take seriously the emotional pulse of the economy.

the wealthier, the concern shifts towards loan repayments or capital shortages. The worries do not end there. Income drops (50.3 percent) and food insecurity (37.7 percent) weigh heavily, creating a cycle of reduced earnings and rising costs. Health adds another layer. Among the poorest households, more than half cite costs of treatment and medicine as major concerns. For many, illness is not only a health shock but a financial catastrophe. An illness or accident can mean selling livestock, pulling children from school, or falling deeper into debt.

Even social anxieties take on sharper edges in poverty. Drug abuse and juvenile crime are prominent among the poor. Together, these experiences feed an everyday pessimism that is heavier than any macroeconomic index can capture. And yet, the survey also uncovers a

paradox. Even amid such hardship, 54 percent of households say they refuse to give up. This resilience and learned toughness run deep in Bangladeshi society. Among the poorest, 27.6 percent still describe their situation as "manageable," despite daily struggles. This is not naive optimism; it is the determination to endure even when the odds are stacked against them. However, resilience, though admirable, is not enough on its own. Without real support, it risks turning into quiet endurance, a silent acceptance that nothing will ever change. The mood captured in the data is thus both a warning and an opportunity. It warns that pessimism is becoming entrenched among the poor, threatening not only their well-being but the social fabric at large. Yet the same data indicates an opportunity—the resilience that people still hold can be turned into genuine confidence, but only if policies step up to meet their needs.

The message from the numbers is hard to miss. An economy cannot thrive on the optimism of a few while the majority remain weighed down by despair. The survey shows a clear divide: pessimism concentrated at the bottom, optimism clustered at the top, and a middle that is caught between cautious hope and lingering fear. If this gap is left unattended, it risks deepening inequality, turning poverty into not just a shortage of income but a shortage of hope. Households spelt out their needs—they want prices kept under control, stronger social safety nets, better education and health, and jobs for young people. These demands come from families watching inflation eat into their meals, medical costs drain their savings, and their children's futures hang in uncertainty.

The national mood can best be described as fragile resilience. Hope is still alive, but it is uneven. The danger is that pessimism will harden into disillusionment—not only with the economy but with the very idea of upward mobility. The data, thus, is not just a story of despair. It is also a call to action. Policymakers must take seriously the emotional pulse of the economy. Growth rates and fiscal charts cannot hide the lived pessimism of those struggling in shortage. To restore balance, policy must go beyond applauding resilience and create conditions where resilience is no longer the only way to survive. In the end, the real test of an economy is not in its averages, but in whether its poorest citizens can still look forward to tomorrow with hope. Right now, too many cannot, and that is a crisis graver than any fiscal deficit.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Like skyscrapers
5 Very serious
10 "Garfield" dog
11 Left over
13 Flaring star
14 Irritate
15 Caribbean country
17 Motor need
18 African country
19 D.C. baseballer, for short
20 Ruby of films
21 Gershon of "Bound"
22 Company symbols
25 Fleet makeup
26 Kitchen appliance
- DOWN**
27 Wallop
28 Earth: Prefix
29 African country
33 Hockey's Bobby
34 European country
35 1998 Winter Olympics site
37 Enemies
38 Mini burger
39 Opposed
40 Endures
41 Roger of "Cheers"
- DOWN**
1 Salad servers
2 Love to pieces
3 Pep up
4 Used for support
5 Ice cream treat
6 Shaq of the NBA
7 Except
8 European country
9 Dependent
12 River areas
16 Gets older
21 Overdo it
22 Secure site starts
23 Comprehensive
24 Eurasian country
25 Rail or quail
27 Pays tribute to
29 Painter Edouard
30 Witch
31 Minotaur's home
32 Desert spot
36 TV spots

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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Determined to reach Gaza despite 'drone attack'

Say aid flotilla activists

AFP, Tunis

Activists on a Gaza aid flotilla that alleged it was targeted by a "drone attack" off Tunisia overnight said yesterday they remained "determined" to reach the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

The flotilla organisers had said late Monday that one of their boats was hit by a suspected UAV off the coast of Tunisia, but authorities there said "no drones" had been detected.

"Our will is stronger and we are more determined (than ever) to break the blockade against Gaza," Tunisian organiser Ghassen Henchiri told a crowd in Tunis.



Rescue workers evacuate residents from flooded areas in Jalalpur Pirwala, Punjab province, Pakistan, following monsoon rains and rising water levels of the Chenab River yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Gen Z-led protests topple Nepal govt

FROM PAGE 1

"In view of the adverse situation in the country, I have resigned effective today to facilitate the solution to the problem and to help resolve it politically in accordance with the constitution," Oli said in his resignation letter to President Ramchandra Paudel.

An aide to Paudel told Reuters the president had begun the process of finding a new premier, but also summoned protest leaders for talks.

Jubilant youths entered the parliament complex on hearing the PM's resignation news, waving their hands in the air and shouting slogans as smoke rose from sections of the building.

"We won," one protester wrote in huge orange letters on the wall of the parliament building.

Although the protesters were still on the streets of the city, there was no more violence as security forces kept their distance.

The Nepali Army has issued a public appeal to citizens protesting to remain calm and exercise restraint, The Himalayan Times reported.

"Considering the current situation, it is our shared responsibility to prevent further escalation, preserve social harmony, and maintain national unity. The Nepali Army calls upon all youth and citizens to act with restraint," the appeal stated.

Oli, 73, was sworn in for his fourth term in July last year as Nepal's 14th prime minister since 2008. Two of his cabinet colleagues had resigned on "moral grounds" late on Monday.

Early in the day, Oli had called a meeting of all parties, saying violence was not in the interest of the nation and "we have to resort to peaceful dialogue to find solutions to any problem". However, protesters continued

gathering in front of parliament and elsewhere in Kathmandu, defying an indefinite curfew.

They set fire to tyres on some roads, threw stones at police in riot gear and chased them through narrow streets.

Witnesses also said protesters were setting fire to the homes of some politicians in Kathmandu, and local media reported that some ministers had been plucked to safety by military helicopters.

The Singha Durbar area, which houses the Prime Minister's Office and other ministries as well as Parliament House, and Oli's private residence were also set on fire, they said.

Footage circulating on social media showed former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and his wife Arzu Rana, foreign minister under Oli, and Finance Minister Bishnu Paudel being attacked by protesters.

The demonstrators broke into the residence of Deuba in Budanilkantha, Kathmandu. Footage shows the ex-PM bleeding from his face in the aftermath of the attack. Before the authorities arrived at the scene to rescue Deuba and Arzu, their residence was desecrated.

Bishnu Paudel was chased through Kathmandu streets with people running behind him. A young protester, from the opposite direction, jumps and kicks the minister down, who is thrown off balance and crashes into a red wall.

Reuters could not immediately verify the information.

President Paudel, whose offices were also set on fire by mobs, pleaded for "all parties to exercise restraint, to not allow further damage".

The call was echoed by neighbouring India, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that the "stability, peace and prosperity of Nepal are of utmost importance to us".

The United Nations rights chief, Volker Turk, said he was "appalled" by the violence and called for talks.

Kathmandu airport, Nepal's main international gateway, was closed because of smoke from fires set by protesters, the Civil Aviation Authority said.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh embassy in Nepal yesterday strongly advised Bangladeshi nationals currently living or visiting Nepal to stay at their respective places.

"All Bangladeshi nationals seeking to travel to Nepal are also advised not to fly to Nepal owing to prevailing security situations," said the Bangladesh embassy in Nepal in a statement yesterday.

There are nearly 300 Bangladeshis, mostly tourists, currently in Nepal. Some of them are businessmen or employees of international aid agencies.

The embassy in a statement said, a 51-member delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), Mirpur, who went to Nepal as part of their overseas study tour, is staying in Kathmandu. They are scheduled to fly to Dhaka on September 12.

India said it has strengthened security along the border with Nepal in light of the mass anticorruption protests.

Organisers of the protests, which spread to other cities, have called them "demonstrations by Gen Z", driven by young people's widespread frustration with a perceived lack of action to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities.

"The protest was intended, first and foremost, against the rampant corruption in government," a protester said in an email to Reuters, signing off as 'A concerned Nepali citizen'.

Young Nepalis had been posting on social media about the "luxurious lives of the families and children of corrupt politicians and civil servants" until the government clamped down on the platforms, the email said.

People aged 15-40 make up nearly 43 percent of the population, according to government statistics -- while unemployment hovers around 10 percent and GDP per capita is just \$1,447, according to the World Bank.

What happens next is unclear. "In the context of a revolution, constitutional or legal provisions do not apply right now," constitutional lawyer Dipendra Jha told AFP, saying that the "normal" process would have been for the president to call on the next leader in parliament to gather a majority.

"The protesters, leaders who are trusted by them and the army should come together to pave the way for a caretaker government," Jha added.

Crisis Group analyst Ashish Pradhan echoed that, saying a "transitional arrangement will now need to be charted out swiftly and include figures who still retain credibility with Nepalis, especially the country's youth".

Balendra Shah, the 35-year-old engineer-turned-rapper who was elected as Kathmandu's mayor in 2022, and who is seen as a popular figure in the transition ahead, used Facebook to call on people to "be restrained".

"We had made it clear: this is purely a Gen Z movement," Shah wrote after Oli's resignation, referring to young people aged largely in their 20s.

"Your generation must take the lead in running the country. Be ready!"

Another 26-year-old protester said, "This frustration has been building for over two decades, fuelled by corruption. What you see now is just a spark ignited by social media."

'Forced to conceal pellet wounds in inquest report'

FROM PAGE 12

zone) Arifuzzaman Arif arrived and asked him to examine the body. "I found multiple pellet injuries all over the body and a wound on the back of the head, bleeding onto the stretcher."

But Arif ordered him not to mention the pellet injuries. When the SI declined, the officer hurled abuse and threatened, "If you don't obey, I'll frame you as a Jamaat Shibir man."

As the situation worsened, Arif pressed him further, saying that he was under pressure, then verbally abused his deceased parents and threatened to have him killed by Awami League men.

Around 10:30pm, Arif returned with Executive Magistrate Ahmed Sadat and again forced him to prepare the report. "With no option left, in the presence of the magistrate, I was compelled not to mention the pellet injuries and instead wrote that there were multiple small wounds and a head injury," he told the tribunal.

Meanwhile, six prosecution witnesses testified before the ICT-1 yesterday in a case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and ex-inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

With this, ICT-1 has so far recorded testimonies of 45 prosecution witnesses.

The witnesses are Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka Md Zakir Hossain, who recorded the statement of former IGP Mamun; Associate Professor at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) Mohammad Serajus Saleheen, who treated July victims; CID Dhaka's Digital Forensic Lab experts Inspector Rokonujaman and SI Md Shahed Jobayer Lorence; CID's forensic expert SI Golam Eftakhar Alam; and CID ballistic expert SI Sheikh Nazrul Islam, who examined two bullets and three metal pellets.

Inspector Rokonujaman and SI Lorence told the tribunal that they had conducted forensic analysis of two audio conversations -- one between Hasina and former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Fazle Noor Taposh, and the other between Hasina and former Dhaka University vice-

chancellor ASM Maksud Kamal.

They said that upon examinations, the female voice matched the specimen voice of Hasina, while the male voices matched Taposh and Maksud Kamal's specimen.

Inspector Rokonujaman also testified that he examined the voice of former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman, an accused in an ICT case, and found it matched his specimen.

At one point, prosecutor Mizanul Islam rebuked Rokonujaman and sought to recall parts of his testimony, saying he had made mistakes. Presiding Judge Md Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury cautioned him. "Please do not scold a witness in front of the tribunal. If the witness is not prepared, withdraw him and produce again after preparing the witness," said Mohitul. Mizanul later apologised.

Magistrate Zakir Hossain told the tribunal that he recorded ex-IGP Mamun's statement on March 24 in the presence of the investigation officer and Mamun's lawyer, after giving the accused time in his chamber from 12:15pm to 2:45pm. He said Mamun had confessed voluntarily.

During the cross-examination, state-appointed defence counsel Md Amir Hossain, representing accused Hasina and Kamal, asked whether he had informed Mamun of the consequences of such a confessional statement.

Zakir said he did not, adding that all necessary details were included in the certification (form of record of confession) and that as a former IGP, Mamun was fully aware of the implications of a confessional statement.

Speaking to journalists during a break, Amir claimed the recording of the statements was somewhat illegal and perhaps not in line with regulations.

In his testimony, doctor Saleheen said that between July 19 and August 4 last year, 17 patients admitted to Nitor, also known as Pangu Hospital, had one of their legs amputated, while three others had one of their arms amputated. He added that two patients were declared dead upon arrival during that period, while six more died after undergoing operations.

Govt to buy 300 vehicles

FROM PAGE 12

Mitsubishi Pajero SUVs, each worth Tk 1.69 crore, for advisers, ministers and officials of equivalent rank; 195 Pajero Jeeps for UNOs at the same price; and 25 microbuses for DC offices at Tk 52 lakh each.

The proposal argued the current fleet has exceeded its nine-year lifespan, causing frequent breakdowns and high maintenance costs.

The adviser further said that 30 to 40 vehicles, including BMWs imported during the previous government for MPs, remain stuck at Chattogram Customs.

Their assessed value is around Tk 6 crore, but bids in auction have reached only Tk 10 lakh.

"These vehicles have therefore been recommended for inclusion in the government transport pool," Salehuddin said.

Committees to identify those

FROM PAGE 12

provisions under Section 173A are being followed properly, with a focus on ensuring that investigation officers submit accurate interim investigation reports when required.

The home ministry disclosed the updates in a circular, signed by Shafiul Alam, assistant secretary of the ministry.

A senior official at the home ministry clarified to The Daily Star last night that although Section 173A mandates the submission of interim investigation reports in all criminal cases, the newly formed committees -- effective immediately -- will specifically focus on uprising related cases.

According to Section 173A, before completion of an investigation of any case, the police commissioner or the district superintendent of police or any other officer of equivalent rank supervising the investigation may require the investigating officer to

submit an interim investigation report.

And, if the interim investigation report finds insufficient evidence against any accused, the police commissioner, district superintendent of police, or equivalent officer may direct the investigating officer to submit the report to the magistrate concerned, who may, if satisfied, order the discharge of the accused.

At the district level, a four-member committee will be headed by the district magistrate, with the superintendent of police and public prosecutor as members, while the additional superintendent of police (crime and ops) will be the member secretary.

For metropolitan areas, a similar committee will be set up under the leadership of the metropolitan police commissioner. This committee will also include a representative of the divisional commissioner and a metropolitan public prosecutor as

members, and an officer of the rank of superintendent of police, will be the member secretary.

The ministry-level committee will be chaired by the adviser to the law ministry, with the senior secretary, additional secretary (law and order), joint secretary of the home ministry as the members, and the deputy secretary/senior assistant secretary from the home ministry will be the member secretary.

The district and metropolitan committees will monitor the submission of interim investigation reports and document how many individuals are being discharged based on the reports.

The committees will submit reports twice a month to the ministry-level committee, detailing their findings and recommendations.

The ministry-level committee will oversee the work of the district and metropolitan committees.

PSC working

FROM PAGE 1

development initiatives, and increased stakeholder engagement.

Prof Saima made the comments at an event titled, "Transformation of Bangladesh Public Service Commission: Achievements, Challenges, and Way Forward" held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, yesterday evening.

During her presentation, she said the PSC currently enjoys only 10 percent autonomy. The commission has already submitted a draft amendment to the relevant law to increase its autonomy, but it is still awaiting approval, even after four months.

On the circular system, she said 55 percent of the work has already been completed. The commission has developed protocols and rubrics and has sought financial approval from the finance ministry. Once introduced, the circular system is expected to reduce the cost of each BCS exam by 51 percent.

Regarding the in-house digital printing press, Prof Saima said 95 percent of the tasks have been done. The project preparation and approval are finished, and installation is underway.

The commission has completed 20 percent of the work on setting up the assessment centre. Research on core competencies and Competency-Based Interview (CBI) training has already been conducted, with UNDP monitoring the overall installation and management process.

The PSC has also identified several issues in four previous BCS exams, which include process inefficiency, lack of infrastructure, and the risk of question leakage affecting both written and viva exams.

Additionally, the commission identified five underlying causes for the delay in completing the BCS process: question setting, printing dependency, lengthy script evaluation (taking eight to twelve months), viva procedures, and result processing and recommendation. These issues currently stretch the timeline to three and a half years.

Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Finance Adviser Salehuddin

Ahmed acknowledged that the PSC must have both operational and financial autonomy to function effectively.

"We will try to ensure this ... but we cannot provide full autonomy. Therefore, we will try to provide as much autonomy as possible to the PSC."

Salehuddin assured that efforts would be made to strengthen the PSC and make it more transparent and meaningful for the country.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, "During the previous regime, it was as if the PSC exams had been turned into private property."

He also supported the proposal to hold a BCS exam every year. He added that the overwhelming rush for government jobs reflects a lack of opportunities elsewhere and a sharp disparity between public and private sector employment benefits.

He said the government is aware of the reform proposals and is committed to implementing them.

Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said the interim government has brought some fundamental changes, even if many people fail to notice them.

He stressed that 10 to 18 months is not enough to bring major economic or organisational change, but the interim government has still tried to move the country forward.

Delivering the welcome speech, Prof Mobasser Monem, chairman of PSC, said that since 2011, PSC has been made dependent on ministries, which has slowed down its work.

Monem urged the interim government to quickly grant PSC the authority to make its own rules and spend its budget directly, similar to the Election Commission.

Diepakh Elmer, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, Stefan Liller, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, Md Mokhlesur Rahman, senior secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, PSC member Prof M Sohel Rahman, and its secretary Sanwar Jahan Bhuiyan also spoke at the event, among others.

A glimmer of hope

FROM PAGE 12

and become a lawyer."

The family includes Joy's mother, Maloti Rani Robidas, grandmother Lachia Robidas, elder sister Nupur Robidas, who is a first-year degree student, and younger sister Rupa Robidas, who is in class six.

Nupur told this correspondent, "When Joy had to take up our father's work, I cried. There was nothing I could do. Later, when many helped us, we found hope again. Our father was our pillar, our strength. He is no longer with us, but his dreams live on."

Joy's mother, Maloti Rani, said, "My husband was the only earner in our household. He used to mend shoes on the street but had dreams for his children's education. He is no longer with us, but that dream has kept us going. I feel relieved to see my son back in school, but I am still worried about our future."

Abu Musa, head teacher of Taraganj Government Model High School, where Joy studies in class nine, said, "Joy is a bright student. We are providing him with mental support. We want him to complete his education and grow up to be a decent person. Joy's story teaches society about the dangers of rumours and mob violence, and how empathy can bring new light."

Joy's classmate Abir Hossain said, "Joy has not yet fully overcome the void left by his father's death, but he continues to fight. We are always with him, supporting him."

Retired school teacher Moktar Hossain from the Burirhat area said, "This incident has shaken not only a family but the whole society. We are all ashamed. It is now our responsibility to protect this family."

Rubel Rana, upazila nirbahi officer of Taraganj, said, "The family has received government and private support. Employment for the elder daughter Nupur and a shop in the market for the family are in progress. The children's education is ensured. Joy and his younger sister Rupa now regularly attend school, and I am keeping track."

On August 9, Ruplal, 48, and his nephew-in-law Pradip Lal Robidas, 47, were beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft. Police have so far arrested six suspects based on video footage, while others remain at large.

Officer-in-Charge of Taraganj Police Station MA Faruk, said that suspects have been identified through video footage. The remaining accused are hiding, and police are conducting operations to arrest them.

5 killed as Israel attacks Hamas leaders

FROM PAGE 12

Israeli government devised a plan to deal Hamas a fatal blow in what it says are the group's last strongholds.

Anxiety was spreading through a tent area in Gaza City housing displaced cancer patients.

"There's no place left, not in the south, nor the north, nothing. We've become completely trapped," said Bajess al-Khaldi, a displaced cancer patient, as people looked on at the rubble of several buildings destroyed in an Israeli attack.

Meanwhile, at least 21 people have been killed by Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn. Among those killed are more aid seekers. Gaza's health ministry reported that six more Palestinians died of Israeli induced starvation, reports Al Jazeera online.

International critics say Israel's Gaza plan, which includes demilitarising the whole Strip as Israel takes security control, could worsen the humanitarian plight of the 2.3 million Palestinians who live there.

The Gaza City assault plan has provoked concern inside Israel, where public support for the war has wavered. Israel's military leadership

has warned Netanyahu against expanding the war, according to Israeli officials.

Israel has also launched airstrikes and other military action in Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen in the course of the Gaza conflict.

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Ex-secretary

FROM PAGE 12

Shafiqul and Abu Alam were arrested as suspects, even though their names were not included in the FIR, according to court records.

Along with Shafiqul, 18 others -- including former minister and expelled Awami League leader Abdul Latif Siddique, Dhaka University law professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, journalist Monjurul Alam Panna, and freedom fighter Golam Mostafa -- were arrested in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

On August 29, police filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against Latif Siddique, Hafizur, Panna, and 13 others, accusing them of "inciting terrorism" through a speech delivered under the banner of Mancha 71.

The 16 accused were sent to jail the same day after being produced before the court.

RIGHTS WATCH

Custodial deaths and the gaps in our law

To give effect to the UN Convention against Torture, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act was enacted in 2013. It was hailed by the civil society as a landmark law, recognising custodial death and torture as matters requiring legal intervention. Indeed, once the state deprives someone of liberty, it assumes responsibility for that person's safety.

KMS TAREQ

On 22 August 2025, several Bangladeshi newspapers, including The Daily Star reported another tragedy—the custodial death of a 27-year-old Durjoy Chowdhury, arrested only a day earlier. According to the police, he had “committed suicide” by hanging. But does this explanation absolve the responsibility of the state? To find the answer to this question, we need to look at what our law actually says about deaths in custody.

To give effect to the UN Convention against Torture (CAT), the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act was enacted in 2013. It was hailed by the civil society as a landmark law, recognising custodial death and torture as matters requiring legal intervention. Indeed, once the state deprives someone of liberty, it assumes responsibility for that person's safety. Even the amended Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), section 46D, now makes it a duty for police to ensure the safety of arrestees.

Yet, when we turn to the offence provisions, the scope of the offence shrinks. Sections 13 and 15 only criminalise torture and death resulting from torture. Nowhere in the offence provisions does the law recognise liability for deaths caused by neglect, poor custodial conditions, or suicide in custody.

There seems to be a contradiction here. The Act's title and definition of custodial death promise broad protection. Its preamble aims to prevent both torture and custodial death resulting from torture and omission. But its offence provisions deal only with torture and custodial death resulting from torture.

This suggests that if a detainee dies in custody by suicide, or due to lack of medical care, or under suspicious circumstances where torture cannot be proven, there is no criminal liability under the 2013 Act. In effect, the law's protections stop exactly where they are most needed.

However, international law is clear in this regard. States have a special duty of care towards detainees. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects the right to life as non-derogable. The UN Human Rights Committee has repeatedly observed that states must explain any death in custody and show they took steps to prevent it.

Moreover, our own Constitution echoes this. In *BLAST v Bangladesh* (2003), the High Court Division (HCD) of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh ruled that torture and custodial



abuse violate the right to life under Articles 31 and 32. Once a person is behind bars, the state has to take the responsibility for their safety.

British jurisprudence, still persuasive in Bangladesh, reinforces this duty. In *Reeves v Commissioner of Police* (2000), the House of Lords held police liable when a detainee committed suicide. Similarly, in *Kirkham v Chief Constable* (1990), liability was imposed for failing to protect a suicidal prisoner. Although these are tort law cases, they establish that custody means control and, with it, comes responsibility—not only for direct acts like torture, but also for foreseeable harms, including self-harm.

Since the 2013 Act excludes omissions, families must turn to constitutional or tort remedies. Our Supreme Court has occasionally stepped in. In *CCB Foundation v Bangladesh* (2016), the HCD awarded compensation, holding that negligence by public authorities violated the right to life. Again, in *Banu v Bangladesh* (2020), the Supreme Court ordered compensation for wrongful detention.

General tort law also offers a solution as public bodies owe a duty of care once they assume control over a person. However, tort litigation in Bangladesh remains underdeveloped, slow, and costly. As a result,

victims' families often face insurmountable barriers in accessing justice in our country.

For the 2013 Act to live up to its promise, reforms are essential. Custodial death (regardless of how it ensues) must be made a distinct offence, whether caused by torture or by neglect or omission. The burden of proof should be shifted so that authorities have to show they took reasonable steps to prevent a death in custody. Investigations should be carried out by independent bodies, not by the same police implicated. Finally, tort law jurisprudence needs to be substantially developed in relation to custodial torture and death.

Durjoy Chowdhury's death is not only a personal tragedy but also a test of the rule of law. Once the State locks someone in custody, it assumes full responsibility for their life and limb. Comparative jurisprudence also shows that the state cannot escape liability for omissions. Our own courts have recognised that negligence violates the right to life. It is time for Parliament to align the Act's title, purpose, and provisions—and for the judiciary to expand remedies, including through tort law.

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LAW ON THE MARGINS

Ensuring access to justice for marginalised people

TASHDIA TARAFDAR RIDISHA

Access to justice is embedded in the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution. According to our Constitution, every citizen has a right to be treated equally under the law (Article 27) and possesses an inalienable right to legal protection (Article 31). However, justice remains out of reach for millions of underprivileged people living below the poverty line, due to unfortunate circumstances. Legal aid aims to address this disparity, but its effectiveness continues to be an issue of both hope and frustration.

For people with low income, dealing with the legal procedure turns out to be stressful and confusing. The cost of filing a case, hiring a lawyer, visiting court, and lengthy procedural delays often demotivate them from seeking justice. Notably, lack of legal knowledge, social stigma, and anxiety about administrative harassment are the reasons underlying such lack of motivation. Acknowledging these problems, the Bangladesh government enacted the Legal Aid Services Act (LASA) in 2000 and established the National Legal Aid Services Organisation (NLASO).

Through collaboration between government and NGOs, legal aid services can be made easily accessible, well-coordinated, and community responsive. Each entity plays an important role and together, they can ensure more adaptable and accessible ecosystem for accessing justice.

According to section 2 of the LASA, legal aid includes court representation, legal advice, financial support, etc. to ensure justice for disadvantaged people. The objective was to guarantee that no citizen is deprived of access to justice due to financial hardships. Under this commitment, district legal aid offices have been established across 64 districts to serve free legal counseling, representation, and dispute resolution outside traditional courtroom. Complementing these initiatives, several non-governmental organisations also offer legal aid, community mediation, and awareness programmes, frequently focusing on vulnerable sector of the population such as women, children, and various marginalised groups.

Despite having a strong legal and institutional framework, practical challenges still hinder the effectiveness of legal aid services. A substantial segment of the society never seeks such service due to lack of public awareness. Additionally, the process may become frustrating due to delays and bureaucratic hurdles in some districts.

There are geographic inequalities as well. Rural or disaster-prone or affected areas often lack trained staff and strategic initiatives, whereas robust legal aid resources are more accessible in urban areas. As a result, this leads to unequal access to justice, where legal aid varies based on location rather than individual needs.

Legal aid in Bangladesh has achieved significant advancement over the years. According to the report published on the NLASO website, a total of 1,261,650 people has received legal aid at government expense from 2009 to July 2025. To ensure that its benefits reach every segment of the society, a few significant steps could be considered.

Initially, widespread legal awareness initiatives should be taken to empower people to seek justice, especially in rural and low-income communities. The usage of television, the internet, and mobile legal aid clinics may prove effective. Furthermore, a digital application system and online tracking process might enhance clarity and efficiency. And finally, through collaboration between government and NGOs, legal aid services can be made easily accessible, well-coordinated, and community responsive. Each entity plays an important role and together, they can ensure more adaptable and accessible ecosystem for accessing justice.

Legal aid ensures that no individual will be deprived of justice because of financial constraints. In Bangladesh, this commitment has been supported by legislation, institutions, and continuous initiatives from both public and private sectors. Through forward-looking structural reform and continuous involvement, the mechanism of legal aid can be made genuinely beneficial. Justice should not be reserved only for the privileged but should be recognized as an inherent right of each individual.

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WOMEN AND LAW

Gender justice and patriarchal ideologies in our society

FAIROZE TASNIM

Despite Bangladesh making commendable progress in advancing the rights and treatment of women and children ever since its independence, there are certain enduring challenges that need to be addressed. Gender justice aims to ensure that individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal rights, opportunities and protections. However, the prevalence of patriarchal ideologies creates significant barriers to achieving this goal.

Gender justice encompasses a vibrant and dynamic movement that spans across the world, aimed at dismantling systemic inequalities and promoting equal rights for all. Conversely, patriarchy is fundamentally understood as a social system in which power and authority are primarily held by men, highlighting leadership, moral authority, social privileges, and property control. Understanding patriarchy



Gender justice encompasses a vibrant and dynamic movement that spans across the world, aimed at dismantling systemic inequalities and promoting equal rights for all. Conversely, patriarchy is fundamentally understood as a social system in which power and authority are primarily held by men, highlighting leadership, moral authority, social privileges, and property control.

requires an exploration of its historical roots, cultural manifestations, race, and class in that domain.

Notably, gender justice is being violated in Bangladesh in all spheres of

life—in workplaces, on the street, and even within families. More often than not, physical or sexual violence is perpetrated by a woman's intimate family member. Oftentimes, gender-based violence in the form of physical abuse, psychological torture, or verbal abuse result from the non-payment of dowry. Another form of gender-based abuse is custodial rape, i.e., rape of a woman in police custody, has increased alarmingly. Women trafficking is yet another form of violence against women. Unfortunately, a rather ignored form of gender-based violence is self-inflicted (such as through suicide). According to the WHO, suicide is one of the leading causes of GBV across the world. It is important to mention that suicide rate is notably high amongst the victims of dowry violence. In a similar vein, female children who are work as domestic aides and in factories often become the worst sufferers of GBV. Such tireless work under unhealthy working conditions has a detrimental effect on their condition of health.

Lastly, in Dhaka city, street children often face exploitative behavior. A study conducted by UNICEF in 2024 estimates that over 3.4 million children are living on the streets without parental care in Bangladesh. They are vulnerable to exploitation, including being coerced into sex work, trafficking, or being taken abroad to face unsafe working conditions.

In Bangladesh, the pervasive effects of patriarchal ideologies are starkly evident, due to which women face significant challenges rooted in long-standing cultural beliefs and social norms. For instance, many girls are still denied the chance to pursue their studies due to economic constraints. As a result, the rate of female literacy remains disproportionately low when compared to their male counterparts. In the workplace, women often encounter discrimination, resulting in lower wages, limited career advancement and fewer leadership opportunities. By closely examining sectors such as education, healthcare, economic opportunities

and legal rights, we can easily uncover the complex barriers that women face, ranging from discriminatory practices to inadequate access to resources and decision-making power.

To create a more equitable society, it is pivotal to recognise and address the harmful effects of patriarchal ideologies. This requires actively promoting policies and practices that will foster inclusivity and diversity. By dismantling outdated gender roles, we can empower all individuals to thrive and reach their full potential without the constraints imposed by social norms and rules. Educated women are better equipped to challenge societal norms, advocate for their rights and inspire future generations. In the professional realm, women are now increasingly voicing their experiences without hesitation. This will surely help them reshape the organisational environment to prioritise inclusivity and equity. Being a woman from a developing country, what encourages me the most is that we have already achieved considerable success in this regard and have made a consolidated effort through various gender sensitive inclusion and public-private partnership programs to expedite the process of enhancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for the betterment of our future.

Gender justice is an inspiring global movement dedicated to establishing a supportive network that empowers the women. The clash between gender justice and patriarchal systems is a dynamic and multifaceted battle that represents an opportunity for understanding, upon engaging all participants in a constructive and versatile journey toward equity and inclusion. By fostering collaboration and solidarity among individuals and organisations, this movement can create spaces for dialogue, amplifying the voices of women everywhere.

India begin title defence against UAE

AGENCIES

Defending champions India will open their Asia Cup 2025 campaign against hosts UAE today in Dubai, marking their first major tournament since the retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma after the 2024 World Cup triumph.

Led by Suryakumar Yadav, India enter the tournament as overwhelming favourites to retain their crown. With Shubman Gill recalled to bolster the batting alongside Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma – the world's top two T20 batters – their lineup is packed with power.

Jasprit Bumrah's return adds further weight, with the pace spearhead expected to be decisive both in the powerplay and at the death.

Sanju Samson is likely to miss out, with Shabnam Gill set to open alongside Abhishek. For UAE, the fixture is a chance to shine on the big stage despite recent struggles, having failed to win a match in a home tri-series against Pakistan and Afghanistan.

UAE have faced India only once in T20Is, suffering a nine-wicket defeat in the 2016 Asia Cup. They also lost all three ODIs against India, the most recent in the 2015 World Cup.

Since the last T20 World Cup, India boast a dominant 24-3 win-loss record in T20Is.



Captains of all eight participating teams, including Bangladesh skipper Litton Das, pose for a photograph during the Asia Cup 2025 trophy unveiling ceremony in Dubai yesterday. PHOTO: ACC

ASIA CUP 2025

Expectation of fierce cricket despite fatigue and friction

EKUSH TAPADER from Dubai

Some light-hearted chatter accompanied the Asia Cup 2025 trophy unveiling in Dubai on Tuesday. Yet, beneath the smiles, the players' expressions revealed a lingering concern: travel fatigue, which could be an additional hurdle in the 17th edition of the continental tournament.

"I feel very sleepy right now." Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka's candid admission, tinged with exhaustion, drew laughter from the captains of the other seven teams around him. Stiffing a yawn, he laughed too, while India's Suryakumar Yadav and Bangladesh's Litton Das smiled in sympathy.

Having landed in Dubai earlier that day, Asalanka went straight to the venue. His words carried a clear plea for rest: "We just played two consecutive days in Zimbabwe before flying straight here. We need two days of rest. Hopefully, the coach will allow that."

Asalanka's weary tone captured how the Asia Cup is squeezed into an already packed calendar.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan voiced his own frustration. Traveling 150 kilometers from Dubai to Abu Dhabi just hours after the ceremony to play Hong Kong in the opening match, he said, "was far from ideal."

Not every team, however, faces the same burden. Bangladesh and Pakistan can consider themselves fortunate. While most sides will shuttle between Dubai and Abu

Dhabi, these two will remain in one base. Bangladesh will play all their group-stage matches in Abu Dhabi, while Pakistan, stationed in Dubai, will play all theirs there.

Back in 2018, despite enduring the Dubai-Abu Dhabi commute, Bangladesh made it to the final in the 2018 edition. Compared to which, Litton and Co can count this as a

"There's no sense of urgency. We've played very good cricket in the recent past and had quite a long camp. I think we're well prepared for the Asia Cup. All the teams are strong, and it will be challenging, but we're eager to take that challenge and give our hundred percent."

Bangladesh captain Litton Das

bleeding – especially having arrived in the UAE on the back of some positive results as well.

Litton, who scored a century in that 2018 final against India but walked away heartbroken, spoke with determination this time: "We still haven't tasted a championship – but that's history, and history is meant to be broken."

Afghanistan's challenge looks tougher. Although all three of their group games are in Abu Dhabi, the team is based in Dubai, meaning a 300 kilometer round trip each time. Rashid summed it up: "You'll have to travel back and forth for three games. It's unusual, but as a professional cricketer, you have to accept it."

Of the eight teams, only Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Oman are based in Abu Dhabi. Even then, Sri Lanka and Oman must travel to Dubai for one group game each.

As in many editions, the Asia Cup is shaped by its most anticipated fixture: India versus Pakistan. The rivalry, further inflamed by recent conflict in Pahalgam, remains a platform for drawing fans' attention while generating substantial revenue.

That tension also echoed in the captains' words.

India's Suryakumar was emphatic: "Whenever we step onto the field, we always carry an aggressive mindset. Without aggression, you can't play cricket. I'm raring to go from tomorrow [Wednesday]."

Pakistan captain Salman Agha struck a similar note: "Each player has a different mindset. Some are naturally aggressive. You can't stop them. If someone shows aggression on the field, we'll welcome it. From my side, there will be no restrictions."

As the Asia Cup 2025 begins, the hope is that the on-field battles overshadow off-field concerns, delivering a tournament rich with exciting cricket while overcoming visible fatigue and political tension.

'Fear gripped' booters stranded in Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

With smoke rising from fires near the Crown Imperial Hotel in Kathmandu, and protesters frequently flocking to the hotel in search of political leaders, each footballer of the Bangladesh national football team spent anxious moments at the hotel yesterday.

The men in red and green are eagerly counting every minute to return home from Nepal, which has turned into a battlefield following Gen Z protests against corruption and the government's social media ban.

The unrest also saw Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli step down, as protesters set fire to the parliament building, a luxury hotel in Naxal, and many houses of parliamentary members and ministers.

The chaos forced Bangladesh to cancel Monday's scheduled training, and the All Nepal Football Federation suspended Tuesday's second



and final FIFA friendly match between Bangladesh and Nepal. The team had planned to fly home yesterday afternoon, but a lack of security en route to the airport forced them to remain at the hotel, with no confirmed return time.

"The fear gripped all of us at the hotel when we saw dark smoke rising from what was probably a political leader's house nearby," national forward Suman Reza told The Daily Star over phone.

"We were also anxious because of a gas pipeline beside the fire. We all came down to the lobby to be ready to evacuate if needed."

The players became even more nervous after watching a video of the Hilton Hotel being set on fire.

"While waiting in the lobby, protesters entered the hotel searching for political figures and threw stones. With no police or army around, the hotel staff told them only Bangladeshi and Nepalese footballers were staying here. The protesters calmed down and left," Suman said.

"The situation in Nepal is not good. Protesters are vandalising, setting fires, and looting -- it reminds us of what happened in Bangladesh on August 5 last year," he added, assuring his family they were safe.

"Now we are more or less safe, but we don't know exactly when we can return home. The federation and embassy are monitoring the situation closely," Suman further said, as the Bangladesh Football Federation strive to make arrangements to bring back the booters safely.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's interim government issued clear directives for citizens stranded in Nepal. According to a post on the Chief Adviser's Facebook page, all Bangladeshis in Nepal are strongly advised to stay at their hotels or residences and not move outside, further informing that in addition to the 36-member football squad, a 51-member delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur, also remains in Kathmandu.

Under-23s notch first AFC win in six years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-23 football team recorded their first victory in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in six years, breaking a seven-match losing streak with an emphatic 4-1 win over Singapore in their final Group C encounter in Vietnam yesterday.

Since their 2-0 victory against Sri Lanka in the last group stage of the same competition in 2019, Bangladesh had endured five consecutive defeats across the 2021 and 2023 editions. They then suffered two more losses in the ongoing tournament, to hosts Vietnam and Yemen.

Hoping to progress from the group stage, the men in red and green ultimately had to settle for a consolation win -- but it was a well-deserved one. Captain Sheikh Morsalin delivered a standout performance, scoring once and providing three assists, all in the second half after a goalless opening period.

"We were carrying a lot of pain after losing the first two matches. Now we've been able to let that



go with this win," Morsalin said in a video message shared by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

"I also want to apologise to the spectators because we came here with high hopes. However,

we dedicate this win to our passionate supporters, and we aim to maintain this winning momentum in the days to come," added the Abahani midfielder. Morsalin expressed optimism

that Bangladesh would one day qualify for the U-23 Asian Cup finals.

Despite his central role in the victory, Morsalin credited the entire squad for the result.

"All credit goes to my teammates. This would not have been possible without their support. Everyone gave their maximum effort -- it was a true team performance," he said.

Stand-in coach Hasan Al Mamun noted the team's improvement throughout the tournament and expressed hope that this group could produce players for the senior national team.

"There was clear progress throughout the qualifiers. We deserved to win against Yemen but, unfortunately, we couldn't get the result. Today, however, was a different story -- the substitutions made a real impact," said Al Mamun.

He added that this pool of players has the potential to contribute significantly to the senior national side in the future.



Opener Sediqullah Atal scored an unbeaten 52-ball 73, and all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai smashed a quickfire 21-ball 53 as Afghanistan posted a challenging 188 for six in the Asia Cup opener against Hong Kong in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Omarzai also claimed a wicket, conceding just four runs in his two overs to help Afghanistan restrict Hong Kong to 94 for nine in 20 overs and begin their Asia Cup campaign with a 94-run win. PHOTO: AFP



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ABU SAYED KILLING 'Forced to conceal pellet wounds in inquest report' SI testifies at ICT-1

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A police officer told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday that he was forced by a senior officer to conceal pellet injuries in the inquest report of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed, who was killed in Rangpur at the beginning of the July uprising.

Testifying as a prosecution witness in the case filed over Sayed's killing, Sub-Inspector Md Tariqul Islam said that around 4:30pm on July 16 last year, he was informed from Tajhat Police Station that a body required an inquest at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. There he learnt that Sayed had been killed in police firing in front of the university. The hospital was tense and heavily guarded, he added.

Around 7:00pm, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Kotwali

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A building in Doha, Qatar, damaged in an Israeli strike, which Israel said was aimed at Hamas leaders, is pictured yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UPRISING CASES Committees to identify those falsely implicated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed committees at the district and metropolitan levels in an attempt to identify and discharge individuals falsely implicated in cases filed over the crimes committed during last year's mass uprising.

These committees will oversee the submission of interim investigation reports in cases related to the uprising, assessing whether such cases accuse any individuals with the sole intent to harass.

Besides, a dedicated ministry-level committee has also been formed to supervise all the district- and metropolitan-level committees.

This move follows the recent addition of Section 173A to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, which mandates the submission of interim investigation reports.

The committees are tasked with overseeing whether the new

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A glimmer of hope for Joy Robidas

Son of Rangpur mob victim
returns to school with
support of well-wishers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Over a month after cobbler Ruplal Robidas was killed by a mob in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila, his 14-year-old son Joy Robidas is trying to rebuild his life — this time with books in hand instead of a needle and thread.

Joy stands tall despite the turmoil. He had to fill his father's shoes and take up the responsibilities of the household, foregoing his dreams. However, an outpouring of support has turned the tide.

After The Daily Star published a story and photo of Joy stitching shoes, both government and non-government organisations, along with individuals, came forward to help the family.

Joy told The Daily Star, "Many people have helped and stood by us. But I cannot forget the pain of losing my father. It is very difficult for us to live without him. I am now regularly attending school. My classmates and teachers are encouraging me. I want to complete my studies

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Govt to buy 300 vehicles for polls duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will procure around 300 vehicles for use during the upcoming national election, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase, he dismissed media reports about buying 60 vehicles for ministers of the next government as "untrue".

"The public administration ministry had submitted this proposal, but it has been rejected," he said.

Salehuddin explained that the new vehicles would mostly go to Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs), while some would be allocated to deputy commissioners (DCs).

"To ensure effective field-level operations, better vehicles are needed as many existing ones have become unusable," he added.

In August, the public administration ministry proposed purchasing 280 vehicles at a cost of Tk 445 crore.

The plan included 60

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5 killed as Israel attacks Hamas leaders in Qatar

US, UK, France, Arabs condemn attack; people told to flee Gaza City as Israel plans to intensify offensive

AGENCIES

Israel launched an airstrike against arch foe Hamas leaders in Qatar yesterday, expanding military actions that have ranged across the Middle East to include the Gulf Arab state where the Palestinian Islamist group has long had its political base.

Qatar, a key security partner of the United States and host to al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East, has acted as a mediator alongside Egypt in talks on a ceasefire in the almost two-year-old war in Gaza.

Qatar condemned yesterday's attack as "cowardly" and called it a flagrant violation of international law. The assault is likely to deal a serious, if not fatal, blow to the ceasefire efforts, especially since negotiations have often taken place in Qatar.

Two Hamas sources told Reuters that Hamas officials in the ceasefire negotiating team survived the attack, which followed an evacuation order in Gaza City, where Israel is waging an offensive to try to destroy the group and its military capabilities in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials told Reuters the strike was aimed at top Hamas leaders including Khalil al-Hayya, its exiled Gaza chief and top negotiator. His son was killed in the attack, two Hamas

sources told Reuters.

Israel is still gathering information on the strike and is yet to determine whether any Hamas officials or leaders were killed, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Hamas said six people were killed in the strike, including a Qatari security officer. Three bodyguards and Gaza ceasefire negotiator Khalil al-Hayya's aide and son were all killed in the attack, the group said, affirming "the enemy's failure to assassinate our brothers in the negotiating delegation".

In Washington, a White House official said Israel had notified the US about the strike beforehand.

The airstrike took place shortly after Hamas' armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, claimed responsibility for a shooting on Monday that killed six people at a bus stop on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

The Israeli operation drew strong reactions. The leaders of Britain and France condemned the strike.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the attack violated Qatar's sovereignty and risked "further escalation" in the volatile region, while Macron called them "unacceptable" whatever the reasoning behind them might be.

The United Arab Emirates, which normalised relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Father files case over son's killing in Rajbari attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Around 4,000 unidentified people have been sued over the death of a man during a clash at the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, locally known as "Nurul Pagla", in Rajbari's Goaland upazila on September 5.

Victim Rasel Molla's father Md Azad Molla lodged the case with Goaland Ghat Police Station on Monday night, police said yesterday.

Md Sharif Al Rajeeb, additional superintendent of police in Rajbari, said the charges in the case include murder, arson, burning of a body, vandalism, theft, and assault.

He added that police have so far arrested two people — Md Abdul Latif, 35, of Gior upazila in Manikganj, and Ovi Mandal, 29, of Goaland upazila in Rajbari — in connection with the case.

Earlier, Selim Molla, a sub-inspector of the Goaland Ghat Police Station, filed another case accusing 3,000-3,500 unnamed people of attacking police, and vandalising vehicles. Police have so far arrested 16 people in that case, two of whom gave confessional statements under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a court.

Rasel, a follower of Nurul Haque, was killed during clashes on September 5, after hundreds of people attacked the darbar sharif, exhumed the body of Nurul Haque from his grave, and set it on fire.

Venice's famous winged lion statue actually Chinese

CNN ONLINE

To visitors, Venice is a glorious tapestry of historic buildings, waterways, bell towers, red roofs — and a mighty winged lion, the symbol of the Venetian republic, carved into structures across the city.

Possibly the most famous version of the lion is a bronze statue standing atop a column in the Piazzetta adjoining St Mark's Square — and now, researchers think the statue was made in China.

After studying samples from the metal lion using lead isotope analysis, researchers from northern

Italy's University of Padua found that the copper used to create the bronze alloy (which is a mix of copper and tin) on the original bronze work came from the Yangtze river in China, according to a study published in the journal *Antiquity*.

This, they said, would explain why the 4-metre- (13-foot-) long and 2.2-metre- (7-foot-) high statue, previously thought to have been made locally, in Syria or Anatolia, is stylistically mysterious.



In broad daylight, influential groups are illegally extracting sand from the Padma riverbed in Rajshahi, endangering embankments and putting the region at risk. Trucks haul sand day and night from multiple points in Godagari upazila, with Shyampur among the worst-hit areas. The photo was taken yesterday from Shyampur.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Ex-secretary Shafiqul Islam arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former secretary Bhuiyan Mohammad Shafiqul Islam to jail in an anti-terrorism case.



Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ariful Islam passed the order after police produced Shafiqul before the court, said a court staffer.

Police arrested Shafiqul from a resort in Kalapara, Patuakhali, early yesterday.

Yesterday, the magistrate also rejected bail petitions of Shafiqul and former secretary Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan in the case, said defence lawyer Mohammad Liton Miah.

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