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Shibir sweeps Ducusu polls in historic shift

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For the first time since Bangladesh's independence, a panel backed by Islami Chhatra Shibir secured a thumping victory in Ducusu polls on Tuesday, clinching 23 of 28 central posts in a dramatic shift in campus politics.

The Shibir-backed "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" panel won the top three positions by a landslide: Abu Shadik Kayem as vice president; SM Farhad as general secretary; and Mohiuddin Khan as assistant general secretary.

Thousands of students cast their votes in the Ducusu and hall union elections, held amid festivity and excitement after a six-year hiatus.

Shadik bagged 14,042 votes, far ahead of rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed Abidul Islam Khan, who polled 5,708, according to results declared yesterday morning at Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan.

Independent candidate Shameem Hossain came third with 3,883 votes, followed by fellow independent Umama Fatema with 3,389, and Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad nominee Abdul Kader with 1,103.

Shadik, immediate past president of Shibir's DU unit, and Farhad, who is currently holding the post, were both active in last year's student-led July uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina's fall on August 5.

Farhad stormed to the GS post with 10,794 votes, leaving JCD-backed Shaikh Tanvir Baree Hamim trailing with 5,283. Left alliance candidate Meghmalla Bosu bagged 4,949, independent Arafat Chowdhury got 4,044, and Boishommo Birodhi-backed Abu Baker Mojumdar secured 2,131.

In the AGS race, Shibir's Mohiuddin Khan won with 11,772 votes, well ahead of JCD's Tanvir Al Hadi Mayed, who polled 5,064.

Shibir leaders, who had been virtually banned from Dhaka University following HM Ershad's fall in 1990, began appearing openly on campus just a month after last year's uprising. It was then that Shadik and Farhad publicly revealed themselves as Shibir's DU unit president and general secretary.

POST-RESULT STATEMENTS

At a briefing after the results, Shadik said, "This is not a victory of any camp, nor of Shadik or Farhad. It is essentially the victory of the students. From today until I complete my duties, every student of Dhaka University will serve as my adviser. If I make mistakes or take a wrong step, I urge the students to correct me immediately, even if through criticism. That will help me stay on the right path."

Meanwhile, JCD candidate Abid rejected the results in a Facebook

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RESULTS

VICE PRESIDENT

Abu Shadik Kayem
(Shibir-backed panel)
14,042 votes

Abidul Islam Khan
(JCD-backed panel)
5,708

GENERAL SECRETARY

SM Farhad
(Shibir-backed panel)
10,794 votes

Shaikh Tanvir Baree
Hamim
(JCD-backed panel)
5,283

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

Mohiuddin Khan
(Shibir-backed panel)
11,772 votes

Tanvir Al Hadi Mayed
(JCD-backed panel)
5,064

Shibir-backed panel wins in 17 out of 18 halls

Shadik: 45% votes, Farhad: 34% votes

Shibir panel gets 23, independents 4, leftist 1



Abu Shadik Kayem, SM Farhad, and Mohiuddin Khan of the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" gesture triumphantly at Dhaka University's Senate Bhavan yesterday morning, after winning the top three posts in the long-awaited Ducusu elections.

PHOTO: STAR

Ducusu debacle a rude awakening for BNP

Say political analysts

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's defeat by a huge margin in the Ducusu polls has sent a strong message to the BNP, just five months ahead of the national election, political analysts say.

Chhatra Dal, considered to be one of the major student bodies which had earlier won Ducusu polls in 1990 during the anti-Ershad movement, failed to secure any of the 28 posts in this year's election.

Meanwhile, the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel swept the DU election, winning 23 of 28 posts -- the student body's biggest success since the country's independence.

The analysts say the loss ahead of other major student union elections warrants drastic re-organisation of the JCD, which traditionally plays a vital role during national elections.

Political observers cited organisational weaknesses, prolonged absence from the campus, the age gap between leaders and general students, and ineffective hall-level campaigning as the key reasons behind the defeat.

"This is not merely a student union election -- it carries a powerful message for the upcoming national polls," said Prof Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research.

"General students could not trust BNP and Chhatra Dal. Many believed that if they voted for Chhatra Dal and helped them win, it would ultimately strengthen the BNP -- something



"BNP had built strong momentum, but the loss in the Ducusu polls has significantly undercut it. The setback has left many party activists disheartened. The scale of Chhatra Dal's defeat is deeply disappointing."

A senior BNP leader speaking anonymously

they did not want, as the party was already involved in various unethical activities. This fear worked against them."

The Ducusu polls were held after last year's mass uprising that toppled the Awami League regime. With Chhatra League absent from the contest, the biggest beneficiary turned out to be Shibir.

For BNP, the failure of Chhatra Dal not only hurt its image among students but also raised new challenges for the party at the national level, said party leaders and experts.

Political analysts said if BNP fails to take lessons from this defeat, the consequences will

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Shibir's quiet groundwork pays off

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Patience, discipline, and long-term planning turned the tide for Islami Chhatra Shibir, delivering a Ducusu triumph once considered a pipe dream for the student front of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Students and teachers believe Shibir's panel, Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote, benefited from its role in the July uprising, the sympathy it garnered from repression by Chhatra League activists, and years of focused organising in female dormitories.

During the Awami League's tenure, Shibir had to stay away from public activities. It instead operated discreetly, embedding activists within various social and cultural organisations. With access to dormitories restricted, many members used rented houses around the campus as alternative operational bases.

Though the organisation was never officially banned, its leaders and activists were beaten and expelled from dormitories during the AI rule.

Following the July uprising, Shibir activists took the lead in forming hall-wise unofficial "disciplinary" or "reform" committees, a move that helped them gain influence over students across the campus.

The committees engaged with the residential students by offering personal assistance and taking initiatives such as installing water purifiers, setting up libraries in guestrooms and mosques, and introducing motorcycle and bicycle washing stations.

They also identified the students who were involved with the now-banned Chhatra League and forced them out of the dorms either by creating mobs or with the help

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Army deployed in Kathmandu to restore order

Soldiers patrol streets, guard parliament

AGENCIES

Soldiers guarded Nepal's parliament and patrolled deserted streets yesterday amid a curfew in the capital Kathmandu, after two days of deadly anti-corruption protests forced Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign.

The upheaval in the poor Himalayan nation was unleashed by a social media ban that was announced last week, but was rolled back after 19 people were killed on Monday as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to control crowds.

The death toll from the protests had risen to 25 by yesterday, Nepal's health ministry said, while 633 were injured.

Nepal's army said that relevant parties were coordinating to tackle the situation after the protests and resolve the issue. Media also said preparations were being made for authorities and protesters to hold talks, without giving details.

Most of the protesters were young people voicing frustration at the government's perceived failure to

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Nepali army personnel patrol the road near the Singha Durbar office complex that houses the prime minister's office and other ministries during a curfew in the capital Kathmandu yesterday, after two days of deadly anti-corruption protests claimed 25 lives and forced prime minister KP Sharma Oli to resign.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Mob violence: no end in sight

Two more men beaten to death in Dhaka

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Despite repeated assurances of tougher action and the interim government's zero-tolerance stance, incidents of mob violence show no sign of stopping.

Even warnings by security forces appear to have little deterrent effect. Within a week, mob attacks have taken place at a shrine and twice in the capital.

Experts have raised questions over law and order, as well as the interim government's ability and willingness to contain the menace.

In the latest incident, two men were beaten to death in separate attacks in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. The deceased were identified as Sujan alias Babul, 17, an assistant to a sanitary mechanic, and Hanif Hawlader, 22, a helper of a transport vehicle.

Police claimed both were muggers and had four cases each filed against them. Their families, however, denied the allegations.

Sujan's elder brother, Md Sojib, told The Daily Star, "My brother used to spend time with his friends in the neighbourhood. He wasn't a mugger, and he worked as an assistant."

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Farida Parveen on life support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Lalonsinger Farida Parveen has been placed on life support as her physical condition has further deteriorated.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Dr Ashish Kumar Chakraborty, managing director of Universal Medical College Hospital in Mohakhali, said the decision to put her on life support was made yesterday afternoon.

Stating that her condition is critical, he said, "Her blood pressure is alarmingly low. The infection has increased, and her level of consciousness has also decreased. The kidney complications were already there."

Farida Parveen has been suffering from kidney-related issues for a long time. Sources said after undergoing dialysis on September 2, her condition worsened and doctors advised her to be admitted to the hospital. Since then, she has been receiving treatment in the hospital's ICU.



Residents of Teligati village in Khulna's Dighalia upazila navigate flooded areas on small boats as their homes, roads, and fish enclosures remain submerged by rainwater for nearly two months. This daily struggle for thousands, including children and the elderly, is unlikely to ease anytime soon, with the region's sole drainage source -- the Shoilmari river in Batiaghata barely flowing anymore.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Tigers eye winning start in Asia Cup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to make a winning start in the Asia Cup T20 when they face Hong Kong in their Group B opener at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi today.

The Tigers arrive on the back of T20I series wins over Netherlands, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, complemented by an intense home training camp before travelling to the Gulf. Performances from both regular starters and bench players have boosted confidence ahead of the tournament.

However, the heat in Abu Dhabi remains a challenge, even though the temperature would go down considerably during match time.

On the other hand, Hong Kong had already played their opening match against Afghanistan, which they lost by 94 runs, and in order to stay alive in the tournament, they will go all-out against Bangladesh.

History is on Hong Kong's side, however, as they beat Bangladesh by two wickets in the only previous T20 meeting between the sides, during the 2014 ICC T20 World Cup in Chattogram.

If they can replicate a similar performance today, Bangladesh's Asia Cup campaign could be in jeopardy, given two teams from each group will progress to the Super Four round, with Sri Lanka and Afghanistan waiting in their remaining Group B matches on September 13 and 16, respectively, at the same venue.

Shibir sweeps Ducusu polls in historic shift

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post early yesterday, calling the election "rigged" and a "farce." Later in the afternoon, he wrote that he would continue his journey and try to fulfil the pledges in his manifesto.

"I have come quite close, but perhaps I could not reach everyone. Yet I want to assure you, my journey does not end here -- there is still a long way to go."

Independent candidate Umama Fatema also rejected the polls.

In a 3:24am post, the former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination wrote: "Boycott! Boycott! I hereby reject Ducusu." She added, "A shamelessly rigged election. After August 5, the Dhaka University administration has brought shame upon the nation -- an administration run by Shibir loyalists."

Abu Baker Mojumdar also alleged rigging, claiming ballots at some centres were pre-filled.

OTHER OFFICE BEARERS

Shibir activists won nine out of 12 secretariat posts. Independents took the other three: Sanjida Ahmed Tonni as research and publication secretary, Musaddik Ali Ibne Mohammad as literature and culture secretary, and Jubair Bin Nesary as social welfare secretary. Tonni's bloodied face during a BCL attack on July 15 became one of the iconic images of the uprising.

From the Shibir-backed panel, Fatima Tasnim Zuma was elected liberation war and democratic movement secretary; Iqbal Haider science and technology secretary; Umme Salma common room,

reading room and cafeteria secretary; Jashimuddin Khan international affairs secretary; Arman Hossain sports secretary; Asif Abdullah student transport secretary; Mazharul Islam career development secretary; MM Al Minhaz health and environment secretary; and Md Jakaria human rights and legal secretary.

Of the 13 member posts, Shibir took 11. Winners included Sabikun Nahar Tamanna, Sarba Mitra Chakma, Imran Hossain, Mosammat Afsana Akhter, Tajinur Rahman, Raihan Uddin, Miftahul Hossain Al-Maruf, Anas Ibn Munir, Belal Hossain Apu, Raisul Islam and Shahinur Rahman. The remaining two seats went to Hema Chakma of the left-leaning "Pratirodh Parshad" and independent Umma Uswatun Raffa.

HOW THEY FARED IN HALLS

The races for VP and GS posts turned into clean sweeps for Shadik and Farhad. Shadik defeated Abidul by 8,334 votes, while Farhad beat Hamim by 5,511. Both won in 17 of 18 residential halls, firmly establishing their dominance.

Notably, they topped the vote in all five women's halls -- traditionally considered weak zones for Shibir -- marking a significant shift in campus politics. Shadik also outpaced Farhad by roughly 3,250 votes and secured more than triple the tally of his panel's lowest performer.

Jagannath Hall, reserved for minority students, proved the lone exception. There, Abidul won the VP race with 1,276 votes against Shadik's 10. In the GS contest, Meghmalla Bosu topped the tally with 1,170 votes,

while Farhad managed just five -- a stark contrast to trends elsewhere.

A HISTORY OF DUCSU

Since independence, Ducusu polls have been held eight times. No result was declared in 1973 after ballot snatching marred the election, while leftist-backed panels won the top two posts in 1972, 1979, 1980 and 1982.

In 1989 polls, the Chhatra Sangram Parishad-backed panel won all 20 positions.

The next year, the Chhatra Dal panel swept all 20 Ducusu posts. Aman Ullah Aman was elected VP while Khairul Kabir Khokon was elected GS.

In 2019, quota movement leader Nurul Huq Nur was elected VP from the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad panel, while its Akhtar Hossain won the social welfare secretary post. The Chhatra League panel secured 23 out of 25 Ducusu posts, including that of GS, that year.

After Ershad's fall, Paribesh Parishad -- a platform of DU authorities and student representatives -- banned Shibir activities.

During the 16 years of Awami League rule, incidents of assault on individuals suspected of being affiliated with Shibir were frequent in various residential halls.

Islami Chhatra Shibir is a student organisation backed by Jamaat-e-Islami, which opposed Bangladesh's independence and sided with the Pakistan army in 1971. Its predecessor, Islami Chhatra Shangha, formed Al-Badr and took part in the killing of Bangalee intellectuals, including DU teachers, in the final days of the war.

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In the most recent version, the three points that some political parties, including the BNP, objected to were left out.

One point stated that if the charter conflicted with existing laws or the constitution, the charter would take precedence.

Another gave the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court the authority to interpret any provision or recommendation of the charter.

A further point barred anyone from challenging the charter's legitimacy in court.

In the recent version, the commission clearly included which parties agreed to which reform proposals and which parties gave a note of dissent.

Meanwhile, the commission held a meeting yesterday at its office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to review expert opinions on how to implement the charter.

During the meeting, the members revisited the suggestions and advice

given by experts and decided to analyse the opinions submitted by political parties, with a plan to incorporate them into the charter.

Preparations for today's scheduled meeting between the commission and different political parties on methods of implementation were also discussed.

The charter describes itself as a new political settlement born out of the July uprising in which thousands of people sacrificed their lives, endured violence and suffered immense losses.

It affirms that the document reflects the aspirations of the people and must be implemented in full as a consensus outcome achieved through a continuous process.

It further highlights that the people are the true owners of the state, and their will is the highest law.

Since democratic aspirations are expressed through political parties, the parties have collectively accepted the July Charter as a reflection of that will.

They have pledged to enshrine the charter in the constitution, either as

a schedule or in another appropriate form.

The document also commits parties to ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearances, killings and torture during the 16-year struggle against authoritarian rule as well as for all killings during the July uprising.

It calls for state recognition of the martyrs, proper assistance to their families, and medical care and rehabilitation for the injured.

The charter outlines a broad framework for reforming the state structure, pledging constitutional amendments, legal changes, and the enactment of new laws where necessary to implement its decisions.

The reforms cover the constitution, judiciary, electoral system, public administration, policing and anti-corruption mechanisms.

It further stipulates that decisions that are immediately implementable must be carried out without delay by the interim government and relevant authorities.

Ducusu debacle a rude awakening for BNP

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He said extortion by party members, business grabbing, and infighting have already put BNP in an image crisis, which was also reflected in the polls.

A BNP leader said, "Public perception is very important in politics. The result of the Ducusu polls has had a significant impact on people. There is no difference between Chhatra Dal's defeat and BNP's defeat."

Mojibur said the result triggered public reactions, which are likely to influence the national election.

"Shibir leaders are now in the spotlight after winning Ducusu posts. When the national elections come, they will return to their areas and use their positions to seek votes. This is certain to have an impact on the election," he said.

Two BNP Standing Committee members said they are working to rebuild the party's image by taking action against those involved in controversial activities. "BNP had built strong momentum, but the loss in the Ducusu polls has significantly undercut it. The setback has left many

party activists disheartened. The scale of Chhatra Dal's defeat is deeply disappointing," said a senior leader.

Dhaka North City BNP Convener Aminul Haque said, "I think this is a big lesson for the BNP. In the coming days, we will move forward by finding out our organisational weaknesses."

According to Prof Mojibur, BNP's intellectual group is very weak, and the party does not even feel the need to strengthen it. "BNP and Chhatra Dal talk big and bring out processions, but the results are there for all to see. The party must now focus on strengthening its organisational base."

At a programme in Chattogram, BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday alleged that Shibir won the Ducusu polls by colluding with the Awami League, whose political activities are banned.

Another Standing Committee member, Khandaker Mosharraf, insisted that the outcome would have no effects on national polls or politics.

Shibir's quiet groundwork pays off

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of the authorities.

All these efforts culminated in Tuesday's breakthrough victory.

Historically, Shibir's presence at Dhaka University has been severely restricted.

After the mass uprising of 1990, various teachers' and students' organisations at DU reached a joint decision to prohibit political activities of both Shibir and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the student wing of Jatiya Party. As a result, Shibir's politics came to a halt on campus.

During the Awami League's 15-year rule, Shibir was denied any space to organise openly. Yet the July 2024 uprising revealed that its activists had quietly sustained operations -- by infiltrating Chhatra League and embedding themselves in various socio-cultural organisations.

Throughout those years, the group never publicly announced a Dhaka University committee, choosing instead to operate in the shadows.

The July uprising changed that.

On August 13 last year, Shibir joined a meeting at the TSC auditorium organised by the liaison committee of

the Students Against Discrimination, attended by representatives from all major student organisations. However, four groups walked out in protest.

Later, Shibir joined all the meetings organised by the DU authorities with student bodies ahead of the Ducusu elections.

In October 2024, Shibir announced a 14-member Dhaka University committee, which went on to stage many campus events. Never in its 48-year history had the group conducted election-related activities so openly, freely, and with such energy.

Meanwhile, other frontliners of the July movement contested the Ducusu polls from separate panels -- splitting the vote and ultimately clearing the path for Shibir's victory.

The VP candidate of the Boishommo Birodhi Shikharthi Sangsad panel bagged only 1,103 votes, and the GS candidate Abu Baker Mojumdar got 2,131 votes.

Shibir's "inclusive panel" strategy -- featuring an indigenous community member and four female candidates (including one from another platform) -- helped the group overcome its longstanding barrier to securing female

votes.

As a result, VP-elect Abu Shadik Kayem received 14,042 votes, including 5,224 from female dormitories, while GS-elect SM Farhad secured 10,794 votes, with 3,951 cast from female halls.

Sharing his observations, Farid Uddin Ahmed, professor of political science at DU, told this newspaper that since the July uprising, Shibir has been preparing for the Ducusu election in an organised manner.

"They carried out extensive campaigns in every hall, faculty, and student residence around the campus. Shibir's preparation for this Ducusu election had been nearly a year long. During this time, it succeeded in building a largely positive image among most students."

He said the organisation has covertly operated its activities on campus and established a strong presence in various halls, faculties, and nearby student hostels.

"Compared to other panels and organisations, their activists were seen as more skilled and effective in organisational capacity, networking, and execution."

protect the life and property of people," Basnet said, adding that prisoners had set Kathmandu's Dilli Bazar Jail on fire before the army controlled the situation.

Nepali police said that more than 13,500 prisoners broke out of jails across the country during the protests this week.

The main airport in Kathmandu also reopened yesterday, an airport spokesperson said, more than 24 hours after flights had been suspended.

In an appeal on X, the army said prohibitory orders imposing a curfew would remain in force until this morning.

"Any demonstrations, vandalism, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals and property in the name of protest will be considered punishable crimes and strict action will be taken by security personnel," the post said.

exterior was charred after protesters set it ablaze on Tuesday.

TV footage showed youths cleaning up some damaged buildings and clearing debris from roads and the areas near parliament.

Several other government buildings, from the supreme court to ministers' homes, including Oli's private residence, were also set ablaze in the protests, with the unrest subsiding only after the resignation.

Armoured vehicles kept vigil in streets that were largely deserted, with shops and markets shut. Firefighters were engaged at different locations, while the process of clearing roads was also under way, army spokesman Raja Ram Basnet said.

"We are trying to normalise the situation first. We are committed to

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JONNY'S CUSTODIAL DEATH

‘We still live in fear’

Family says justice remains elusive; alleges associates of accused threatening them

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Five years after a Dhaka court delivered the first-ever verdict under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, in the Ishiaque Hossain Jonny murder case, the victim's family says justice remains incomplete.

Although the High Court disposed of the case in August this year, ruling on appeals lodged by the convicts, Jonny's relatives allege they continue to face threats from the accused.

"The accomplices of the accused persons are constantly threatening us. Some of them have asked me not to move any appeal before the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict, which commuted the sentence of a convict and also acquitted another," Jonny's younger brother Imtiaz Hossain Rocky told The Daily Star.

"Another group vandalised my garage last September, where I work for a living, and looted items from it. I filed a general diary with the police..." he said.

Rocky said former SI Zahidur Rahman

and former ASI Rashidul are now in jail, while former SI Qamruzzaman Mintu remains absconding. Police informer Russell is in jail in another murder case, and informer Sumon has already served his term. "Our family, including me and Jonny's two children, are still living in fear," he said.

Defence lawyer Md Abdur Razzak Razu, however, dismissed Rocky's claim, saying he was making such allegations to draw sympathy. "The reality is that the families of the accused are now in a very vulnerable position," he said.

According to the case statement, police informers Sumon and Russell called law enforcers after Jonny, a garment-waste trader from Dhaka's Mirpur, slapped Sumon for stalking and harassing women at a wedding in Pallabi's Irani Camp area on February 8, 2014.

A team of 25-26 police officers, including then SI Zahidur, raided a house that night and detained Jonny and Rocky. The two were tortured at Pallabi Police Station.

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As the evening sun sets, glowing like an orange ball in the distance, people from all walks of life gather at nearby ghats to witness the majestic spectacle. The photo was taken from Barui para Ferry Ghat in Kalia upazila of Narail yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Mahmudur Rahman, Nahid to testify at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman and Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP), have been asked to testify before International Crimes Tribunal-1 as prosecution witnesses on September 15.

They are set to appear in the crimes against humanity case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun. Mamun has pleaded guilty and turned approver.

ICT prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said both witnesses were scheduled to testify yesterday but could not attend due to personal reasons.

Tamim said the prosecution has submitted a list of 81 witnesses, of whom 45 have already testified. "Some will provide historical background. After that, seizure-list witnesses and the investigation officer will testify, and then no more witnesses will be called," he said.

"After that, we will move to arguments," Tamim said, adding that efforts are underway to complete all

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Then who set fire to Mohanganj Express?

Despite cry for justice, PBI plans to submit final report citing lack of evidence

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For Karwan Bazar hardware shop manager Mizanur Rahman, life has not been the same since the night his world turned to ashes. His wife Nadira Akter Popy, 32, and their three-year-old son Yeasin were among four people killed when arsonists set fire to the Dhaka-bound Mohanganj Express in Tejgaon on December 19, 2023.

Twenty months later, justice remains elusive. Police have yet to arrest the culprits, and investigators now plan to submit a final report citing lack of evidence. The attack occurred just 18 days before the 12th national elections.

Around 4:45am, passengers on



Charred interior of one of the three burnt carriages of Mohanganj Express.

FILE PHOTO

thick smoke trapped them inside.

Hours later, rescuers found their charred bodies – Yeasin still nestled against his mother's chest.

Police termed the blaze an "act of sabotage", and Bangladesh Railway authorities filed a murder case.

But in the months since, the family says the case has been left in limbo.

"Various authorities called me shortly after the incident. But everything has changed now," said Mizanur, still grieving.

"I learned the rail authorities filed a case. But I don't know what happened to it. A long time has passed since I lost my wife and son.

However, I still have not received any justice," he said.

Popy's brother Habibur Rahman, who survived the fire, still carries the scars of that night. "My sister was running to safety with Yeasin, and I was with my elder nephew Fahim. I managed to escape with Fahim, but when I tried to find my sister, the smoke made it impossible."

"Those memories still haunt me," he said.

He added, "We have heard the PBI is investigating the case. But none of them contacted us. There is no progress, which is painful. We only want justice."

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HC halts construction in Hatirjheel, Panthakunja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday restrained the government from carrying out any construction work in Panthakunja Park and the Hatirjheel waterbody in Dhaka.

In the injunction order, the court directed the respondents concerned not to interfere with common people's access to the spots for recreation and other purposes.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to show cause as to why the construction of the FDC-to-Palashi extension of the Support to Elevated Expressway inside Panthakunja and Hatirjheel should not be declared illegal, and why they should not be directed to relocate the construction work of the FDC-to-Palashi extension of the Support to Elevated Expressway Project to any other suitable area and restore the Moghbazar-to-FDC intersection of the Hatirjheel waterbody.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Biswajit Debnath came up with the order and rule following a petition filed by many eminent citizens and rights organisations.

Lawyers Jyotirmoy Barua and Ripan Kumar Barua appeared for petitioners.

DURGA PUJA

‘Apologise for your remarks’

22 noted citizens urge home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home adviser's recent comment on the Durga Puja festival has not only hurt religious sentiments but also raised questions about communal harmony, said 22 eminent citizens yesterday.

In a joint statement, they demanded that Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam "publicly apologise" to the Hindu community and to all religious and peace-loving citizens of the country for his "racist, provocative, and communal remarks."

Jahangir, on Monday, said, "Fair stalls won't be allowed around the puja mandaps this year in any way because alcohol and marijuana gatherings are held at those fairs."

The state must establish specific directives

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Bangladesh seeks increased migration opportunities to EU

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for expanding legal migration opportunities to European Union (EU) countries, stressing that structured initiatives such as the EU Talent Partnership could help curb irregular migration.

The call came during a meeting between Nazrul Islam, secretary (Bilateral) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Michael Shottor, director for Migration and Asylum at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, at the ministry yesterday.

Welcoming the EU official, Nazrul Islam praised the EU's continued engagement with Bangladesh on migration and mobility cooperation.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

‘Pivotal moment for gender equality’

MJF hails BBS report recognising women's economic contribution in household work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has congratulated the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on the findings of its first Household Production Satellite Accounts (HPSA), which, for the first time, placed a monetary value on unpaid household work.

Launched on Tuesday, the report estimates unpaid household work at a staggering Tk 6,70,000 crore – equivalent to 18.9 percent of the national GDP – highlighting the vital, yet often invisible, labour that supports the economy.

According to BBS, unpaid household work alone is worth Tk 4,00,000 crore, with women contributing the vast majority – Tk 3,40,000 crore. The figures provide official recognition of the historically overlooked economic contribution of women.

In a statement issued yesterday, MJF praised the government's commitment and acknowledged the support of UN Women and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in producing the report.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, described the report's release as a "pivotal moment for gender equality in Bangladesh".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A traffic policeman sits beside a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver as the vehicle tows a line of similar ones seized for illegally plying the main road. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road in Shyamoli yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ex-DC Sultana suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended former Kurigram deputy



commissioner and joint secretary Sultana Parveen, who was jailed in a case over torturing a journalist.

The public administration ministry confirmed the information yesterday. On September 2, a lower court denied her bail petition and sent her to jail. Following that, she was made OSD. The High Court granted her bail on September 9.

On March 13, 2020, a mobile court led by Kurigram district administration raided Ariful's home after he published reports on irregularities. He alleged that he was blindfolded and tortured during the incident. He was later jailed for possessing alcohol and cannabis.

A ministry probe later found Sultana's involvement in the incident.

Two more held over Rajbari shrine attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested two more people in connection with the murder of Rasel Molla, 27, and the large-scale vandalism at the shrine of Nurul Haque, widely known as “Nural Pagla”, in Rajbari’s Goalanda upazila.

The arrestees are Shanto Kazi, 19, of Goalanda municipality, and Mohammad Anisur Rahman, 30, of Faridpur’s Saltha. Both were arrested on Tuesday night.

“A total of 20 people have now been held in the two cases so far. The accused are being identified through video footage, and the latest arrestees will be produced before the court,” said Md Sharif Al Rajib, additional superintendent of police (Crime and Ops) in Rajbari.

On Monday, Rasel’s father Azad Molla filed a case with Goalanda Ghat Police Station against 3,500-4,000 unidentified people, accusing them of murder, arson, looting, vandalism, and assault during Friday’s attack on the shrine.

The case statement said Rasel and some others were inside the shrine after Juma prayers when a protest rally, organised under the banner of “Imaan-Aqida Rokkha Committee”, marched from Goalanda Bazar Ansar Club and stormed the shrine around 3:00pm. At least 15-20 attackers scaled the wall and hacked Rasel, his younger brother Sajjad, and niece Rahela Akhter near the main gate. Around 50 others were also beaten and injured.

Locals rescued the wounded and took them to Goalanda Upazila Health Complex, where Rasel was again attacked. He was later referred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.



Frobel Academy, a STEM-accredited and Cambridge Associate inclusive school, hosted the University Fair 2025 at its Ananya Residential Area campus in Chattogram recently. The event featured seven leading universities from Chattogram and Dhaka, along with 14 renowned educational consultancy firms, offering an enriching platform for aspiring students and their families. Over 400 students from various schools explored their academic opportunities.

PHOTO: COURTESY

2 NCP leaders resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP) resigned from their posts yesterday.

Major (retd) Abdullah Al Mahmud, joint chief organiser of the NCP, and central member Major (retd) Mohammad Salahuddin announced their resignations in a press release.

Both told The Daily Star that their resignation letters had been sent to the NCP convener.

In the press release, Mahmud cited various reasons for stepping down.



Abdullah Salahuddin

Two die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died, and 625 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The deaths were reported from areas under the Dhaka South City Corporation.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths and cases rose to 139 and 36,096, respectively, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total cases, a total of 34,126 dengue patients have so far been released from hospitals.

Pivotal moment

FROM PAGE 3

“This is a historic moment when women’s unrecognized and undervalued household work will finally get the national attention it deserves,” she said.

“We believe this will play a crucial role in changing society’s attitude towards women and girls. It will bring more recognition and appreciation for women engaged in household work, which is both productive and reproductive,” she said.

The findings mark a significant milestone for MJF’s long-standing Equality through Dignity campaign, launched in 2013, which has worked to enhance women’s status, reduce discrimination, and

curb violence against them, said the statement.

The BBS results validate years of advocacy by MJF and other civil society organisations, it added.

MJF urged the government to act on the report’s recommendations, including establishing an inter-ministerial mechanism to integrate unpaid work into national laws and policies, ensuring adequate budget allocation, and committing to regular data collection to track progress.

The foundation hopes these measures will be implemented swiftly to turn the report’s findings into meaningful change for women across Bangladesh.

We still live in fear

FROM PAGE 3

The next day, Jonny fell ill and was taken to a local clinic before being transferred to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Rocky filed a murder case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court in Dhaka on August 8, 2014.

On September 9, 2020, the court sentenced Zahidur, Qamruzzaman, and Rashidul to life imprisonment, and informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.

Qamruzzaman remains on the run, while Russell, who was absconding

during the trial court verdict, later surrendered.

The convicts then filed separate appeals with the HC.

On August 11 this year, the HC bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan upheld the life imprisonment of Zahidur. As Qamruzzaman did not appeal, his sentence remains in force.

The HC commuted Rashidul’s life sentence to 10 years in prison, acquitted Russell, and noted that Sumon had already served his seven-year term.

The full text of the HC verdict has not yet been released, said Rocky and defence lawyer Razu.

Mahmudur

FROM PAGE 3

witness testimonies by the end of the month.

He further noted that the alleged crimes were not confined to July 2024. “These crimes began in 2009 in different forms and continued until July 2024,” he said, adding that Mahmudur and Nahid would describe how the crimes evolved during that period.

In a separate development, ICT-1 has sent a police inspector and a constable to jail in connection with a crimes against humanity case over a 2016 incident in Chaugachha of Jashore, where two local Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders – Israfil and Ruhul – were shot in the knees.

Inspector Md Atikul Islam was sent to prison on Tuesday, while Constable Sajjadur Rahman was jailed yesterday.

ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ
রোড # ১৭/এ, সেক্টর # ১২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২০৩ | E-mail: principal@dwu91@gmail.com, Website: www.dwcuttara.edu.bd

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
সরকারি ও জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সর্বশেষ বিধি মোতাবেক ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজে শূন্য পদে উপাধ্যক্ষ, নিরাপত্তাকর্মী ও টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়ায় একজন করে লোক নিয়োগ করা হবে। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের যথেষ্ট বিবিত্তি আবেদন, পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদ, চারিবিধ সনদপত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সত্যায়িত কাগজপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ ও ০৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি সহ উপাধ্যক্ষ পদের জন্য সভাপতি, গভর্নিং বডি বরাবর ও নিরাপত্তাকর্মী, টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়ায় পদের জন্য অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত), ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে। ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ শিরোনামে উপাধ্যক্ষের ক্ষেত্রে ৩০০০/- (তিন হাজার) ও নিরাপত্তাকর্মী, টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়ায় ক্ষেত্রে ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদনপত্র ১২/১০/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে অধ্যক্ষের দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে।

সভাপতি, গভর্নিং বডি
ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ

অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ

STATUTORY LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
(HIGH COURT DIVISION)
(SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO-1530 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Section 81(2), 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding AGM and exoneration from any penalty.
IN THE MATTER OF:
Ruhaiya Farhin, Managing Director of Sheikh Properties Ltd.-----Applicant,
The RNSC & Firms, TCB Bhadon, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-----Respondents.
Notice is hereby published through the Daily News paper to all concerned that an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding AGM and exoneration from any penalty was filed, behalf of the above named petitioner earlier before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh praying for admission of said application.
Upon hearing of the application on 24th August 2025 Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel of the Hon'ble High Court Division has been pleased to admit and ordered to publish of this Notice. 2) (two) the Daily Newspaper named as "The Daily Star", and in "The Daily Aamshik" within 30(three) weeks and ordered to file affidavit in compliance on or before 14th September, 2025.
If any person is interested to oppose the said application he may appear before the Hon'ble High Court Division either in person or through an Advocate, copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.
Mohammad Nasir Uddin
Advocate-
Room No. 5023 (Annex)
SCBA, Shahbagh, Dhaka.
Mob: 01915737772

Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1665 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director and Shareholder of Aman Steel Mills Ltd.Petitioner
Versus
Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.
.....Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of Aman Steel Mills Ltd. for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to relieve the officers, directors, managers, auditors etc. from any liabilities arising out of default for not holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company for the Years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 within the time specified.
And Hon'ble High Court Division comprising His Lordships "Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel" admitted the application on 2nd September, 2025 and directed the petitioner to publish notices of the application and to file an affidavit in compliance on or before 26th October, 2025.
Anyone who is interested regarding the matter may appear in the hearing either personally or through appointed Advocate.
Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned Advocate subject to make payment of the prescribed fees.
Barrister Md. Anowar Hossain
Advocate, Appellate Division,
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Address- Room No. 2031 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association
Annex Building, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000,
Phone- 01716170196

Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1666 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director and Shareholder of Aman Rotor Spinning Mills Ltd.Petitioner
Versus
Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.
.....Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of Aman Rotor Spinning Mills Ltd. for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to relieve the officers, directors, managers, auditors etc. from any liabilities arising out of default for not holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company for the Years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 within the time specified.
And Hon'ble High Court Division comprising His Lordships "Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel" admitted the application on 2nd September, 2025 and directed the petitioner to publish notices of the application and to file an affidavit in compliance on or before 26th October, 2025.
Anyone who is interested regarding the matter may appear in the hearing either personally or through appointed Advocate.
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Advocate, Appellate Division,
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Address- Room No. 2031 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association
Annex Building, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000,
Phone- 01716170196

Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1663 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director and Shareholder of Akin Ideas Ltd.Petitioner
Versus
Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.
.....Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of Akin Ideas Ltd for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to relieve the officers, directors, managers, auditors etc. from any liabilities arising out of default for not holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company for the Years of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 within the time specified.
And Hon'ble High Court Division comprising His Lordships "Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel" admitted the application on 2nd September, 2025 and directed the petitioner to publish notices of the application and to file an affidavit in compliance on or before 26th October, 2025.
Anyone who is interested regarding the matter may appear in the hearing either personally or through appointed Advocate.
Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned Advocate subject to make payment of the prescribed fees.
Barrister Md. Anowar Hossain
Advocate, Appellate Division,
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Address- Room No. 2031 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association
Annex Building, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000,
Phone- 01716170196

Apartment for Rent, Gulshan-2
* 3 Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Balconies, 4 Toilets, 4 Air-conditions, Drawing & Dining * Fully Furnished, 24/7 Security, 2nd Floor, 2000 sq. ft. Includes 4-Wheel Drive Car * Foreigner Preference, no media House-27, Road-114, Gulshan-2, Dhaka
+61432115555, 01727431667
bodiur1@hotmail.com

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-দৌলতগঞ্জ
বিটিবো, লাকসাম, কুমিল্লা
মোবাইল: ০১৮-৪১-১২১২৪২
xenbpd_daulatgonj@yahoo.com

Reference No. 27.11.1972.816.002.019.25.722
Date: 10/09/2025

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods/works	Publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Opening/closing date and time
1150098	WVD-04	Outsourcing work for the prepayment metering project of the vending operator against the post of staff salary under Sales & Distribution Division-Daulatgonj, BPDB, Laksam, Cumilla office.	11-Sep-2025 14:00	25-Sep-2025 15:00	25-Sep-2025 16:00

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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

বিন্দু/জন্ম-১২২(২)/১০/০৯/২৫

Engr. Md Emam Hasan
Executive Engineer
Sales & Distribution Division-Daulatgonj
BPDB, Laksam, Cumilla

GD-1979

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)
BRTA Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.
www.brta.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice: OTM

Ref No: 35.03.0000.004.07.009.25-672
Date: 10 September 2025

This e-Tender has been invited in e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods and related services by Director (Operation), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), BRTA HQ, Chairmanbari, Banani, Dhaka-1212.

Tender ID	Description	Tender Publication date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling date & time	Tender Closing/Opening date & time
1149476 (Re-Tendered ID:1111046)	Supply of spare parts and replacement of defective devices, Installation, repairing and commissioning of 250KVA existing Power Generator for BRTA HQ Data Center & Power Room.	11-Sep-2025 09:00 Hours (BST)	24-Sep-2025 16:00 Hours (BST)	25-Sep-2025 13:00 Hours (BST)

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in national e-GP portal system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tenders please register on e-GP Portal. Information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

For further information, visit: <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

Tasique Omar
10.09.2025

Director (Operation)
Phone: 02-41082992
E-mail: do@brta.gov.bd

GD-1983

Iran bars UN inspectors from nuclear sites

Says more talks needed

REUTERS, Dubai

A new agreement between Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog does not guarantee inspectors' access to Iranian nuclear sites and Tehran wants further talks on how inspections are carried out, the country's foreign minister said yesterday.

Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reached a deal on Tuesday on resuming inspections at sites including those bombed by the US and Israel but gave no specifics, and Tehran said the deal was off if international sanctions were re-imposed.

"I have to reiterate the agreement does not currently provide access to IAEA inspectors, apart from the Bushehr nuclear plant," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told state TV in an interview.

"Based on reports that Iran will issue in the future, the nature of access will have to be discussed at an appropriate time," he added.

Diplomats said the devil would be in the details of Tuesday's agreement. No joint press conference was held in Cairo to provide details on what the IAEA has been calling "modalities" regarding the resumption of inspections.

The agreement comes against the backdrop of an ongoing threat by European powers to re-impose international sanctions against Iran.



Smoke rises in the distance as a prisoner, carrying his belongings, returns to Dilli Bazaar Jail under escort by a Nepalese soldier, after escaping and being recaptured in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

RUSSIAN DRONE INTRUSION

Poland raises war risk in Nato talks

AFP, Warsaw

Poland yesterday gathered its Nato allies for urgent talks after Russian drones flew into Polish airspace during an attack on Ukraine, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said, warning that the situation was inching closer to "open conflict".

Poland's airspace was violated 19 times, Tusk said, and at least three drones were shot down after Warsaw and its allies scrambled jets -- but authorities said nobody was harmed.

Footage posted by local media showed firefighters and police in the village of Wryki, eastern Poland, inspecting a house with its roof ripped open and debris



littered nearby following an impact from a drone.

Russian drones and missiles have entered the airspace of Nato members including Poland several times during Russia's three-and-a-half-year war, but a Nato country has never attempted to shoot them down.

Tusk said he had invoked Nato's Article 4 under which any member can call urgent talks when it feels its "territorial integrity, political independence or security" are at risk -- only the eighth time the measure has ever been used.

"This situation... brings us closer than ever to open conflict since World War II," Tusk told parliament, but added there was "no reason today to claim that we are in a state of war".

The incident came as Russia unleashed a barrage of strikes across Ukraine including in the western city of Lviv, less than two hours' drive from the Polish border.

UN chief slams surging military spending

AFP, United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called Tuesday for countries to reevaluate military expenditures that are surging globally and to spend more on human development.

"The world is spending far more on waging war than in building peace. In 2024, global military spending surged to a record \$2.7 trillion -- the equivalent of \$334 for every person on Earth," he said.

That figure is nearly 13 times the amount of official development assistance from the richest countries, he added as he unveiled a report on global military spending.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports that military expenditures have jumped 9 percent in a year.

At the same time, most of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seeking to improve living conditions, including the eradication of extreme poverty and promotion of gender equality, by 2030 are not on track.

Ending world hunger by 2030 would require \$93 billion per year -- 4 percent of 2024 military expenditure, while ensuring the full vaccination of every child globally would cost \$100 billion and \$285 billion annually.

Guterres said that the report's findings were "a call to action. A call to rethink priorities. A call to rebalance global investments toward the security the world truly needs."

Sri Lanka votes to eject Rajapaksa from state house

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday voted to evict former president Mahinda Rajapaksa and two others from state-owned mansions under austerity measures introduced by the new leftist government.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's party voted en masse to endorse a bill that will repeal a 1986 law that granted former leaders luxury accommodation and secretarial services.

Only one opposition MP voted against the bill, which was passed with a two-thirds majority of 150 in the 225-member assembly.

The bill was cleared a day after the Supreme Court ruled that stripping former heads of state of their privileges did not violate the Constitution.

The legislation followed Rajapaksa's refusal this year to vacate a lavish residence in the capital despite repeated requests. His party was among the petitioners who unsuccessfully challenged the bill.

Under the 1986 law, former presidents were also entitled to luxury cars with government-supplied fuel and secretarial staff on top of bodyguards.

Obese surpass undernourished youths for first time


Unicef warns

AFP, United Nations

Obesity has skyrocketed among children and adolescents bombarded by "unethical" marketing of junk food, outpacing undernourishment to become the leading form of malnutrition worldwide for the first time among those age five to 19, Unicef warned Tuesday.

In a dire report, the United Nations children's agency projected that nearly one in 10 individuals within that age group will be living with the chronic disease in 2025, fueled by easy availability of ultra-processed foods "even in countries still grappling with child undernutrition."

Today "when we talk about malnutrition, we are no longer just talking about underweight children," Unicef chief Catherine Russell said in a statement on the report's release. In 2022, eight percent of those 5-19 worldwide, or 163 million, were obese, compared to three percent in 2000.




Common Services Department-1
Bangladesh Bank
Head Office, Dhaka
Web: <https://www.bb.org.bd>

Corrigendum Notice
Request for Expression of interest

Invitation Reference No.: CSD-1/GP/2025-1; Published date: 20/08/2025

SL No.	Existing PCC Clause/Technical Specification of published Tender Document	Revised PCC Clause/Technical Specification
1	Brief eligibility of tenderer	At least 5 years experience in the same type (Banks/Financial Institution) of assignments in Bangladesh and having minimum 3 successful assignments to be completed.
2	Tender closing date	12/09/2025
3	Tender opening date	12/09/2025


DCP: 48/2025-2451
Date: 10-09-2025




Swapan Kumar Goswami
Director
Phone: 9530148
E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1982



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তারিখ: ২৫ ভাদ্র ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘরের রাজস্বখাতের আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদসমূহে অস্থায়ীভাবে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে অনলাইনে (<http://nmst.teletalk.com.bd>) সরাসরি আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন (Online) বাতীত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।


ক্রমিক	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	বেতনস্কেল	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)	১	২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/(গ্রেড-৯)	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত/অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রী	সকল জেলা
২।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (মেকানিক্যাল)	১	২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/(গ্রেড-৯)	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত/অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রী	
৩।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)	১	১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০/(গ্রেড-১০)	সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত পলিটেকনিক ইনস্টিটিউট হতে ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা	
৪।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (মেকানিক্যাল)	১	১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০/(গ্রেড-১০)	সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত পলিটেকনিক ইনস্টিটিউট হতে মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা	

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জিডি-১৯৭৮

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A democratic exercise restored

Kudos to all stakeholders for successfully holding Ducusu polls

A festive atmosphere, record turnout of voters, students buzzing with excitement—these are what marked the Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (Ducusu) and hall union elections held on Tuesday. The high turnout demonstrated the level of anticipation surrounding the polls, with 78.36 percent of nearly 40,000 voters casting their ballots, much higher than the 2019 election that saw a 59.5 percent turnout. One could say this marks the triumphant return of a democratic exercise in DU that has incubated all major democratic movements in our history. For this, the administration, the candidates, the general students, and all others involved deserve to be commended.

The revived Ducusu will henceforth be headed by Abu Shadik Kayem, SM Farhad, and Muhammad Mohiuddin Khan, elected as vice-president, general secretary, and assistant general secretary, respectively. The trio, contesting the polls from the Islami Chhatrashibir-backed “Oikyaboddho Shikharthi Jote” panel, achieved a landslide victory. In fact, this panel swept the polls by winning nine secretarial and 11 executive member posts. The DU student community has spoken: they have chosen the leaders they want to represent them for the next year or so. This certainly marks a dramatic shift in campus politics.

During their campaigns, Shadik, Farhad, and Mohiuddin pledged to bring a balance between education and politics, with plans to strengthen academia, work on student welfare, and turn DU into a “capacity-building hub.” Now that they have won, they must make good on their election promises. We expect the new leadership to represent the entire student body and work for everyone’s betterment, regardless of their political affiliations or ideologies. More importantly, we expect them to break free of the cycles of toxic politics where winning an election is viewed as tantamount to obtaining a free ticket to abusing power. Transparency and accountability must be upheld at every level of Ducusu operations.

The election has been described as acceptable and participatory by most observers. There were some complaints of irregularities, including allegations of rigging and breach of the code of conduct, but for the most part, students participated with enthusiasm and excitement. The allegations must nevertheless be investigated and actions taken accordingly. In the long run, we hope to see the election held on a regular basis, thus continuing the democratic practice of student politics at Dhaka University.

The same also applies to other comparable universities, with two more student elections—at Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University—scheduled for today (Thursday) and on September 25, respectively. We hope to see the continuation of festivity and participatory voting at these elections as well. Thus we hope to see democratic culture and healthy practices of campus politics established at all public universities, so that differences of ideas are celebrated rather than suppressed, and positions of power are used to serve the general student body, not to wield dominance over them. This hope for change, which last year’s mass uprising ignited, must not be extinguished with the return of toxic campus politics.

Nepal’s youth have given their verdict

Their movement a warning for countries with embedded corruption, inequality

We are amazed by how Nepal’s government fell as Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli resigned amid massive youth-led protests against a social media ban and government corruption. Reportedly, last week, the Oli-led government imposed a ban on 26 social media and messaging platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, WhatsApp, and X. In response, thousands of mostly Gen Z protesters took to the streets across at least seven cities, including Kathmandu. What began as a protest against a social media ban quickly evolved into a nationwide movement demanding systemic change.

For years, young Nepalis have reportedly faced limited job opportunities, forcing millions to seek work abroad. This economic frustration, combined with growing anger over the lavish lifestyles of political elites, sparked widespread protests. The term “nepo kids”—used to mock the privileged children of top officials—went viral on social media, fuelling public outrage. Thus, even after the ban was lifted, the protests spread across the country, exposing deeper problems such as corruption, inequality, economic stagnation, elite privilege, and political instability.

The events in Nepal are, in many ways, similar to Bangladesh’s uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina’s fall last year. Here, protests over job quotas turned into a movement to oust the government. In both cases, public dissatisfaction with systems that ignored the rights and demands of ordinary citizens and favoured those in or connected to power sparked protests that ultimately led to the fall of the governments. While Nepal at least managed to control the violence relatively quickly, with clashes between security forces and protesters resulting in 19 deaths so far, Bangladesh’s uprising saw over 1,400 deaths and thousands injured.

The Nepalis are now celebrating the fall of their government, but what comes next? Analysts in the country stress the urgent need for a transitional arrangement that includes leaders who still hold public trust, especially among the youth who led the movement. As a neighbour, we hope that stability is restored in Nepal soon, people’s demands are respected, and the aspirations of the youth prioritised.

There are also lessons to be drawn from this recent cycle of events. When governments ignore rising inequality and corruption, and discrimination in society soars, people eventually rise up. No system can go unchallenged. In Nepal, Gen Z is leading the movement, showing that in the absence of a functional democracy, public unrest is inevitable. Therefore, to prevent such upheaval, governments must respond to the needs of their citizens, and the latter must have the ability to shape their own future.



Ashfaq Zaman is founder of Dhaka Forum and a strategic international affairs expert.

ASHFAQ ZAMAN

Bangladesh today stands at an intersection that is both economically and politically significant.

At first glance, the country has shown remarkable resilience. Despite the weight of global inflation, it has managed, against the odds, to keep prices more or less stable during the current interim administration. Though food and energy costs remain a worry for many households, a mix of subsidies, fiscal steps, and strict monetary policies taken by the interim government over the past year has helped prevent the kind of runaway inflation Sri Lanka and Pakistan experienced in 2022. Foreign exchange reserves have slowly improved, and the ready-made garment industry continues to play its part, keeping export earnings steady and supporting the balance of payments.

These are no small feats, and the government does deserve recognition for them. Officials will, in the coming months, understandably showcase these achievements as evidence of sound stewardship. A policymaker I spoke with confidently remarked that Bangladesh has “done better than its peers,” and in a narrow sense, he is right. In an unstable global economy, maintaining macroeconomic steadiness does matter.

But here is the catch: macroeconomic steadiness without political stability is a fragile equilibrium. It can buy you time; it cannot buy you certainty. And in economics, certainty is often more valuable than a single quarter of good data.

The political vacuum that Bangladesh finds itself in is not just a constitutional or moral problem. It carries a price tag. Unfortunately, the rhetoric of our political parties is often about who should rule. The economic costs of the election delays are not given much thought.

Yet, the ordinary people feel it. Investors, both local and foreign, feel it. Businesses feel it. When elections are postponed or democratic clarity is absent, the economy pays. Many believe that so long as inflation is managed and exports continue, the economy is “safe.” But this overlooks the less visible, longer-term damage caused by uncertainty.



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MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

After over three decades, the Jahangirnagar University Central Students’ Union (Jucusu) election is finally making a comeback. It was last held in 1992. If all goes as planned, the long-awaited polls will take place on Thursday, just two days after the Ducusu election, marking a rare moment when two of the country’s oldest public universities are reviving their student unions almost in tandem (to be followed by others soon).

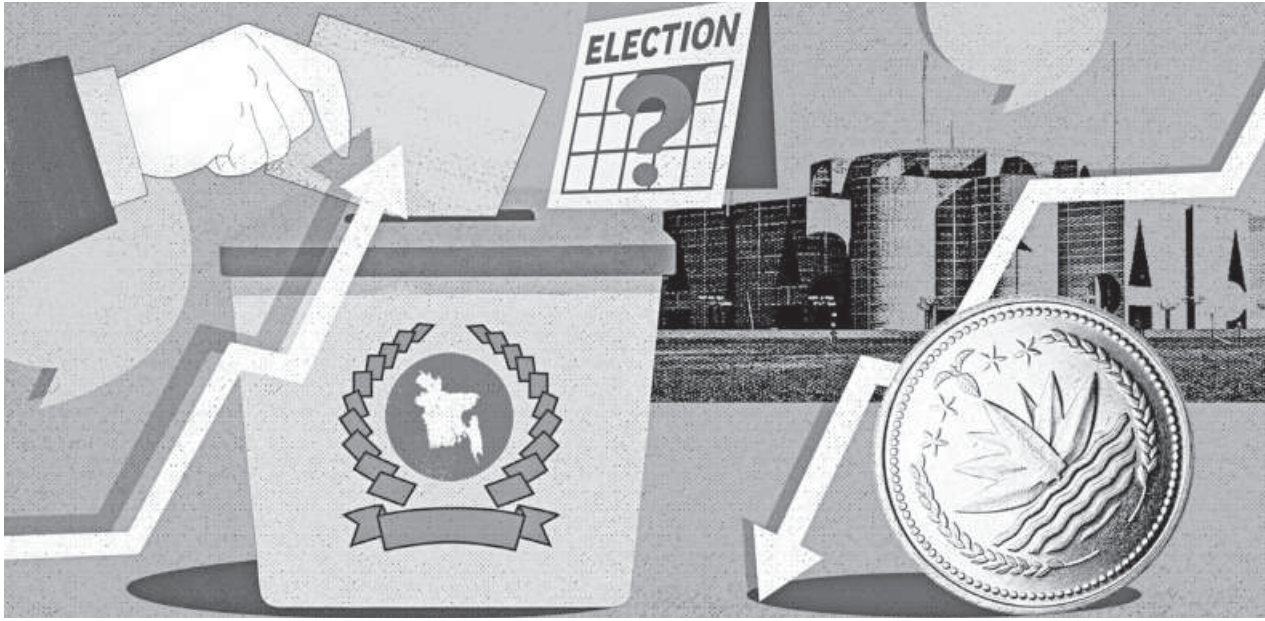
For those of us who studied at JU, this is both nostalgic and bittersweet. It’s nostalgic because Jucusu was more than a student body; it was the beating heart of the campus, a platform where students’ voices mattered and democratic culture thrived.

I still vividly remember an incident when I attended the university’s annual senate meeting as a correspondent for this newspaper. The senate, by tradition, was a gathering of teachers, registered graduates, and five elected Jucusu representatives, who were entrusted with carrying the voices of students into that forum. But in the absence of Jucusu representatives, those seats lay empty, and with them, the voices of students disappeared from the discussion. Their concerns and problems, too, were left largely untouched.

That day, when a teacher of philosophy boldly placed a set of

Numbers alone don’t persuade investors. Capital has a political memory. It recalls past instability, delays, and voids. And it reacts accordingly.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Bangladesh has been sluggish in recent years, despite global companies showing interest. I have spoken with representatives of major multinationals and hospitality groups who have slowed



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

their projects here. Some luxury hotels that already laid foundations have deliberately held back on opening. The reason is simple: they do not know what direction the country will take, or whether political stability will hold.

This hesitation trickles down. Local entrepreneurs also pause their plans. Friends of mine in the restaurant business, hardly the sector most tied to politics, are reluctant to open new branches. “Let’s wait until we know where the country is headed,” is the common refrain. That hesitation is itself an economic cost, invisible in today’s inflation numbers but corrosive over time.

Why does this matter so much? Because long-term investments are rarely based on present figures alone. They depend on the trajectory. Investors

want to know if Bangladesh is moving towards being a digitally focused economy that prioritises tech, or a manufacturing powerhouse offering stability, or a services hub. They want to understand the ethos of the political leadership. Without that clarity, their capital stays frozen.

In economics, perception is as important as performance. When people feel uncertain, they hold back. This causes families to delay purchases, businesses to stall investments, and exporters to hesitate taking long-term orders. Even if the government points to stable prices or rising reserves, mistrust among individuals doesn’t go away.

Take, for example, Sri Lanka’s economic crisis that came after years of denial that drained investors’ confidence. Pakistan is another case

restrictions abroad, it leaves small and medium-sized enterprises squeezed from both sides, struggling to survive.

We often speak of democracy as a moral or constitutional right. But it is also an economic asset. A government with a fresh, credible mandate has the legitimacy to negotiate trade deals, attract long-term investment, and implement reforms with public support.

When citizens believe in the direction of their country, they plan, invest, and spend with more confidence. When businesses believe in stable governance, they commit capital to long-term projects. Democracy creates that alignment between citizens, investors, and the state.

To some people, delaying elections may seem to preserve calm in the short run, but it risks storing up a storm. The

more delayed the political settlement, the more prolonged the economic hesitation. By the time data finally reflects this, much damage will already have been done.

Bangladesh still has time to avoid the paths of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. It still has the opportunity to convert today’s fragile calm into genuine resilience. But doing so requires urgency. A clear, credible, time-bound return to democratic governance is not just a political necessity, it is also an economic one. The sooner political clarity is restored, the sooner businesses, both local and global, will begin investing again. The economy will not revive simply because of inflation numbers or export earnings. It will revive when confidence returns.

In today’s globalised world, political uncertainty at home only makes things worse. When combined with

Returning after 33 years, what difference will Jucusu make?

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. The gaps in female representation are striking.

An analysis further shows that 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. According to a report by this daily, at least 10 female students alleged that cyberbullying, harassment, and the absence of a women-friendly political atmosphere are the main reasons behind their reluctance to join the polls. This is one of the barriers that must be removed if we are to build an inclusive student union that inspires change in the wider society as well.

This year’s polls will feature contests among eight panels, including Jatiotabadi Chatradal (JCD), Islami Chhatrashibir, Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS), left-leaning organisations, and independents. Among them, Shibir, JCD, BGCS, and a section of leftist student groups have announced full panels under different banners, while the rest have declared partial panels. Candidates have announced ambitious manifestos, promising quality education, campus safety, cultural vibrancy, healthcare, transportation, and environmental conservation.

But manifestos mean little unless backed by genuine political will and administrative cooperation. Too often in our country, student politics has been synonymous with violence, patronage, and partisanship. The challenge before Jucusu is to prove that it can rise above these tendencies and be a union truly representative of students.

After the Ducusu polls, where the Islami Chhatrashibir-backed panel swept most of the posts, all eyes are understandably on Jucusu, particularly in the political arena. This year, the DUCSU election was not merely an internal affair for Dhaka University students; it grew into a national issue, resonating even in rural areas.

A few days ago, while visiting my village, I was surprised to find many people actively discussing the daily developments and campaigns of the Ducusu election. This level of engagement reflects how deeply it resonated across the country. It’s encouraging to see the election finally held without any major untoward incidents, barring the unfortunate death of a journalist from a private TV channel. This is a positive sign for student politics and democratic practices in our educational institutions.

Now, Jucusu is expected to break a 33-year-long silence at Jahangirnagar University. Its revival could pave the way for a more vibrant and representative student movement once again. So, despite the existing flaws and inadequacies, I allow myself some hope. A union elected after so long, however imperfect, is better than none. It offers students a chance to claim ownership of their campus, to debate ideas openly, to practice democracy in its most formative stage. If nurtured well, this can plant the seeds for a healthier political culture beyond campus walls.

The question is, will Jucusu 2025 be remembered as a milestone of renewal, or as a missed opportunity? That depends on how the winners conduct themselves, how the administration supports the process, and how ordinary students hold their representatives accountable.

REMEMBERING BADRUDDIN UMAR

An inspiring scholar



Rounaq Jahan is a political scientist, author and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

ROUNAQ JAHAN

I had the privilege of getting acquainted with Badruddin Umar through the courtesy of Prof Abdur Razzaq. Our initial interaction was through writings. I remember in 1964 when my MA results came out, though I secured a first class and the year before I also earned a first class in my BA (Hons) examination, I had no prospects of immediate employment as I was told that there was no vacancy in the Department of Political Science at Dhaka University. Prof Razzaq then asked me to write to Badruddin Umar, who was then trying to set up the Department of Political Science at Rajshahi University. I wrote to Umar and he immediately wrote back to me, offering me a lecturer's position at Rajshahi. His letter was a great morale booster for me as my sense of self-esteem was fast eroding after months of unemployment.

But before I could depart for Rajshahi, another piece of good news came. I was selected as one of the five students of the then East Pakistan as a recipient of a three-year state scholarship for higher studies abroad. I decided to accept the scholarship and went to Harvard for my PhD. Though I did not join Rajshahi University, Badruddin Umar's kind offer of a position in the faculty restored my self-confidence, which was very much needed before I embarked on my challenging journey in pursuit of higher studies abroad.

My next encounter with Umar was, again, through his writings, this time his three books—*Sampradayikata* (1966), *Sanskritir Sankat* (1967), and *Sanskritik Sampradayikata* (1968). These three books, which I collected when I came to Dhaka in 1968 for field research, helped me greatly in understanding the evolution of the Bangalee nationalist identity in the 1950s and 1960s. I used Umar's arguments when I wrote my

that facts and figures are not simply neutral, that they should be looked at through a class lens. I have tried to keep this message in mind. In my own writings, I have tried to explore the influence of economic and social factors on determining the course of political developments.

After I returned to Bangladesh in 1972, I was asked to write the year-end review of the newly born nation state for the journal *Asian Survey* for 1972 and later 1973. Again, I found Badruddin Umar's writings to be very instructive. In the year-end review of 1972 published at the *Asian Survey* in February 1973, I wrote about the critiques of the 1972 Constitution of Bangladesh. I used arguments from two of Umar's writings published at the *Holiday*. The first article was titled "The Proposed Constitution: A Fundamental Measure Against Socialism, Democracy, Nationalism and Secularism" (*Holiday*, October 22, 1972). The second article was titled "A Constitution for Perpetual Emergency" (*Holiday*, October 29, 1972).

In my review of Bangladesh's politics in 1973, which was published in the *Asian Survey* in February 1974, I again used one of Umar's articles to elaborate the various critiques of the Awami League (AL) regime. This article was titled "The Political Significance of the Emergency Provisions," (*Holiday*, September 23, 1973). At that time, Badruddin Umar was the most vocal and articulate critic of the AL regime. I always looked forward to reading his commentaries on current events and used some of his arguments in my own writings.

In 1970, Umar published his path-breaking book on the Language Movement titled *Purbobanglar Bhasha Andolon O Totkalin Rajniti*, which was an eye-opener to all of us. His detailed and meticulous research and

source of research for other scholars.

I had the pleasure of meeting Badruddin Umar personally for the first time in 1972 at a lunch at Prof Razzaq's house. Between 1972 and 1975, and later between 1977 and 1982, I used to meet Umar and his wife Suraiya frequently at lunch either at Prof Razzaq's or at Prof Mosharraf Hossain's house.

Though Umar was a fierce critic of people and ideas in his writings, on social occasions, I found him to be a delightful company, full of jokes and good humour, tolerating people with different political views or social backgrounds in a very civil manner. He liked good food and good conversations, which were plentiful both at Prof Razzaq's and Prof Mosharraf Hossain's lunches.

In the early 1970s, I used to regularly visit Umar, who was living in Shantinagar then, to talk about research. In addition to research on the Language Movement, Umar was also doing research on Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Since my knowledge of the history of Bengal in the 18th and 19th

In 1970, Umar published his path-breaking book on the Language Movement titled Purbobanglar Bhasha Andolon O Totkalin Rajniti, which was an eye-opener to all of us. His detailed and meticulous research and especially the innovative method of using Tajuddin Ahmad's diaries showed us how research on our history can be undertaken. What is amazing is that Umar did this monumental research alone, without any financial support or support of any research assistant.



Badruddin Umar (1931-2025)

FILE PHOTO: STAR

centuries was very limited, I learnt a lot about that part of history from Umar. He always had a new perspective, a new way of interpreting events. I found our conversations thought-provoking because, though I had known about the events we talked about, I had not looked at them from Umar's perspective. I came away from every visit much enriched and energised. I do not know how many people have read his two other books written at that period—*Chirosthayee Bondoboste Bangladesher Krishak* (1972) and *Ishwar Chandra Bidyasagor O Unishshotoker Bangalee Samaj* (1974). I feel these two books should also be on the must-read list of our historians.

In 1982, I left Dhaka first to work for the United Nations, and later in 1990, I joined Columbia University. From the early 1980s onwards, apart from a few selected people such as Prof Razzaq, Kamal and Hameeda Hossain, Rehman and Salma Sobhan, and Mosharraf and Inari Hossain, I gradually began to lose touch with other friends and colleagues in Bangladesh, including Badruddin Umar.

walking in Harlem, I took Umar for dinner at a restaurant which was a favourite of Columbia faculty because from there one could see the whole of the Manhattan skyline. Umar was equally pleased and at home with the refined ambience of the restaurant and took it all in his strides.

Unfortunately, in the last 20 years, when I began to spend more time in Bangladesh, I did not get to meet Umar regularly. When Prof Mosharraf Hossain was alive, he promised to take me to see Umar, who was then living in Mirpur. But somehow the visit never materialised.

Suddenly, in the last two years, I had the pleasure of meeting Umar again three times. In 2024, I met him twice, the first time at the board meeting of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation. As soon as he arrived, Umar declared loudly that he could not hear well. Hameeda Hossain, who was standing next to him, immediately said that she could not see well! Anyway, we found that Umar's mind and tongue were as sharp as before. So, we kept him busy sending written questions and he answered at length loudly and clearly. He was in a good mood and at the end of the evening he started reciting poems in English, Bangla and Urdu! It was a great and memorable evening.

I again met him at another event, which was organised by Bengal Foundation to pay tribute to Prof Razzaq. While many of us spoke seriously about Prof Razzaq, which

I found our conversations thought-provoking because, though I had known about the events we talked about, I had not looked at them from Umar's perspective. I came away from every visit much enriched and energised. I do not know how many people have read his two other books written at that period—Chirosthayee Bondoboste Bangladesher Krishak (1972) and Ishwar Chandra Bidyasagor O Unishshotoker Bangalee Samaj (1974). I feel these two books should also be on the must-read list of our historians.



PHOTO: ARCHIVE

Badruddin Umar will always be remembered as a true scholar, a delightful conversationalist, and an uncompromising social activist.

Harvard PhD thesis in 1969, which was later published as a book titled *Pakistan: Failure in National Integration* by Columbia University Press in 1972. In my book, I acknowledged my intellectual debt to Umar's article "Mussalmaner Swadesh Pratyabartan" in illuminating the role of the Language Movement in the creation of our fast-evolving nationalist movement. Umar argued that the Language Movement was not simply an elite issue, but it was a universally popular cause which helped bridge the elite-mass gap that broadened the constituency base of our nationalist struggle over two decades.

In these three groundbreaking books, in fact in all of his writings, whether on culture or on politics, Umar never failed to ground his arguments on the social and class bases of origin and development of ideas and politics.

I am not a Marxist scholar, nor do I use Marxist framework of analysis. But I have always benefited from reading Umar's writings because he has always reminded me

especially the innovative method of using Tajuddin Ahmad's diaries showed us how research on our history can be undertaken. What is amazing is that Umar did this monumental research alone, without any financial support or support of any research assistant. He also did this research when he was very actively involved in left party politics. He published three volumes of his research on Language Movement in 1970, 1975 and 1985. In his five-volume memoir titled *Amar Jibon*, published in 2004, Umar noted that he had the capacity to sit down and write in between various activities whenever he could squeeze some time. He further mentioned that perhaps spending many months in underground politics in hiding helped him to write these volumes! Umar is yet another example of a handful of South Asian political leaders who used their prison time or underground time productively to write narratives of history or personal memoirs, which can serve as an important primary

I have always benefited from reading Umar's writings because he has always reminded me that facts and figures are not simply neutral, that they should be looked at through a class lens. I have tried to keep this message in mind. In my own writings, I have tried to explore the influence of economic and social factors on determining the course of political developments.

However, in the mid-1990s (I forget the year), I heard that Umar was going to visit the US. I then invited him to give a seminar at Columbia University. Though in Bangladesh, Umar was known more as a left political party activist, internationally, he was more well-known as a researcher and writer. My historian colleagues at the South Asia Institute of Columbia University were admirers of his writings. So, we had a very lively seminar when Umar spoke.

After the seminar, I asked Umar whether he would like to see or go some places in New York. He asked me whether I could take him to see Harlem. Generally, many visitors tend to avoid going to Harlem, an area dominated by African-Americans, because of potential security risks. Since Harlem was close to Columbia, I took Umar on a walking tour to see the houses, markets, churches and the Apollo Theatre, which is a historical place for African-American entertainment. Umar was very pleased with the tour. After hours of

bored the audience and almost put them to sleep, Umar was very amusing. He woke up the audience by talking about various humorous anecdotes about his time with Prof Razzaq.

The last time I met Umar was in April 2025. We invited Umar to Rehman's 90th birthday celebrations at our place in March 2025. He could not come because of a sudden illness, but later he came to visit us with his son Sohel. We found Umar as he was before: argumentative, funny and full of humour. We wrote many questions and he answered lucidly. Among many of his comments, I still remember very clearly three things he said that evening. First, he observed that throughout his life, he had received more abuse from people of leftist orientation than those of the right! Second, he wondered about the philosophy of the new student forces who are now emerging and who had proclaimed that they were neither left nor right, but believed in the middle road. Umar said he understood what is left and what is right, but he did not understand the meaning of the middle road! Third, he told me in good humour that after spending years at Oxford, when he returned to Pakistan, two things struck him immediately, which he was not used to seeing in England. First was the abject poverty and the second was the uncivil behaviour of people on the streets!

I will miss Umar but will always remember him as a true scholar, a delightful conversationalist, and an uncompromising social activist.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Zinnat's unending fight culminates in glory

"With two minutes of cameo in "Shaaticup", the lauded character of 'Duru' was spun into "Sinpaat" as one of the important roles in the project," shared Zinnat Ara, who won Best Actor (Female) in the critics' category at The Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

SHARMIN JOYA

Zinnat shared that her journey into the arts began at home. Since childhood, she drew inspiration from her sister, a theatre artiste, which led her to explore music and dance (Shishu Academy). Yet, she admitted that acting was never a focus of her plan.

"I was always involved in cultural activities—crafting, painting, training in Nazrul Sangeet and folk music, and even taking dance lessons. But acting wasn't something I imagined for myself," she said. "That small role grew into something much bigger in the spin-off,

resonating with audiences in ways I never anticipated.

For her, these honours are more than just trophies. "Such recognition encourages artistes to embrace more challenging roles—ones that break away from the conventional appearances and portrayals we often see in our industry. It pushes us to tell stories that matter," she added with conviction.

Duru is a character who mirrors the struggles of countless women in our society. For Zinnat, stepping into this role was both daunting and deeply relatable.

"I was initially very nervous when I began studying Duru," she confessed. "Her story is heartbreaking—how she was crushed under the weight of societal norms, which ultimately pushed her into becoming a drug dealer. As I explored her

background, I discovered the tragedy of her being from a middle-class family, betrayed by the person she loved, and shaped by that pain into who she eventually became. It was also painfully relatable to see her struggle against discrimination during property disputes, and how she was abandoned and denied her rightful share."

Through Duru, Zinnat not only brought to life a character scarred by society but also highlighted the harsh realities many women continue to face.

Besides her professional journey, Zinnat is also facing what she calls the toughest battle of her life—her mother's five-year fight with cancer. With a heavy heart yet remarkable strength, she shared, "Cancer treatment is extremely expensive, but we are willing to do whatever it takes to keep my mother as stable as possible. At the same time, simply being by her side during this period is equally important."



1300 Hollywood artistes boycott Israeli film industry

More than 1,300 artistes, including Mark Ruffalo, Riz Ahmed, Ayo Edebiri, Olivia Colman, Tilda Swinton, and Javier Bardem, have pledged to boycott Israeli film institutions over alleged complicity in war crimes against Palestinians.



The declaration, released September 8, condemned the "unrelenting horror" in Gaza, where Israeli strikes have killed over 64,000 people and devastated the territory.

Signatories vowed not to collaborate with Israeli festivals, cinemas, or production houses accused of "whitewashing or justifying genocide and apartheid." The boycott echoes cultural actions against apartheid South Africa.

While critics warn of career risks—Susan Sarandon and Melissa Barrera previously lost work over pro-Palestine stances—Palestinian stories are gaining recognition, with *No Other Land* winning this year's Best Documentary Oscar and *The Voice of Hind Rajab* lauded at Venice.

NEWS

After 33 years, Jucsu goes to polls today

FROM PAGE 1
hall posts are either uncontested or vacant.

Of the 315 positions across 21 dormitories, 131 are uncontested and 68 vacant. For the central union, 177 candidates are in the race — 132 men and 45 women.

Among the male dormitories, Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall has the highest number of voters with 994, followed by Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Hall with 954 and Hall No-21 with 752. Among the female dorms, Bir Pratik Taramon Bibi Hall has the highest with 983 voters, followed by Rokeya Hall with 957 and Fazilatunnesa Hall with 808.

There are 10 final candidates for the vice president post and eight

for the general secretary post. Six are contesting for female assistant general secretary, 10 for male AGS, while other posts — including cultural, sports, IT, social service, and executive member — also have multiple contenders.

The campus, long dominated by ruling party-backed student wings, has come alive in recent weeks with colourful campaigning and creative leaflets.

Yesterday, the election commission announced 224 booths would be set up across the halls. Each hall will have a returning officer, with 67 polling agents and 67 assistant polling officers — all teachers — to oversee the process.

Voting will take place from 9:00am to 5:00pm through ballot marking

under CCTV surveillance. To ensure security, over 1,500 law enforcers, including plainclothes officers, have been deployed. Seven platoons of BGB and five platoons of Ansar have also been stationed, alongside security staff at all 12 campus gates.

Observers note that with almost 6,000 women voters registered, a turnout of just over 3,000 could tip the balance in multiple races. "Female voters will certainly play a decisive role in who will win or lose," said Prof Mostofa N. Mansur, a four-time elected Jucsu leader.

At least 20 female students from 10 dormitories told this correspondent they would support candidates committed to gender

equality and women's empowerment.

"We'll vote for those who won't try to bring back evening curfews or side with anti-liberation forces," said anthropology student Nushrika Adri.

Lone female GS candidate Tanzila Hossain Boishakhi said, "Politics is hard for women in our country. I want to show that with qualifications one can move forward despite challenges."

Her chances gained momentum after rival Syeda Ananna Fariya withdrew two days before the polls as a call for unity among those committed to gender equality, the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War, and the 2024 uprising.

Other GS contenders include Majharul Islam of the Shibir-backed

Shomonnito Shikkharthi Jote, Touhid Mohammad Siam of the Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed Shikkharthi Oikkyia Forum, Sharan Ahsan of Shomprotir Oikkyia, and independent candidate Shakil Ali.

For the vice president post, the candidates are Abdur Rashid Jitu, an independent and former Chhatra League activist who rose to prominence during last year's July uprising; Arifuzzaman of the Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed panel; Sheikh Sadi Hasan of the JCD-backed panel; and independent candidate Mahfuz Islam Megh, a theatre activist and former coordinator of the July movement.

The last Jucsu polls were held in 1992.

Procurement reforms

FROM PAGE 12
Additional changes include tighter subcontracting regulations, limiting it to 30 percent of the total contract value. Any unauthorised execution of work will now be treated as a breach of contract. The draft also requires foreign bidders to partner with local IT firms, aiming to support domestic innovation.

Bangladeshi engineers are now capable of developing and maintaining these systems," he added.

The revised rules also promote the inclusion

of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and NGOs, particularly in consultancy services for the health and social sectors. For the first time, a policy on asset disposal will also be incorporated into the procurement framework.

Md Kamal Uddin, secretary of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), said effective project implementation requires a combination of good governance, financial oversight, and institutional capacity.

To this end, the

government has passed new procurement laws and launched training programmes to strengthen execution.

Shah Eyamin-Ul Islam, director of BPPA, said the draft PPR is aligned with international best practices.

A total of 153 rules is now proposed — 94 amended, 12 added, and 18 repealed. He emphasised the mandatory use of the electronic government procurement (e-GP) system and the introduction of beneficial ownership disclosure to ensure accountability.

Mob violence: no end in sight

FROM PAGE 12
He alleged that Sujana and another youth were taken from Nabiganj Housing area around 4:00am, beaten by locals, including a security guard. The two later succumbed to their injuries.

Hanif's elder brother, Milon Hawlader, made similar allegations of his brother being taken from home along with a friend, chased by locals and brutally beaten. "Even if there were allegations [against Hanif], he should have been handed over to the police. Killing him in public like this is no justice,"

Hanif's uncle, Harun, suggested personal enmity might also have played a role.

Kazi Rafique, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said both victims had multiple mugging cases against them, and Hanif was seen in CCTV footage of a recent snatching at Chandrima

Udyan. "Police responded to 999 calls and rescued the injured, but they died at hospital later," he said. No arrests have been made yet, though investigations are underway.

On September 8, Yamin, 23, was beaten to death by a mob in Mohammadpur on suspicion of mugging. On September 5, in Rajbari's Goalandapazila, the darbar sharif of "Nural Pagla" was attacked, vandalised, and his body dug up and burnt. The incident left one person dead and at least 22 others injured.

Rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) recorded 124 deaths in mob beatings in the first seven months of this year, compared to 128 in the whole of last year. Dhaka alone accounted for 55 of the mob-related deaths this year and 57 last year.

"Whether political or non-political, once mobs get away with violence, it encourages repetition. That's exactly what is

happening in Bangladesh now," said Towhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

"When people see perpetrators going unpunished, they feel encouraged to take matters into their own hands. This culture of impunity is feeding more violence," he said, adding that weakness in law enforcement is a major factor.

"There's a perception that police fear retaliation when confronting politically or religiously motivated mobs. That hesitation emboldens unruly groups. If the state cannot protect its citizens and enforce law, people lose trust and resort to vigilante justice."

Haque warned that mob violence is no longer confined to one-off incidents but is becoming a systemic threat.

"It's not just about criminals being beaten.

Sometimes ordinary disputes, rumours, or even accusations of political allegiance can trigger mob attacks. This reflects deep insecurity in society and a collapse in confidence in formal justice."

Supreme Court lawyer Manzil Morshed told The Daily Star, "It's as if a reset button has been pressed on the justice system. Those in power are taking justice into their own hands. The government must answer whether it's incapable or unwilling to control mob violence."

"If mob violence is not contained now, society will descend into instability and darkness. The only solution is to enforce the law strictly. Stronger punishments, even non-bailable provisions, may be necessary to deter participants."

About addressing mob violence, Col Shahidul Islam, colonel staff at the Military Operations Directorate of Army Headquarters,

on Monday said the army maintains "zero tolerance" towards mob violence and expressed hope that the number of such incidents would decline.

Briefing reporters at Dhaka Cantonment, he said the army always responds once requested. "The army is requested if police or other agencies fail to control a situation. By the time the request comes through and approval is obtained from headquarters, the situation may already have deteriorated."

Regarding the incidents, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury acknowledged a "slight deterioration" in the country's law and order following recent incidents. "The situation was good but based on the events of the last few days, I would say it has deteriorated slightly."

"We'll do our best to restore it to its previous state," he said at Rajarbagh Police Lines on September 7.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

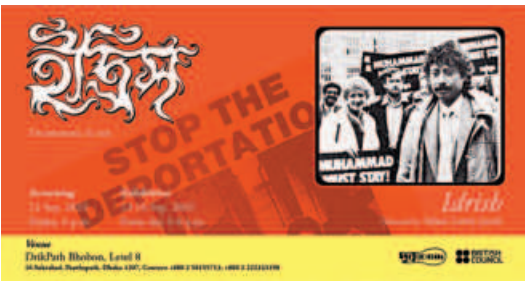
FILM SCREENING: 'IDRISH'

Drik Picture Library, in partnership with the British Council, presents *Idrish*, a 32-minute documentary by Adam Lewis Jacob. The film portrays Muhammad Idrish, a Bangladeshi anti-deportation campaigner in 1980s Britain, and the trade union movement that supported him, followed by a Q&A with Idrish and the filmmaker.

Date: Friday | September 12, 2025

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: DrikPath Bhubon, Panthapath



Bangladesh calls for Oscars 2025 film submissions

The Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) has invited submissions for the International Feature Film category of the 98th Academy Awards.

The Oscar Bangladesh Committee, chaired by Dr Mohammad Zahirul Islam, will review all submissions and select the country's official entry.

Eligible films must be predominantly in Bengali with English subtitles, produced in Bangladesh with significant local creative control, and screened commercially for at least seven consecutive days between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.

Producers are required to submit an application form, proof of release, two DVD/Blu-ray screeners or a secured digital link, and a press kit including synopsis and key credits.

The deadline is September 16, 2025, at 5pm, with submissions to be made at the BFFS office in Dhaka.



NOTICE

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1522 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

United Finance PLC, having its registered office at Camellia House, 22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000. **PETITIONER.**

-Versus-

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B. Bhaban, 1 Karwan Bazar C/A, Dhaka. **RESPONDENT.**

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the petitioner "**United Finance PLC**" for alteration of the object-clause, i.e. Clauses III of the Memorandum of Association of the petitioner company. Upon preliminary hearing on 25.08.2025, **Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel**. If anyone is interested to oppose the said application, he may appear before the Hon'ble High Court either in person or through duly appointed Advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing to make necessary statements. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of usual charges.

Tanim Hussain Shawon, Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Chamber Building, 122-124, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01711455247

Bangladesh seeks

FROM PAGE 3

He emphasised the importance of promoting regular and skills-based migration and reiterated Bangladesh's call for more EU member states to join the Talent Partnership scheme.

Pointing out that more than half of Bangladesh's population is under 30, the secretary said the country has the potential to be a reliable partner in meeting Europe's labour market needs by supplying skilled and semi-skilled workers through safe and orderly channels.

He also stressed the need for training and certification for prospective migrants, citing successful models in South Korea and Singapore.

He proposed exploring similar EU-funded training programmes in collaboration with Bangladeshi institutions, including the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training and Technical Training Centers, to ensure compliance with EU labour market standards.

During the meeting, Shatter briefed Nazrul Islam on the outcomes of the 9th Joint Working Group Meeting on Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Return of Persons without Authorization to Stay and the 3rd Talent Partnership Roundtable, both held in Brussels on September 9.

He praised Bangladesh's proactive efforts in tackling irregular migration and highlighted the importance of continuing the implementation of the Returnee Case Management System.

Nazrul Islam also expressed satisfaction with progress on negotiations for the Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), describing migration as a key area of partnership between Bangladesh and the EU.

Shatter is leading the EU delegation to the 3rd Bangladesh-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue, taking place in Dhaka from September 8 to 10.

Apologise

FROM PAGE 3

and controls to ensure that no individual in a responsible position can make insulting, fabricated, provocative, or racist remarks about anyone's religious or social festival in the future, the statement added.

It also stated that the state must ensure full protection and overall security for the upcoming Durga Puja and its universally non-communal celebrations.

"In building a pluralistic, inclusive Bangladesh that embodies the spirit of the July mass uprising, all kinds of extremist, provocative, discriminatory, and misleading statements and behaviours must be rejected, and the culture of equality, human dignity, and harmony among the people of Bangladesh must be promoted," it said.

Among others, rights activists Sultana Kamal and ZI Khan Panna, economist Prof Anu Muhammad, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Association for Land Reform and Development Executive Director Shamsul Huda, lawyers Subrata Chowdhury and Tabarak Hossain, and Dhaka University Professors Sumaiya Khair, Zobaidda Nasreen, and Robaet Ferdous issued the statement.

Then who set fire

FROM PAGE 3

Even the complainant, Bangladesh Railway director Khaled Mosharraf, admitted he had no idea about the status of the case.

"I have no update. Please talk to the relevant officials to learn about it," he told this newspaper on August 23.

Several hours after the fire, a murder case was filed with Dhaka Railway Police Station against unidentified miscreants.

Since then, four investigation officers have been appointed, but none have tracked down the arsonists.

On January 13, 2024, Ferdous Ahmed Biswas, then officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station and first investigation officer of the case, showed BNP leaders Nabi Ullah Nabi and Monsur Alam arrested in the case. Both are now on bail, and no further development followed.

The probe was later handed over to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), but the case stalled again when two inspectors assigned to the investigation were transferred.

Jabbarul Islam, the

incumbent investigation officer and a PBI inspector, said they are preparing to submit a final report.

"A long time has passed with no development. No culprits could be found, so the authorities decided to submit a final report," he told The Daily Star on August 25.

"The incident is true, but we did not find evidence against any perpetrators. The case will be revived if the culprits are traced or evidence is found," he added. At the time of the fire, police had blamed pro-strike activists, as the BNP and its allies were enforcing a dawn-to-dusk strike that day.

A senior PBI official, Mizanur Rahman, even told the media that three individuals who boarded the train at the airport station were primary suspects. But that line of inquiry has since gone cold.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 11

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				

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Bangladesh Election Commission
 Election Commission Secretariat
 Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) 2nd Phase (1st Revised) Project
 8th floor, Nirbachan Bhaban
 Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No.: 17.14.0000.240.07.211.2025-2926
 Date: 10-09-2025

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP portal

Tender ID No	Package No	Description of Goods	Date of Publishing	Last selling & Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1147481	GD-56	Procurement, installation and maintenance of VPN routers and other network equipment for field operations.	11-09-2025	06-Oct-2025; 17:00 pm 07-Oct-2025; 16:00 pm	07-Oct-2025; 16:00 pm

The Interest Persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is 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 Portal. (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

Mohammad Azizur Rahman Siddique
 Brigadier General
 Project Director
 IDEA Project (2nd Phase)
 Phone: 55007594
 Email: pd.idea2.bd@gmail.com

GD-1987

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট

বান্দরবান।

(Web: ksibandarban.portal.gov.bd, Facebook: Ksi Bandarban)

নং - ক্ষুসাই/বা-বান/প্রঃ ১/২০২৫ (অংশ-২)/৮৫

তারিখ : ০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট, বান্দরবান এর রাজস্ব বাজেটে ০৬ ক্যাটাগরির ০৯(নয়)টি শূন্যপদ পূরণের লক্ষ্যে ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিষ্ঠান আইন, ২০১০ এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট কর্মচারী চাকরি প্রবিধানমালা, ২০২২খ্রি: অনুযায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড	আবেদন দাখিলের শেষ তারিখে বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬
০১.	সহকারী পরিচালক	০৩টি	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০ (গ্রেড- ৯)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে- ১ম শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; অথবা অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রিসহ অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি; অথবা ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/ সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি।
০২.	গবেষণা অফিসার	০১টি	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০ (গ্রেড- ৯)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে- সমাজ বিজ্ঞান, নৃ-বিজ্ঞান/ইতিহাস বিষয়ে ১ম শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; অথবা সমাজ বিজ্ঞান, নৃ-বিজ্ঞান/ ইতিহাস বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/ সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রিসহ অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতকোত্তর (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি; অথবা উল্লিখিত বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি।
০৩.	সংগীত শিক্ষক	০১টি	১১০০০-২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড- ১৩)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংগীত বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
০৪.	নৃত্য শিক্ষক	০১টি	১১০০০-২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড- ১৩)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে নৃত্য বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
০৫.	হিসাব রক্ষক	০১টি	১১০০০-২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড- ১৩)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ২য় শ্রেণির স্নাতক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।
০৬.	অফিস সহায়ক	০২টি	৮২৫০-২০০১০ (গ্রেড- ২০)	১৮-৩২ বৎসর	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে এসএসসি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।

শর্তাবলী :

০১। আবেদনকারীকে পরিচালক, ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট, বান্দরবান বরাবর 'নমুনা ছক' মোতাবেক পূর্ণ নাম ও স্বাক্ষরসহ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্র ও প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করে আগামী ০৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার বিকাল ৫:০০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট, বান্দরবান কার্যালয়ে সরাসরি কিংবা ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে সরাসরি কিংবা ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত কোন আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

০২। আবেদন ফরম ও প্রবেশ পত্রের নমুনা কপি, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ ওয়েবসাইট [www.bhdc.gov.bd] এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট, বান্দরবান এর ওয়েবসাইট [www.ksibandarban.portal.gov.bd] হতে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

০৩। আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক (সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার নামযুক্ত সীল মোহর থাকতে হবে) সত্যায়িত করে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

ক) সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩(তিন) কপি রঙিন ছবি [০৩ (তিন) কপির ছবির ০১ (এক) কপি প্রবেশ পত্রের সাথে আঠা দিয়ে লাগাতে হবে এবং বাকী ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি অফিসের ব্যবহারের জন্য আবেদন ফর্মের সাথে ক্লিপ/স্ট্যাপলার পিন দিয়ে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।]

খ) বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার মূল/সাময়িক সনদ ও প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)।

গ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর মেয়র/পৌর প্রশাসক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

ঘ) বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার সমর্থনে জেলা প্রশাসক অথবা সার্কেল চীফ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা ও কোন নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সদস্য তার সনদ/প্রত্যয়ন পত্র

ঙ) প্রথম শ্রেণি গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র (মূল কপি)।

চ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদ।

ছ) অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ (যদি থাকে)।

জ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ক্রমিক নং ০১ ও ০২নং পদের প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা, ০৩-০৫নং ক্রমিক পর্যন্ত পদের প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা এবং ৬নং পদের প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা পরিচালক, ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক ইনস্টিটিউট, বান্দরবান এর নামীয় অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিঃ, বান্দরবান বাজার শাখা, বান্দরবান হিসাব নং- ০২০০০০২৪১৪৩৬১-তে জমা দিয়ে জমা স্লিপের মূল কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

ঝ) আবেদন পত্রের সাথে প্রেরিত কোন কাগজপত্রাদি ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে না।

ঞ) চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে আবেদন ফরম পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

০৪। অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃকপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে কোন প্রকার আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

০৫। আবেদন পত্রে কোন অসত্য তথ্য পরিবেশন করলে এবং দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্রাদি অসত্য/ভুল্য বলে প্রমাণিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় যে কোন পর্যায়ে আবেদন/নিয়োগ বাতিলসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদনকারীর বিরুদ্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

০৬। প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র বৈধ বিবেচনায় যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।

০৭। আবেদনকারীদের বৈধ এবং বাতিল তালিকা ইনস্টিটিউট এর ফেসবুক পেইজ, ওয়েবসাইট এর মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।

০৮। পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় উল্লেখ করে প্রবেশপত্র ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা হবে। কোন কারণে তারিখ/সময় পরিবর্তন হলে তা ইনস্টিটিউট এর ফেসবুক পেইজ, ওয়েবসাইট এর মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীকে জানানো হবে। বৈধ প্রার্থী কোন কারণে প্রবেশ পত্র না পেয়ে থাকলে পরীক্ষার তিন দিন আগে অফিস থেকে ডুপ্লিকেট কপি সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

০৯। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের তালিকা অফিসের নোটিশ বোর্ড/ফেসবুক পেইজ এবং ওয়েবসাইট এর মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত সকল সনদপত্র/কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

১০। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিষ্ঠান আইন, ২০১০ অনুসারে “শতকরা আশিভাগ কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী স্থানীয় ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীর সদস্যদের মধ্যে হইতে নিয়োগ করিতে হইবে”। ১২নং ধারা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

১১। প্রার্থীদের আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগ কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে এ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া স্থগিত/বাতিল/নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে প্রদর্শিত শূন্যপদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি করার সম্পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

১২। আবেদনকারীকে আবেদনপত্রে খামের উপরিভাগে পদের নাম লিখতে হবে এবং খামের পাশে আবেদনকারীর পূর্ণ নাম ও ঠিকানা লিখতে হবে।

১৩। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোন ধরনের তদবির ও সুপারিশ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে গণ্য হবে।

১৪। কোটা সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারীকৃত স্মারক নং- ০৫.০০.০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৪.২৪.১৪১ তারিখ : ২৩শে জুলাই ২০২৪ খ্রি: সর্বশেষ আদেশ অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

GD-1975

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Abandon hope, all ye who enter grad school

Review of R. F. Kuang’s ‘Katabasis’ (HarperCollins, 2025)

Kuang’s reimagining of hell is her boldest satire. Pride becomes an infinite library where ‘shades’—bodiless souls who are waiting to pass through every court of hell—are forced to define “the good” until they calcify into statues. Desire manifests as a grimy student union room, its prisoners trapped in eternal cycles of compulsive craving.

NAZMUN AFRAD SHEETOI

If Dante Alighieri were a frustrated PhD student with a caffeine addiction and a strong disdain for university bureaucracy, he might have created *Katabasis*, as R.F. Kuang did. This work is a hilariously realistic satire of the voyage through the nine circles of hell, but with a terrifyingly familiar twist: hell is a campus. Forget lakes of fire and forests of suicide; the ultimate pain is an infinite library, a student union of eternal addiction, and the soul-crushing, silt-covered dunes of academic purgatory.

In *Katabasis*, Kuang transforms the ivory tower into a bureaucratic inferno, proving that eternal torment looks suspiciously like graduate school. Consider the fluorescent hum of a never-ending academic library, stacks of manuscripts citing each other into oblivion. It is a novel where the descent into the underworld is indistinguishable from postgraduate life.

At its centre is Alice Law, a postgraduate in Analytic Magick at Cambridge—a discipline where chalk and paradox do what most fantasy novels would leave to swords and spells. Alice embodies the striving scholar: anxious, furious, determined, and painfully aware that the system was never built for her. Alice’s future disintegrates when her monstrous yet indispensable advisor, Professor Grimes, dies in an accident that is both her fault and her curse. A career without his glowing recommendation? Impossible. Her solution: descend into hell itself to retrieve his soul. She is unwillingly paired with her rival, Peter Murdoch, the sort of student who can glance at a pentagram and see the theorem hidden within—a golden child whose brilliance is both dazzling and intolerable.



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

Their uneasy partnership is the novel’s spine. Alice grinds, Peter glides. She bleeds for her work, he flicks his wrist and triumphs. The friction between them is not romance—thank heavens Kuang avoids that trap—but the raw tension of two minds who know the system will crown one and discard the other. Their descent together into the Eight Courts of Hell is, in effect, a viva stretched across eternity, with the stakes not just careers but souls.

Kuang’s reimagining of hell is her boldest satire. Pride becomes an infinite library where ‘shades’—bodiless souls who are waiting to pass through every court of hell—are forced to define “the good” until they calcify into statues. Desire manifests as a grimy student

union room, its prisoners trapped in eternal cycles of compulsive craving. Bureaucracy appears not as a horned demon but as endless paperwork, waiting rooms, and departmental meetings that feel eerily close to real life. The result is both hilarious and horrifying: a hellscape constructed not from fire, but from the lived experience of academia.

And yet, beneath the humour, the novel burns with something darker. It asks what happens to the self when ambition consumes everything else? Alice’s journey is less about saving Professor Grimes and more about confronting the monstrous truth of a system that feeds on sacrifice—of time, health, ethics, identity—while offering

nothing in return but the faint shimmer of prestige. In this sense, the novel is less fantasy than mirror: it reflects the institutional cruelties of the ivory tower until the satire feels almost too sharp to laugh at. Kuang’s background as a scholar is her secret weapon. The magic system—based on paradox, translation, and linguistic sleight of hand—is as intellectually dense as it is original. Her footnotes, digressions, and mini-lectures on reincarnation or logic are not decorative; they embody the very excesses she lampoons.

At times, the novel seems to become the dissertation it critiques: a text so eager to explain that it risks drowning the reader in theory. But this is part of its design. Hell is boredom. Hell is

bureaucracy. Hell is the endless paper that no one reads.

Still, when the novel moves, it moves like lightning. Kuang skewers the job market, the negligent advisor, the cult of performative suffering, all with razor-sharp wit. Alice’s internal monologue is a masterpiece of anxious self-sabotage, and Peter’s effortless superiority is rendered with just enough vulnerability to prevent him from becoming a caricature. Together, they embody the brutal economics of academia: one climbing endlessly, one born already at the summit, both trapped in a system that values neither fully as human beings.

Finishing *Katabasis* leaves the reader wrung out, as though they, too, have paid half their lifespan to sit through the ordeal. It is exhausting and infuriating in equal measure. The final impression is not despair but recognition—the realisation that the university, for all its grand ideals, too often resembles the inferno more than the paradise it promises.

If one needed a soundtrack to the novel, it would be BTS’s “N.O.,” with its defiant cry against the treadmill of study, work, repeat. Alice and Peter’s journey is precisely that refusal made mythic: a rebellion not against hell, but against the ivory tower itself.

R.F. Kuang has always been a writer of ambition. With *Katabasis*, she proves to herself that this is not escapism. It is satire with teeth, a novel that forces its readers to look up from the chalkboard and ask what their own souls are worth. In the end, hell is not other people. Hell is the campus.

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BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

The Indosphere and its discontents

Review of ‘The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World’ (Bloomsbury, 2024) by William Dalrymple

NAJMUS SAKIB

In the year 1025, a fleet of warships set sail from the Coromandel Coast of southern India on a mission of conquest. This was the navy of the Chola Emperor Rajendra I, and its target lay across the full, treacherous breadth of the Bay of Bengal—the fabulously wealthy Sumatran empire of Srivijaya. The subsequent campaign was a stunning success, with Indian forces sacking cities across modern day Indonesia and Malaysia. It was a moment of startling aggression, one that sits uncomfortably with the pious modern narrative of a pacific, eternally non-violent Hindu past. And yet, as William Dalrymple argues in his magnificent book *The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World*, this singular act of hard power was an aberration. For a thousand years, the true and lasting Indian empire was not one of conquest, but of culture—a ‘soft power’ imperium built not with the sword, but with the seductive force of its philosophy, religion, art, and language.

If this narrative of a dominant, culturally expansionist India feels unfamiliar, it is because, as Dalrymple shows, the story itself has been a casualty in the long war of historical interpretation. For a generation, colonial French historians, abetted by Indian nationalists in the Greater India

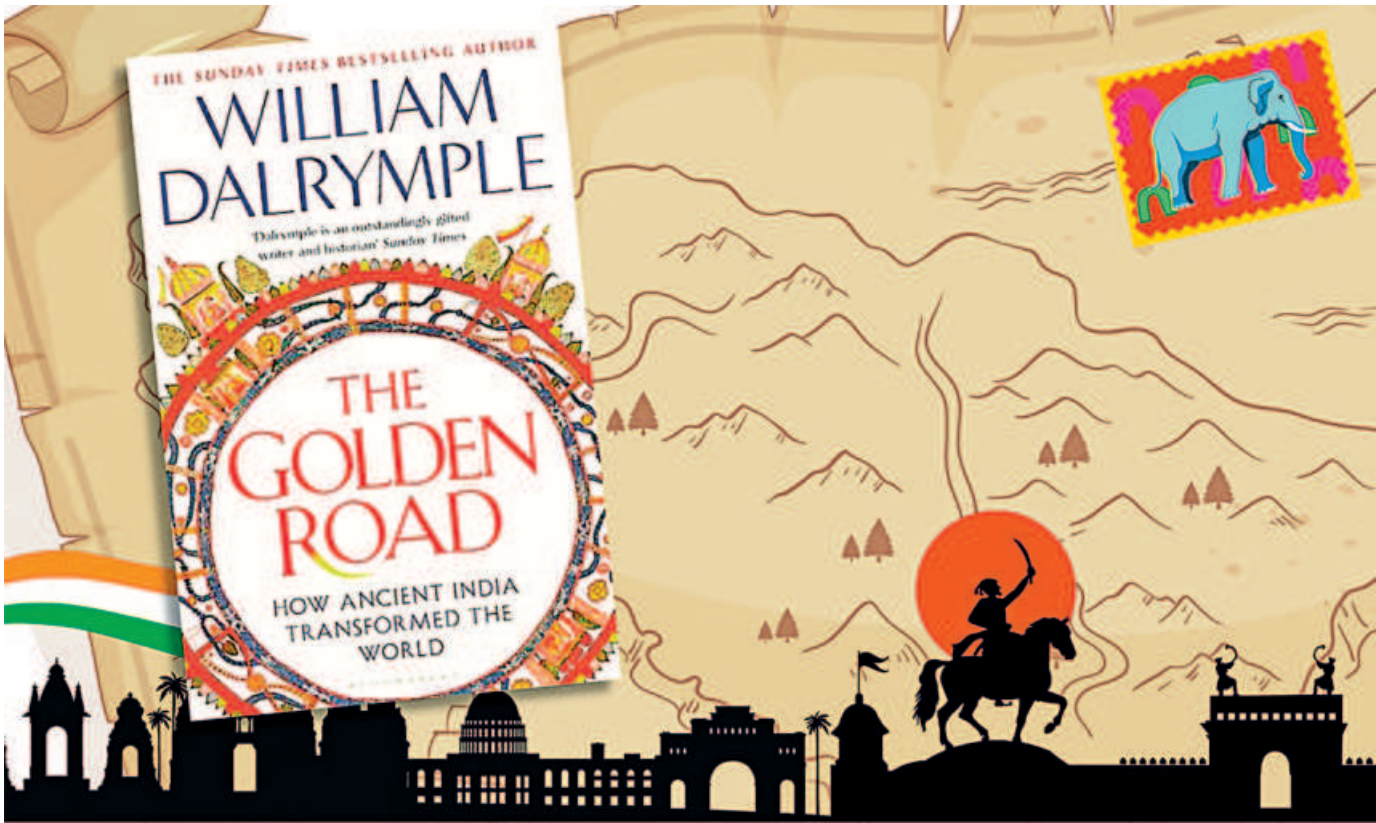


ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

nations of Southeast Asia rightly pushed back against any notion of ancient Indian colonialism—to the point where the very concept of “Indianisation” became almost a dirty word in Southeast Asian university departments. Dalrymple’s work is significant for its contrapuntal reading of the historical record, a method that allows him to dismantle two dominant and competing narrative constructions. He simultaneously critiques the hegemonic, orientalist discourse of colonial-era historians while resisting a purely reactive post-colonial framework that might, in its own way, efface the very real agency and cultural power of the pre-colonial Indian state. Having cleared away this intellectual rubble of competing ideologies, Dalrymple reconstructs the machinery of this forgotten empire.

The primary vehicle for this transmission

was Sanskrit, which—reinvented from a sacred tongue into a potent literary and political language—became, across much of Asia, the “Language of the Gods in the World of Men”, as he puts it. This resulted not in crude imitation but in a creative synthesis Dalrymple likens to “the pizza effect”: a visiting Brahmin might have recognised a Khmer king’s Sanskrit title but found himself before gods carved with Cambodian features. The intellectual hub of this vibrant Indosphere was the great university of Nalanda, whose prestige compelled Xuanzang’s six thousand mile pilgrimage, yet which was ultimately decimated by Turkic fanaticism in what Dalrymple notes was a “civilisational catastrophe” rivaling the infamous burning of Alexandria’s library.

Dalrymple’s otherwise magisterial work of history nonetheless left me yearning for a

more pugnacious engagement with the great counterexample to India’s success: China. In recent years, the idea of a land-based “Silk Road” has found its most eloquent champion in Peter Frankopan, whose own achievement has rightly recentered attention on the commercial and cultural highways of Central Asia. Dalrymple’s *The Golden Road* stands as a direct challenge to this narrative, dismissing it by suggesting that the very term “Silk Road” was a 19th century invention for a prosaic German railway scheme, now conveniently co-opted by Beijing’s propagandists. This is a dubious claim, since Matthias Mertens has shown the term predates Von Richthofen’s supposed coinage. Nonetheless, Dalrymple glosses over this by noting that the rival “Sinosphere” was a smaller affair, hampered by the “difficulties presented by the Chinese script.” A claim of such weight demands

a full-throated polemic of its own: a more elaborate argument for why one civilisation succeeded in exporting much of its culture while its powerful neighbour could not.

More troublingly, this great work risks being weaponised by the Hindu far right. A narrative of a glorious, world-shaping Hindu-Buddhist past, however scholarly and nuanced, will inevitably risk being stripped of its subtleties and served up as grist for the mill of the burgeoning Hindu nationalist movement.

Arundhati Roy, writing in 1998 about India’s nuclear program in *Frontline* magazine, remarked acridly: “Yes, I’ve heard—the bomb is in the Vedas. It might be, but if you look hard enough, you’ll find Coke in the Vedas, too. That’s the great thing about all religious texts. You can find anything you want in them as long as you know what you’re looking for.” And so it is with history. The modern Hindu chauvinist, knowing precisely what they are looking for, will find in the past not what was there, but what they need to be there now: a golden age of monolithic Hindu supremacy. The ultimate and most depressing irony, then, is that a book chronicling a history of syncretism, conversation, and cosmopolitan exchange might just be brandished as a cudgel by those who champion its very opposite.

William Dalrymple has certainly marshalled a staggering array of evidence—around 200 pages of notes and references drawn from archaeology, epigraphy, art history, and many forgotten texts. Yet, having finished the book, I am left to wrestle with a troubling paradox.

In his campaign to correct a Eurocentric (and now Sinocentric) map of the past, has he not simply created a new, Indocentric one? The very concept of an “Indosphere”—that “Sanskritic sun” radiating its beams across a receptive Asia—can feel perilously close to exchanging one form of hegemonic gravity for another. Does it not, in its grand sweep, risk diminishing the very agency and indigenous genius of Khmer and Javanese cultures, casting them as mere adapters of an imported culture?

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William Dalrymple has certainly marshalled a staggering array of evidence—around 200 pages of notes and references drawn from archaeology, epigraphy, art history, and many forgotten texts.

Society, saw this ancient expansion as a flattering mirror to their own supposed “civilising missions”, framing it in terms of Ancient Indian Colonies or the Hindu diaspora.

But in the wake of decolonisation, scholars from the newly independent

BANGLADESH IN ASIA CUP: AN ENDURING AFFAIR

Bangladesh's journey in the Asia Cup has been one of persistence, heartbreak, and hope. Since debuting in 1986, the Tigers have hosted the tournament, endured decades of struggles, and emerged as three-time runners-up. From near glory in 2012, 2016, and 2018 to recent setbacks in 2022 and 2023, the Asia Cup has remained central to Bangladesh's cricketing story. As they kick off their 16th campaign against Hong Kong in Abu Dhabi, Litton Das' side will once again chase the elusive title.

*** Read full story on The Daily Star's website*



Bulbul's tip for Litton & Co

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam Bulbul believes sharper running between the wickets and better fielding could give the Tigers an edge in the ongoing Asia Cup in the UAE.

"This format sees most teams perform similarly in batting and bowling. If we can add 15 runs through running or save 10 in the field, those 25 runs could decide matches," Bulbul told reporters in Mirpur yesterday, after the opening day of a three-day Run Scoring Workshop.



Having previously worked with the ICC in the UAE, Bulbul said he was confident about Bangladesh's chances. "It's hard to predict in this format, but I really expect the team to go a long way," he added.

Bangladesh face Hong Kong today in Abu Dhabi before taking on Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Despite Afghanistan's familiarity with UAE conditions, Bulbul backed the Tigers: "Considering the skillset of our players, I believe they can do well."

Finding the right balance KEY FOR TIGERS

EKUSH TAPADER FROM ABU DHABI

Bangladesh are set to begin their Asia Cup campaign against Associate Nation Hong Kong in Abu Dhabi today. The Litton Das-led side enter the continental tournament on the back of a decent run of form, but even during Tuesday's practice session, some familiar issues resurfaced.

There were encouraging signs as well -- especially from the top order, which appeared in rhythm.

Litton, who struck two fifties in a recent three-match series against the Netherlands at home, looked in fine touch again. He had specifically requested to face a left-arm pacer during nets, and among the bowlers provided by the UAE Cricket Board, one happened to be from Cumilla, Bangladesh. That bowler, Yunus Ali, who is trying to settle in the Emirates, was given a harsh reality check. "I landed the ball in good areas, yet he kept hitting me," Yunus admitted afterward. Litton did not spare his teammates either, peppering the nets with aggressive strokes.

Before Litton, openers Tanzid Tamim and Parvez Hossain Emon had kept journalists and staff alert, as balls repeatedly sailed beyond the small practice ground's fences, prompting loud warnings of "watch, watch."

But once the top order stepped aside,

the nets fell flat -- almost mirroring Bangladesh's recent batting trend of starting brightly but losing momentum in the middle overs.

Towhid Hridoy, once seen as one of Bangladesh's most promising T20 batters, looked stiff, out of rhythm, and struggling with his timing -- making his place in the XI uncertain. By contrast, Saif Hassan has made a stronger case. Capable of batting in both top and middle order while also offering useful off-spin, his versatility could help balance the side. As India skipper Suryakumar Yadav recently noted: "In T20 cricket, a top-order batter who can bowl is a blessing for any team's balance."

The Zayed Cricket Stadium surface generally offers good bounce. While batters tend to score freely here, pacers usually benefit most, with Oman's Bilal Khan -- also a seamer -- being the leading wicket-taker at the venue in T20Is. Since all of Bangladesh's group-stage matches will be played at this ground, the role of pacers is expected to be pivotal.

Bangladesh are likely to field three pacers, with Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed almost certain selections. The third seamer's slot remains open, with Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Mohammad Saifuddin, and Shoriful Islam all competing. Sakib and Saifuddin bowled

extended spells early in training, while assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin later recalled Shoriful for an additional session under lights yesterday.

Strength and conditioning coach Nathan Kiely, alongside chief physician Dr. Debashis Chowdhury, monitored the workload closely to guard against injuries in the intense Emirati heat and humidity.

As for their first opponents, Hong Kong, Bangladesh will draw confidence from a few factors. While Hong Kong famously upset the Tigers in Chattogram during the 2014 T20 World Cup, none of those players remain in their current squad. Moreover, they began this Asia Cup with a crushing 94-run defeat to Afghanistan and had to travel far from their base camp to reach Abu Dhabi for today's match.

Bangladesh trained during that Afghanistan-Hong Kong encounter, but still kept an eye on proceedings. The gulf in quality was evident, and the Tigers would have noted it as well.

Though Hong Kong have promised to bring "quality cricket" against Bangladesh, Litton's side will look not only to secure the expected result against a lower-ranked opponent but also to address their middle-order concerns and strike the right balance ahead of tougher contests against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.



PHOTO: AFP

Kuldeep Yadav returned figures of 4-7 to lead India to a crushing nine-wicket win over UAE in their opening match of the Asia Cup T20 in Abu Dhabi yesterday. India skittled out UAE for 57 -- their lowest total in T20Is and the second-lowest in Asia Cup T20 history (going past Hong Kong's 38 all out against Pakistan in 2022) -- and chased down the target in 4.3 overs.

Slow and steady, Suehlamong shaping stars in the hills



In the hills of Rangamati, the quiet hum of football drills tells a bigger story.

Passing the winding slopes into Kawkhali, the real landmark here could very well be the upazila field, where dozens of young girls train under the guidance of Suehlamong Marma. It is here that two of Bangladesh's brightest names in women's football -- Ritu Porna Chakma and Monika Chakma -- honed their craft.

Women's football in the Chattogram Hill Tracts has not been built overnight. It has been shaped by the persistence of people like Suehlamong, who believed in the game's potential to change lives.

Since founding the Suehlamong Football Academy in 2018, he has nurtured talent from the Chattogram Hill Tracts, often funding food, education, and training from his own pocket. With over 50 girls now in his programme -- eight representing Bangladesh and many pursuing diverse careers -- Suehlamong's steady dedication has also become a launchpad for other related ambitions, writes our Rangamati correspondent **Rikors Chakma**.

Read the full story on The Daily Star website.

Brazil, Argentina stutter, Bolivia clinch playoff spot

REUTERS

Bolivia shocked Brazil 1-0 to secure a spot in the intercontinental playoffs for next year's FIFA World Cup while Argentina suffered a 1-0 defeat by Ecuador in the final round of South America's 2026 qualifiers on Tuesday.

Bolivia's Miguel Terceiros converted a penalty in first-half stoppage time to secure the home win over five-times World Cup winners Brazil in La Paz, a result which saw Carlo Ancelotti's side drop to fifth in the standings.

Bolivia, who are seventh on the standings, will be joined in the playoffs in Monterrey and Guadalajara in March by two teams from CONCACAF as well as one each from the African, Asian and Oceania confederations in the hunt for two places at the World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

While Ecuador and reigning champions Argentina had already qualified for the World Cup, there was no shortage of intensity in their match in Guayaquil.

Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi was sent off in the 31st minute



Qualified (CONMEBOL):
Argentina,
Ecuador,
Colombia,
Uruguay, Brazil,
Paraguay
Playoff spot:
Bolivia

before Enner Valencia scored from the spot just before half-time. Despite Moises Caicedo's red card early in the second-half, Ecuador held firm to win and secure second place. Argentina

still topped the table with 39 points, nine clear of Ecuador and 10 ahead of Brazil.

Elsewhere, Luis Suarez scored four as Colombia thrashed Venezuela 6-3 in Maturin to finish

third, extinguishing Venezuela's play-off hopes. Uruguay secured fourth after a 0-0 draw with Chile in Santiago, while Matias Galarza's strike earned Paraguay a 1-0 win over Peru to seal sixth.



Striker Erling Haaland scored five goals and substitute midfielder Thelo Aasgaard added four more as Norway hammered Moldova 11-1 on Wednesday to take another huge step towards qualifying for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1998. Haaland, who completed his fifth hattrick, has now scored 48 goals in 45 games for his national team. With five games played, the Norwegians top Group I of the UEFA World Cup Qualifiers with 15 points, six ahead of second-placed Italy.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM





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Pledge not to challenge July Charter in court

Consensus commission asks political parties

MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission (NCC) in its July Charter has sought firm commitments from political parties that they will not challenge the legality or necessity of the July Charter in court and that they will ensure legal and constitutional safeguards at every stage of its implementation.

The commission has also called for constitutional and state recognition of the people's uninterrupted 16-year struggle for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which culminated in the July uprising.

The final version of the charter and its implementation process have yet to be sent to the political parties, The Daily Star has learnt from people familiar with the proceedings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

NATIONAL POLLS

42,618 centres to be set up

EC publishes draft list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday published the draft list of polling centres for the upcoming 13th national election, setting the figure at 42,618.

The draft list will remain open for claims and objections until September 25, while the final list will be announced on October 20, said EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed at Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



Displaced Palestinians flee amid an Israeli military operation, after Israeli forces ordered residents of Gaza City to evacuate to the south. The photo was taken in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel strikes Yemen after Doha

Huthis say 35 killed in attack; Tel Aviv vows to ‘act against its enemies anywhere’

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday warned its enemies they were not safe anywhere, a day after strikes targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar -- a US ally -- drew a rare rebuke from President Donald Trump.

Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed that Israel would “act against its enemies anywhere”, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged Qatar to expel Hamas officials or hold them to account, “because if you don’t, we will”.

Israel’s military said it struck Huthi rebel targets in Yemen yesterday, including in the capital Sanaa, as AFP journalists reported strikes on the Huthi

armed forces’ media operation.

In a statement, the army said its targets included “military camps in which operatives of the terrorist regime were identified, the Huthis’ military public relations headquarters and a fuel storage facility” used by the group.

The rebel-run health ministry in Sanaa said at least 35 people were killed and more than 130 wounded in the Israeli strikes.

Palestinian group Hamas said six people were killed in Tuesday’s strikes on Qatar, but its senior leaders had survived, affirming “the enemy’s failure to assassinate our brothers in the negotiating delegation”.

The White House said Trump did not agree with Israel’s decision to take military action and had warned Qatar in advance of the incoming strikes.

But Doha said it had not received the warning from Washington until the attack was already under way.

Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, sought to justify the decision, telling an Israeli radio station: “We don’t always act in the interests of the United States.

“It was not an attack on Qatar; it was an attack on Hamas,” Danon told I03FM, adding: “It is too early to comment on the outcome, but the decision is the right one.”

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

Procurement reforms aim to cut graft

Says CEO of Public Procurement Authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government aims to eliminate political influence and reduce corruption in public procurement through key reforms in the draft Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2025, said SM Moinuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA), yesterday.

Speaking at a views-exchange meeting at the IMED conference room, Moinuddin said a major revision is the removal of the controversial 10 percent plus-minus price provision from the 2016 rules.

“That clause made it difficult to prevent political interference and enabled manipulation of bids in favour of certain contractors. Even officials used it to their advantage by exploiting legal loopholes,” he said.

To address these issues, the government plans to introduce a fully digital procurement system. This includes an electronic content management platform and an e-payment system allowing contractors to submit bills and performance securities online, eliminating the need for physical contact with officials.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Farmers walk in a line across a muddy rice field, each balancing bundles of freshly harvested Aush paddy on their shoulders in Mahadevpur upazila of Naogaon yesterday. This season, Naogaon farmers cultivated the Aush paddy on 58,696 hectares -- more than any other district in the north. According to the local agricultural department, Naogaon is expected to see a yield of nearly 265,000 tonnes of Aush paddy this season.

NBR seizes Hasina’s locker in Pubali Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday took control of a locker belonging to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The locker is at the Motijheel branch of Pubali Bank, a senior official told The Daily Star.

He said locker number I28 was traced to Pubali Bank’s Sena Kalyan Bhaban branch under Hasina’s name.

Of the two keys associated with the locker, one remains in her possession. So, the CIC could not open the locker.

“As the locker can only be opened by matching both keys and Hasina is now a fugitive, we will proceed in line with the law to open the locker,” the official said.

The move comes as the NBR launched an inquiry into the allegations of tax evasion by deposed PM Hasina, who fled to India following a student-led mass uprising.

The tax authority has frozen the bank accounts of Hasina as part of the investigation, officials said.

Protests grip France as new PM starts job

AFP, Paris

France’s new Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu was set to take office yesterday as protesters took to the streets in a show of grassroots opposition to President Emmanuel Macron, sparking clashes with police and dozens of arrests.

The demonstrations, led by a loose left-wing collective under the slogan “Block Everything”, are a baptism of fire for Lecornu, 39, a close ally of Macron and defence minister for the past three years.

France deployed some 80,000 police nationwide as protesters in and around Paris built barricades from rubbish bins, blocked schools and roads and pelted police with garbage early in the day.



In the southeastern city of Lyon, protesters blocked a road running through the city and set bins on fire, while in the western city of Nantes police used tear gas to disperse protesters.

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau warned demonstrators that there would be “zero tolerance” for violence.

By mid-morning, close to 200 arrests had been made, Retailleau told reporters, most of them in and around Paris.

In the southern port city of Marseille, police stopped some 200 demonstrators from blockading a main road. Macron’s decision to name a close ally as prime minister was a “slap in the face”, said Florent, a protester in Lyon who gave only his first name. “We need change,” he said.

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