

"I appeal to all parties to be confident that a solution to the problem is being sought as soon as possible..."
Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel assures citizens

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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY



DHAKA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 229

BHADRA 28, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIUL AWAL 18, 1447 HJRI

20 PAGES: Tk 15.00

Police to get two commissions for accountability

BAHARAM KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The interim government yesterday directed the law ministry to formulate laws for the establishment of two separate commissions within the police force to ensure accountability and internal investigations without external influence.

The commissions will be named the Independent Investigation Services and the Internal Complaints Commission.

The law adviser or a minister would be the chair of the Independent Investigation Services, which will handle investigations and the resolution of complaints against police members.

The home adviser or a minister would be the chair of the Internal Complaints Commission, with the Inspector General of Police (IGP) serving as the member secretary.

This commission will work towards establishing a people friendly police force, resolving complaints from aggrieved police members and ensuring transparency and accountability in police activities, recruitment, promotion and postings.

It will also oversee police training, capacity building, development and welfare management, police promotion, selection of the police chief, organisational structure reforms, and law-making and research.

The decision came in yesterday's advisory council meeting, which discussed the progress made on the recommendations made by the reform commissions, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the discussions.

The meeting decided to divide the proposal for the formation of an independent police commission into two separate commissions.

The Police Headquarters (PHQ) sent a proposal to the home ministry, in line with the police reform commission's proposal, for a commission

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING DECISIONS

Independent Investigation Services to conduct probe free from political or external pressures

Internal Complaints Commission will address complaints regarding police conduct, ensuring transparency and accountability

Law ministry to formulate law for both commissions

Home ministry will oversee their practical implementation



Female students lined up at the Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Hall to cast their votes in the Jucusu polls at Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No alternative to Feb polls

Says Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the forthcoming national polls a "foundational election", Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the government has no alternative but to hold it in the first half of February.



"The upcoming national election, scheduled for next February, is not just an ordinary election but a foundational election that will determine the future path of Bangladesh," he said at a meeting of the National Consensus Commission, held at the state guest house Jamuna, according to a press release issued by the Chief Adviser's Office.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Mismanagement, boycotts mar Jucusu election

EC claims voting largely peaceful; results expected this morning

MD ABBAS, SAJJAD HOSSAIN and SAKIB AHMED

Five of eight panels boycotted the long-awaited Jucusu elections yesterday over allegations of irregularities, mismanagement, and vote rigging, even as polling continued from 9:00am to 5:00pm in most centres.

The first polls to Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union in 33 years were held across 224 booths in 21 residential halls, with 11,919 registered voters. University officials said 67 percent votes were cast, while the result are expected to be announced this morning.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel was the first to pull out around 3:30pm. By evening, Sampritir Oikya, Swatantra Angikar Parishad, Songshoptak

Parshad, and Socialist Student Front candidates also withdrew themselves and demanded a fresh election.

Remaining in the race were the left-leaning Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed Shikharthi Oikya Forum, Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Somonnito Shikharthi Jote, and Swatantra Shikharthi Sommilon, a panel of independents.

Calling the boycott "unfortunate for democracy", Somonnito leaders said they would accept the students' verdict.

Announcing JCD's withdrawal, GS candidate Tanjila Hossain Boishakhi said, "We feared from the start that this election would be staged. The ballot papers

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rift persists over implementation of July Charter

Final copy sent to parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MAMUNUR RASHID

The National Consensus Commission yesterday sent the final July Charter to political parties, but talks once again ended in deadlock as divisions persisted over how to implement provisions requiring constitutional changes.

At a meeting at the Foreign Service Academy, parties stuck to their earlier stances. The commission will sit with them again on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Palestinians transport their belongings as they evacuate Gaza City toward southern areas of the coastal Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

There'll be no Palestinian state: Netanyahu

Qatar calls for 'collective response' to Israeli attack



- Israel has attacked six countries in 72 hours
- WHO workers to remain in Gaza City despite call to leave
- Hamas says Qatar attack aimed at halting mediation
- Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 43 people, including aid seekers

AGENCIES

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday vowed that there would be no Palestinian state, speaking at a signing ceremony for a major settlement project in the occupied West Bank.

"We are going to fulfil our promise that there will be no Palestinian state, this place belongs to us," Netanyahu said at the event in Maale Adumim, an Israeli settlement just east of Jerusalem.

"We will safeguard our heritage, our land and our security... We are going to double the city's population." The event was streamed live by his office.

Israel has long had ambitions to build on the roughly 12 square kilometre (five square mile) tract of land known as E1, but the plan had been stalled for years in the face of international opposition.

The site sits between Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, near routes connecting the

north and south of the Palestinian territory.

Last month, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich backed plans to build around 3,400 homes on the ultra-sensitive parcel of land.

His announcement drew condemnation, with UN chief Antonio Guterres saying the settlement would effectively cleave the West Bank in two and pose an "existential threat" to a contiguous Palestinian state.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

In the name of Almighty Allah




Date of Death
12-09-22

12th September 2025

On the 3rd death anniversary of
Alhaj Mohammad Nasir Uddin Biswas
The Esteemed Industrialist and Founder Chairman & Managing Director
of Nasir Group of Industries

The family members, along with all the officers
employees and workers of Nasir Group

*offer their
deepest respect
prayers, and boundless love.*

We pray to Almighty Allah for the peace and forgiveness of his
departed soul. May Allah grant him a place in Paradise, Ameen.

Head Office: House# 16, Road# 09, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

O visionary and tireless warrior of work, It was under your leadership that the grand journey of modern industrialization in this country began. Time passes, but the glory inscribed in your deeds remains ever radiant.

2 more held over Rajbari attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested two more people in connection with cases filed over the killing of Rasel Molla, and attack and vandalism at the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, widely known as "Nural Pagla", in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila.

The two gave confessional statements before a court yesterday following their arrest late Wednesday night, police said.

The arrestees are Md Abu Sayeed, 45, and Md Rasel Sheikh, 24. Sayeed was held in Faridpur, while Rasel in Dhaka's Nakhhalpara area.

Rajbari Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime and Ops) Md Sharif Al Rajib said with these two, a total of 22 people have been arrested in two cases filed over the incidents.

Both were later sent to jail. On Monday night, the victim's father, Azad Mollah, a former member of Deogram Union Parishad under Goalanda upazila, filed a case with Goalanda Ghat Police Station.

He accused 3,500-4,000 unidentified people of murder, arson, burning of a corpse, looting, vandalism and causing injuries.

Syria busts Hezbollah-linked cell: ministry

AFP, Damascus

Syria said yesterday that its forces dismantled a cell affiliated with Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group, a key ally of ousted president Bashar al-Assad.

"Specialised units in cooperation with the general intelligence service... were able to arrest a terrorist cell belonging to the Hezbollah militia that was active" in the Damascus countryside, an interior ministry statement said, quoting a local commander.

"Preliminary investigations showed that the cell members underwent training in military camps in Lebanese territory, and were planning to carry out operations inside Syrian territory that threaten national security and stability," the statement said.



Traffic came to a standstill yesterday afternoon as several hundred garment workers blocked the Kuril-Badda road, demanding unpaid wages. The resulting gridlock spread to adjacent streets, causing significant inconvenience for commuters. PHOTO: STAR

New delimitation sparks protests in Bagerhat, Faridpur

STAR REPORT

Demonstrators yesterday enforced blockades in Bagerhat and Faridpur, protesting the Election Commission's recent redrawing of constituencies in those districts.

As per the new delimitation, Bagerhat lost one parliamentary constituency, reducing its total from four to three.

Meanwhile, the Hamirdi and Algi unions, which were previously under Faridpur-4 constituency, were moved under Faridpur-2 constituency.

Demanding the restoration of the lost constituency, a platform of different political parties in Bagerhat enforced a 36-hour hartal starting at 6:00am on Wednesday, bringing the district to a standstill.

On the second day of the hartal yesterday, protesters blocked roads and highways at over a hundred points,



suspending communication with the other parts of the country.

Due to the blockade, the long distance buses as well as goods-laden trucks were stranded at several key areas, including the central bus terminal.

Shops and businesses across the district remained closed in support of the hartal. Protesters say if the lost constituency

is not restored, they will enforce dawn-to-dusk hartals from Monday to Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in Faridpur, residents of Hamirdi and Algi unions in Bhanga upazila blocked two major highways for the third consecutive day yesterday.

They enforced the blockade for around 12 hours since morning, protesting the EC's decision to reassign their areas from Faridpur-4 to Faridpur-2.

They blocked the Dhaka-Khulna and Dhaka-Barishal highways, bringing traffic on these vital routes that connect Dhaka with the country's southwest to a near standstill.

Hundreds of vehicles, including buses, trucks, and minibuses bound for Dhaka, were seen stranded on both highways.

Vehicular movement resumed after the protesters withdrew the blockade at 6:00pm, said Md Rokibuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bhanga Highway Police Station.

Mismanagement, boycotts mar Jucusu election

FROM PAGE 1

and OMR machines were supplied by Jamaat-linked businesses. We warned the administration, but they ignored us."

She alleged forged votes, obstruction of polling agents, preferential treatment for Shibir candidates, fading ink, faulty voter lists, and delayed polling.

Boishakhi added that their VP candidate was barred at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Hall, an independent was attacked at Jahanara Imam Hall, and a Shibir candidate used a journalist's ID to access restricted areas without facing action. "This election won't reflect students' verdict. The administration has joined hands with Jamaat-Shibir to engineer the outcome. We have no choice but to boycott."

At a separate briefing, Sompritor Oikya GS candidate Sharan Ahsan said, "Students waited 33 years for this election, but the process turned into a nightmare. We demand a fresh election under a new commission."

The boycotting panels alleged polling agents were barred during the first two hours, washable ink was used, and leaflets of a particular panel were distributed inside booths, including women's halls where male candidates were allowed. They also claimed extra ballots were printed and found scattered. At Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall, ballots missing candidates' names were manually corrected.

They accused the administration of cancelling some candidacies while allowing others to bypass dope tests. Complaints from JCD, Shibir, and left-leaning panels went unanswered by the Election Commission.

Shibir-backed Shikharthi Jote

also criticised the EC. VP candidate Arifullah said at a 2:00pm briefing, "They were supposed to be fully prepared, but they weren't. Our request to place agents last night was granted very late, and hall authorities delayed letting them in."

He alleged former JCD activists roamed dormitories despite a ban on former students from 6:00am and said extra ballots were found in two halls. "Chhatra Dal boycotted because they were certain of defeat. This kind of withdrawal isn't healthy for democracy."

Earlier, JU authorities detained JCD vice president Hafizur Rahman Sohan for entering Rabindranath Tagore Hall in violation of the code of conduct but released him after he signed an undertaking. No action was taken against the JU Shibir president, also a former student, despite similar violations.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed Shikharthi Oikya Forum alleged a "design" to favour some panels. GS candidate Abu Touhid Mohammad Siam said leaflets were openly distributed at polling centres without consequence and irregularities continued "in front of authorities".

IRREGULARITIES
Around noon, candidates reported inconsistent access for polling agents. Adri Ankur, president of one student union faction, said some agents were allowed into halls while others were blocked.

At 12:33pm, a ballot paper error at Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall caused confusion as voters were told to mark one candidate instead of three. The issue was later corrected.

Voting at Shaheed Tajuddin Hall was halted for 25 minutes due to missing voter lists and a lack of ink. Prof Saleh Ahmad Khan, member of the Central Election Monitoring Committee, said 153 votes were set aside as voters had no ink mark and photos missing from the list.

Speaking to The Daily Star, he said he visited 13 halls yesterday and found the election largely peaceful, though there were some minor errors. "Most allegations were not submitted in writing, so the commission could not act on them.... All complaints are being sent to the university's legal adviser, and final results should not be declared until these are resolved."

At female Hall No-15, voting was suspended for an hour after rigging allegations.

Prof Dr Nahreen Islam Khan, present at the centre, said, "We witnessed female voters being taken to the back door of the polling room and marked as voters, in violation of rules. When we questioned the returning officer, she misbehaved with us. I was shocked to see voting amid such mismanagement."

Contacted, RO Shabnam Ferdousy said power outages disrupted polling and some ballot papers "accidentally fell" from voters' hands. "We continued using mobile flashlights. The pens used were supplied by the EC, which has already expressed regret."

Three BNP-leaning teachers - Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Shamima Sultana, and Prof Nahreen - resigned from monitoring duties, citing widespread irregularities.

Nazrul said ballot papers and machines were supplied by a Jamaat-linked company, "proving the process

was politically motivated".

Journalists faced hurdles entering women's polling centres between 9:00am and 10:00am, despite regulations allowing media access.

First-year student Md Robiul Islam from Shaheed Rafiq-Jabbar Hall said, "I waited 20 minutes, only to learn my vote had already been cast." Polling officer Md Jakir Hossain confirmed via CCTV footage that a fake ID was used and reported the incident to the EC.

Voting ended at 5:00pm in most centres but continued until 7:00pm at Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall due to a delayed start. Counting began at 10:25pm. EC member Mafruhi Sattar said results would not be published before this morning.

Students voted for 40 positions - 25 in Jucusu and 15 in hall unions - with 177 candidates contesting in the central body and 443 vying for 215 hall union posts.

JCD PROTEST
Protesting the election, DU JCD around 9:00pm brought out a procession from Kabir Smarani near the New Arts Building to Chowrongi, where they held a rally protesting the Jucusu polls.

JU JCD Convener Zahir Uddin Babor alleged extra ballots were given to Shibir activists and demanded cancellation of the polls, a new EC, and a fresh schedule. "We'll submit a memorandum tomorrow [today] demanding a fresh election. We are also in talks with other panels who boycotted to launch a joint movement."

(Our Savar correspondent also contributed to this report.)

Do not slash journalist visas Over hundred media organisations urge the US

AFP, Paris

More than 100 international media groups and industry bodies yesterday urged Washington not to slash the time foreign journalists can stay in the United States, saying the planned change would hurt its image abroad.

President Donald Trump's plan would "reduce the quantity and quality of coverage coming from the US" and "damage, not enhance, America's global standing", AFP news agency and 117 other signatories to a joint statement wrote.

Backers of the appeal ranged from international news agencies like AFP and Reuters, to public broadcasters including Britain's BBC, Germany's ARD and Australia's ABC, national newspapers like Canada's Globe and Mail or the Irish Times and press freedom groups including Reporters Without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The Trump administration last month trailed plans to slash journalists' stays to a renewable 240-day period - or just 90 days for Chinese media workers - alongside a four-year limit on student visas.

Current rules allow journalists to stay in the US for up to five years, meaning they "gain the deep knowledge, trusted networks and contextual immersion needed to explain America to global audiences", the signatories said.

Mob kills man over alleged rickshaw theft attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was beaten to death for allegedly attempting to steal a battery-powered rickshaw in Tangail's Madhupur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Russell, 35, from Jamalpur's Madarganj upazila.

Quoting locals, police said three people had gone to one Jasim's house in Haludiya village around 3:30am to allegedly steal a rickshaw. When locals found out, they chased the three. Two managed to escape, but Russell was caught and beaten to death on the spot.

Madhupur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Emranul Kabir told The Daily Star that a police team went to the spot after being informed and recovered the body. "We sent the body to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy. Legal measures are underway."

Police to get two commissions

FROM PAGE 1

with the home adviser or a minister as its chair, a retired justice of the appellate division as the vice-chair and the IGP as the member secretary.

A retired police officer not below the rank of an additional IGP and a rights activist would be in the commission too.

There will be four temporary members including a representative each from the leader of the parliament, the leader of the opposition, the speaker and deputy speaker, according to the PHQ proposal.

If the parliament is not in place, then the president will form a seven-member interim police commission in consultation with the head of the government.

A long discussion had taken place at the advisory council meeting regarding police commissions as part of police reforms, said Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, at a media briefing yesterday.

Two key issues have emerged to improve the police investigation process and ensure accountability within the force, he said.

One of the focal points is the creation of an Independent Investigation Service within the police, which will allow investigations to be conducted free from any political or external pressure.

"It is critical that investigations within the police force be independent, ensuring no outside pressures, whether political or otherwise, interfere with the process. This new service will be implemented swiftly to strengthen the integrity of our law enforcement system."

The second key development is the establishment of an Internal Complaints Commission.

This commission will provide a transparent platform for addressing complaints regarding police conduct, ensuring accountability within the force, he said.

Both the initiatives will be managed by the law ministry in collaboration with Law Adviser Asif Nazrul, Housing and Public Works Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan and Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Home Affairs Khoda Baksh Chowdhury.

The advisers will work together to expedite the implementation of the reforms.

While the commissions will be executed under the purview of the law ministry, the home ministry will oversee the practical aspects of their implementation, Shafiqul added.

However, there have been different proposals regarding the composition of the commissions.

The consensus commission suggested making a nine-member police commission with a retired

justice of the appellate division as the chair and a retired police officer (not below the rank of additional IGP) as member secretary, according to home ministry officials informed with the proceedings.

However, the police reform commission had suggested an 11-member police commission with a retired justice of the appellate division or a retired IGP as chair and serving IGP as the member secretary.

On January 15, the Police Reform Commission submitted its report to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus recommending the formation of a neutral and independent police commission.

It also suggested seeking expert opinions on whether the commission should be a statutory or constitutional body.

On March 13, the cabinet division forwarded the recommendations to the home ministry requesting an action plan.

This is not the first time that steps have been taken to prepare an independent police commission.

Back in 2007, the caretaker government attempted to establish an independent police commission, which did not materialise.

The 2007 proposal recommended an 11-member commission with home minister or adviser as its chairman and the IGP as the member secretary.

The then-government formed the Bangladesh Police Act Drafting Committee, which prepared a draft ordinance aimed at freeing the police from political influence, ensuring accountability and maintaining transparency in recruitment and promotions.

The draft proposed the formation of both an independent police commission and a complaints commission to replace the colonial-era Police Act of 1861.

However, the ordinance was never implemented due to strong resistance from bureaucratic and vested interest groups, according to individuals involved in the initiative.

"An independent police commission is vital to remove political and bureaucratic control over the force - there is no alternative to this," said Towhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

A strong commission is required in Bangladesh similar to those in the UK, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong, said a senior police official requesting anonymity.

"We wanted an independent police commission, but proposing separate commissions for the force could create obstacles in the process, and this step may not come to fruition," he added.

There'll be no Palestinian state: Netanyahu

FROM PAGE 1

All of Israel's settlements in the West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law, regardless of whether they have Israeli planning permission.

Several Western governments, including Britain and France, have announced they intend to recognise the State of Palestine at the United Nations later this month.

Britain has said it will take the step if Israel fails to agree to a ceasefire in the devastating Gaza war.

Excluding Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, the West Bank is home to around three million Palestinians, as well as about 500,000 Israeli settlers.

Meanwhile, Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani has said that there must be a "collective response" to Israel's attack on the Qatari capital Doha, as Arab leaders rushed to the Gulf nation to express solidarity. At least 6 people were killed in the attack.

"There is a response that will happen from the region. This response is currently under consultation and discussion with other partners in the region," he told US media outlet CNN Wednesday evening, adding that "the entire Gulf region is at risk".

"We are hoping for something meaningful that deters Israel from continuing this bullying," Sheikh Mohammed added, accusing

Netanyahu of leading the region into "chaos".

"I think that what Netanyahu did yesterday, he just killed any hope for those hostages," he said, calling for Netanyahu to be "brought to justice".

In three days, Israel has carried out strikes in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar and Yemen.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed 43 people across the Palestinian territory yesterday, according to medics and local health authorities, including 11 in strikes on various parts of Gaza City, five in a strike on a single location in the Beach refugee camp, and two who were searching for food near Rafah in the south.

Lebanon's health ministry

yesterday reported that an Israeli drone attack in the southern Tyre district hit a motorcycle, killing one person.

Humanitarian and human rights organisations have expressed alarm over Israel's forced expulsion order demanding one million people leave Gaza City, despite unsafe overcrowding further south.

With more and more children in besieged Gaza suffering from severe malnutrition, health workers said there is not enough medicine to nurse them or ease their pain.

The UN's health agency said Wednesday its workers will remain in Gaza City despite calls from Israel's military for people to flee an assault it is mounting there, reports AFP.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Participants at a discussion titled 'Women in Energy: Inspiring Change' during the Women and Energy Carnival 2025, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation under its Women's Empowerment and Energy Project, at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon, Dhaka yesterday.

8 additional DIGs, 6 SPs transferred

BSS, Dhaka

The government has transferred eight additional deputy inspectors general and six superintendents of police including two joint commissioners of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the home ministry said yesterday.

The ministry issued a circular on the transfers and under the order DMP joint commissioners Sultana Nazma Hossain and Md Saleh Uddin were posted as tourist police chief and to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) with the rank of additional DIG.

Additional commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Md Humaiun Kabir has been posted to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) as additional DIG.

Additional DIG of Chattogram police range Mohammad Riazul Haque has been posted at police telecom unit with the same rank.

PBI's supernumerary additional DIG Mohammad Anwarul Haque has been posted at police's Sylhet range and Barishal Metropolitan Police's (BMP) additional commissioner Khandkar Md Shamim Hossain was attached to police's Rajshahi range as additional DIG.

Supernumerary additional DIG Md Humaiun Kabir of PBI's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Ichamati dredging stalled by legal hassles

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Dredging work of the Ichamati river in Pabna town has been badly hampered due to a prolonged legal battle with encroachers, raising concerns over the completion of the Tk 1,554 crore project.

The Water Development Board began the "Rejuvenating River Ichamati" project in June 2024. The three-year scheme includes 110 kilometres of dredging — 33.772km of the Ichamati river, 44.072km of connecting canals, 20km of the Sutikhali river, and 12.37km of the Varara canal — to bring water flow back into the Ichamati.

In addition to dredging, the mega project will construct a 10km retaining wall, 10km of drainage, 23 new bridges, 56 ghats for boats, a 10km walkway, and will plant 42,310 trees along the riverbanks for beautification.

According to WDB officials, dredging of the 33km main river was to be carried out first, followed by the other development works. So far, 65 percent of the work has been completed within a year, but dredging in the 5km municipality stretch has been halted due to legal disputes, said Md Mahabub Alam, executive engineer of WDB, Pabna.

A total of 109 cases have been filed in different courts, most of which have led to stay orders preventing progress in the disputed areas, he said.

"Although dredging has begun in the municipality area



by avoiding the disputed spots, the work is mostly hampered due to insufficient space for moving excavators," Mahabub said.

During visits to different areas, dredger machines were found stranded on the riverbank.

WDB sources said there were already 73 cases pending in different courts when the dredging began last year. In the past few months, encroachers filed dozens more.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

ENERGY SECTOR

Women remain largely under-represented

Experts tell Women and Energy Carnival 2025, call for inclusive, gender-responsive energy transition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women make up only 10 percent of Bangladesh's energy workforce, far below the global average of 32 percent.

In public utilities within the power sector, just 6 percent of staff are women, while only 16 percent of officers in the Power Division are female.

The gap is even wider in engineering roles — only 6 percent (304 of 5,006) are women, mostly in junior posts. Just 45 serve as executive or senior engineers, mainly within the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Against this backdrop, speakers at an event yesterday stressed the need to recognise women as key stakeholders in Bangladesh's renewable energy transition.

They urged the government and policymakers to ensure women's equal participation in decision-making, policy processes, and leadership positions in the energy sector.

The discussion took place at the Women and Energy Carnival 2025, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) under

AT A GLANCE

Women make up 10% of country's energy workforce, compared to 32% globally

6% of staff in power utilities, 16% of Power Division officers are women

In engineering roles, only 6% (304 of 5,006) are women (mostly junior positions)

Only 45 women serve as executive or senior engineers (mainly in BPDB)

its Women's Empowerment and Energy (WEE) Project, at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon, Dhaka.

Delivering the keynote address, Banasree Mitra Neogi, director of Rights and Governance Programmes at MJF, said, "It is crucial to see whether everyone's participation in inclusive energy is being ensured. Equitable fairness is required."

She noted that many areas of the country, such as hilly regions, still

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

HEALTH GRAFT Contractor Mithu held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Motazzerul Islam Mithu, accused of large-scale corruption in the health sector including in the procurement of masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the Covid-19 pandemic, was arrested from Gulshan on Wednesday night.

Detectives arrested Mithu at the request of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), said Rabiul Islam Bhuiyan, joint commissioner (North DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"We have already handed him over to the ACC," he told The Daily Star.

Mithu, owner of Lexicon Merchandize and Technocrat, came under scrutiny during the pandemic over allegations of supplying substandard masks, PPE, and other medical equipment.

In October 2019, the ACC had sought a travel ban against Mithu, describing him as a controversial contractor who allegedly embezzled and laundered large sums of money through syndicates operating in the health sector.

ACC officials said Mithu amassed properties worth several crores of taka, including agricultural land, leased plots, and flats, through alleged graft.

ASSESSING HUMAN RIGHTS EU parliament team to visit September 16-18

STAR REPORT

A delegation of European Parliament members will be visiting Bangladesh from September 16 to 18 to assess the reforms and human rights.

The five-member delegation include Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA, FR), Human Rights Subcommittee Chair; Isabel Wiseler-Lima (EPP, Luxembourg); Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR, PL); Urmaz Paet (Renew Europe, Estonia) and Catarina Vieira (The Greens/EFA, The Netherlands), according to a statement of the EU mission in Dhaka.

The delegation members will meet with the representatives of the interim government

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Pakistan PM calls for stronger bilateral ties Meets Bangladesh religious affairs adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stressed the need to deepen ties with Bangladesh, saying relations between the two countries should continue to strengthen.

He made the remarks when Bangladesh's Adviser on Religious Affairs AFM Khalid Hossain, who is visiting Pakistan, called on him at his office in Islamabad yesterday, according to a statement of the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office.

Khalid was accompanied by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan.

Welcoming the delegation, Sharif expressed

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Govt waives 7.5% VAT on large ocean-going vessel imports

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to waive the 7.5 percent VAT on imports of ocean-going vessels over 5,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) in a bid to boost foreign exchange earnings and create more job opportunities.

The Advisory Council took the decision at its weekly meeting held at the Chief Adviser's Office with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

The council believes that exemption will encourage vessel procurement in both the public and private sectors, expand opportunities for foreign exchange earnings and generate new jobs, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam while briefing reporters at the Foreign Service Academy.

"This is not just a measure for business convenience, but also a significant step toward strengthening Bangladesh's capacity in international trade," Alam said.

The meeting also discussed Bangladesh's firm stance on the Palestine issue.

"We have always maintained a clear position on the Palestinian cause," Alam said, adding that Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain will present Bangladesh's position at the upcoming UN High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine in New York.

The adviser will also attend the OIC Emergency Meeting in Doha on September 15, said Alam.

Progress made by the Reform Commissions was one of the issues that came up for discussion.

Alam said 51 recommendations have already been implemented, while 37 are partially implemented and the remaining ones are under progress.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Local children revel in yesterday's sudden rain, joyfully playing on a footpath in Agargaon, Dhaka, as a welcome relief from the heat.

Armed forces' magistracy powers again extended

BSS, Dhaka

The government has extended the executive magistracy powers of commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Army for an additional 60 days from today.

The commissioned officers holding the rank of captain and above have been granted special executive magistrate powers across the country for 60 days starting from September 12, according to a Public Administration ministry notification issued yesterday.

Earlier, on July 14 this year, the magistracy powers of these officers were extended for two months, a term that ends today.

According to the new order, the extension will be effective from September 12 for the next 60 days. Officers of equivalent ranks serving in the Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Coast Guard have also been brought under this directive.

Three-year-old killed 'by uncle' in Ramu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A three-year-old girl was hacked to death allegedly by her uncle in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila on Wednesday evening.

The victim was identified as Fatema Begum. Police detained the suspect, her 25-year-old uncle Nurul Hakim, later that night.

Quoting locals, Ramu Police Inspector (investigation) Sheikh Farid said Hakim, a drug addict, frequently fought with family members over money for drugs. On Wednesday evening, he demanded money from Fatema's mother and attempted to attack her with a machete. When she fled, Hakim struck Fatema on the head with a sharp weapon.

"Neighbours rescued the child and took her to Ramu Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared her dead. The body was later sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy," he added. Police said preparations for filing a case were underway.

Dr Najma Jasmine Choudhury's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the 36th death anniversary of Dr Najma Jasmine Choudhury, eminent writer, researcher, playwright and former teacher of Dhaka University's Institute of Modern Languages (IML).

On this day in 1989, she died of cancer, said a press release.

Dr Najma Jasmine Chowdhury left behind her husband Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and two daughters to mourn her death.



Eviction fear grips Harijans in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Residents of the Harijan community living in the sweeper colony of Ward 9 under Barishal City Corporation are gripped by fear of eviction.

To protest, the affected families submitted a memorandum to the city corporation administrator yesterday afternoon.

Supriya Rani, 72, a colony resident, yesterday told The Daily Star that the authorities asked them on Saturday to leave after the upcoming Durga Puja. "We have lived here all our lives. Where will we go now?" she asked.

Munu Lal, one of the signatories of the memorandum, said, "We requested the administrator to allow us to live in the colony. His personal assistant received the memorandum, and we hope he will consider our appeal."

Members of the Harijan community, who have served the city's sanitation needs for over a century, said they never

faced such a threat before. About a week ago, they were suddenly asked to vacate the colony, leaving them in constant fear.

Bina Rani, 65, said, "I was born and married here. Our family has lived here for seven generations. Suddenly the city corporation wants us out - we cannot understand why."

Locals alleged that influential groups want to build a market on the land. "If we are evicted, a multi-storey market will be built here, and the shops will be sold for profit," said a resident.

Munna Lal, 75, said, "We have served the city all our lives, and now we have to lose our homes."

Jharnalal, another sweeper, said while the colony officially houses nine families of city corporation employees, nearly 30 families now live there. "Our meagre salaries cannot cover house rent elsewhere. These colonies were built by the municipality for us. Now that land prices have gone up, vested groups want to grab them."

Residents noted that similar colonies exist in Amir Kutir, Kaunia Bhakta Colony, and other areas, but as Kathpotti is a commercial zone, its sweepers face the strongest eviction pressure.

Uttam Kumar Bhakta, president of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM), said, "Harijans are among the most marginalised. They work for the city but are paid very little. That is why colonies were set up for them. Evicting them now is unacceptable. We demand that the authorities stop this process."

"There will be no joy in Durga Puja this year - only fear," said Benu Rani, 70. "At any moment, we may be thrown out of the homes we've had for generations."

When contacted, Barishal City Corporation CEO Md Rejaul Bari said, "We have only sought information on who are living in the colony. No decision has been taken yet regarding eviction."

He, however, did not clarify why the information was sought.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Lumin's musical film 'Firey Esho' premieres in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lumin, lead vocalist of rock band Feedback, premiered his musical film "Firey Esho" in Dhaka yesterday, with Universal Medical College Hospital hosting the event at the Empyrean Hotel.

Produced by Studio Aram Kedar, the film stars Lumin alongside Nilanjana Nil. It will soon stream on Prothom Alo's Chorki platform.

Hospital MD Dr Ashis Kumar Chakraborty said the programme was designed to inspire young audiences toward healthy entertainment.

Lumin expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, adding that Fuad Naser Babu, Manam Ahmed, Bappa Mazumder, and BAMBAs president Hamin Ahmed "came without a moment's hesitation" to join the event. "I am so thankful to all of you for being here," he said.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation Bangladesh celebrated DEA Night 2025 on September 9 at RAOVA Complex, Dhaka, with Sarah Cooke, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, as chief guest. Board of Trustees members Rizwan Bin Farouq (chairman), Talita Choudhury (treasurer), and Runa Khan joined the programme, where Brac University VC Prof Syed Ferhat Anwar received the 'Empowerment' trophy from world-renowned artist Lorenzo Quinn.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Women remain largely under-represented

FROM PAGE 3

lack electricity. "Due to the absence of renewable energy in women's work, a lot of time is wasted. It is high time to adopt renewable energy," she said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF and chair of the opening session, said, "The Women and Energy Carnival reflects our commitment to amplifying women's voices and ensuring they are central to Bangladesh's sustainable and green transition."

She warned that conventional fossil fuel-

based sources would eventually run out, adding that there is no alternative to renewable energy.

She also stressed the importance of recognising women's unpaid care work.

Nayoka Martínez-Bäckström, first secretary (environment & climate change) and deputy head of development cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh, highlighted the need for women's equal participation in policy and decision-making on climate and energy.

"With technological advancement, now is the

time to think sincerely about renewable energy," she said.

Md Mahbubur Rahman, deputy secretary of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), said women play an important role in climate issues, particularly in green finance, where their involvement is often greater than men's.

He called for women to be recognised as stakeholders.

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for

Policy Dialogue, said while electricity is currently produced in centralised locations, future systems will generate power in multiple places.

"Women's role in maintenance will be undeniable," he said, urging gender perspectives to be integrated into renewable energy policies to ensure a just transition.

Jamil, member secretary of Dhoritri Rokhbay Amra and coordinator of Waterkeepers Bangladesh, warned against treating social movements merely as projects.

"We often do not even consider women as stakeholders. Work must be inclusive - public representatives should not be the only stakeholders,"

he said.

Tanzina Dilshad, programme manager (environment & energy) at the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh, noted that women's participation in leadership positions remains low, despite the fact that their involvement in renewable energy is comparatively higher.

She reaffirmed the EU's support for initiatives to ensure women are not left behind in the energy transition.

The day-long programme featured exhibitions, cultural performances, storytelling sessions, and policy dialogues on making Bangladesh's renewable energy transition more inclusive, sustainable, and gender responsive.

EU parliament team

FROM PAGE 3

and civil society to discuss the human rights dimension of EU-Bangladesh relations and will visit the Rohingya refugee camps.

They will also hold meetings with the representatives of NGOs, labour representatives and representatives of multilateral organisations operating on the ground.

Since the violent crackdown on the mass protest movement of 2024 and the subsequent downfall of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is undergoing a period of political transition under an interim government led by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad

Yunus.

The interim authorities launched a reform process including the country's electoral system, judiciary and other key institutions. EU and Bangladesh have furthermore resumed negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), said the statement issued yesterday.

The delegation, against this backdrop, will aim at learning more about the work of the interim government in promoting good governance and advancing human rights, including international labour standards, and to discuss the EU-Bangladesh partnership in these areas.

8 additional

FROM PAGE 3

Barishal office was posted at police's Barishal range.

Additional DIG Asma Siddiqua Mill, currently an officer on special duty (OSD) at the home ministry, has been transferred to police's Traffic and Driving School. According to the circular DMP's deputy commissioner Goutam Kumar Biswas was made SP of Chuadanga, SP of Chuadanga Khandkar Golam Mowla was transferred to Police Headquarters as an assistant inspector general, railway police's SP Shakila Soltana to police's Dhaka range, PBI SP Momtajul Ehsan Ahammad Humaiun to Highways Police, PBI SP Abu Torab Md Shamsur Rahman to Highways Police, Special Branch (SB) SP Md Amir Khasrul to DMP as DC.

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INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

Sl. No.	Invitation Reference, Re-Tender ID No., and Date	Ref. No. Pro- (Log.) 300/2025, Tender ID: 51/2025, Date: 25/08/2025
1.	Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
2.	Name of Requisition Department	Disaster and Climate Risk Management (DCRM) Department
3.	Project Name	Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Project, Narayanganj
4.	Procurement for	Sumilpara, Char Sumilpara Community of Narayanganj City Corporation
5.	Implementation by	BDRCS, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
6.	Source of Funds	British Red Cross (BRC)
7.	Invitation for	Installation of 06 (Six) Production Borehole with Construction of Over Head Water Reservoirs, Installation of subsurface pumps, Tap Stands and associate water distribution networks.
8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM)
9.	Description/Quantity	Mention in Tender document
10.	Purchase of Tender document	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdracs.org. Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdracs.org/tender/
11.	Tender Schedule available from website/link	14-09-2025
12.	Tender Closing Date and Time	25-09-2025 at 3:00 PM
13.	Tender Opening Date and Time	25-09-2025 at 3:15 PM
14.	Pre-bid Meeting Schedule	18-09-2025 at 11:00 AM at Logistics Dept. Meeting Room, NHQ, BDRCS
15.	Tender Security Money	2.5 % of the Total quoted value.
16.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Construction Firm or Similar Experience is preferable.
17.	Address of Tender Submission & Opening	Logistics Department Room, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
18.	Completion Time in days	60 (Sixty) Calendar days
19.	The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender or split the order without assigning any reason whatsoever and will not be bound to accept the lowest bid.	

Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam ndc
Deputy Secretary Genera

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Job opportunity for Sr. Position in HR & Administrative Section in Principal Office, Shyamoli, Dhaka and only for women

COAST Foundation (www.coastbd.net) is a value-based NGO with a special consultative status of UN ECOSOC and registered under the NGO Affairs Bureau, the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Joint Stock) and Micro Credit Regulatory Authority.

The Foundation has a zero-tolerance policy about Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and protects children from child marriage. The Foundation is inviting professionals to apply for the position below.

Position: Head/Assistant Director/Deputy Director/Joint Director/Director-Human Resource & Administration (1 position)

Education: Masters with honors in HRM/Management from any reputed university. The applicants who have examination scores of third division/class or below GPA 2.5 (up to HSC) and below 2 (up to Masters or Postgraduate) in any examination do not need to apply.

Working base: Principal Office, Shyamoli, Dhaka with frequent field visit in the coastal districts.

Age: 30-40 years

Experiences: Minimum 10 years of working experience in the micro finance-based NGOs in human resource and administration department. The candidates should have also a practical knowledge of MS word, Excel, HR Software and English proficiencies.

Key responsibilities:

- Working on administrative and human resource issues
- Maintaining HR Software
- Maintaining the staff recruitment process
- Leading the HR section
- Preparing monthly staff status report
- Initiating the final payment process of separated staff
- Conducting the reference check of immediate previous employer for newly appointed staff
- Ensuring the spot checking of newly appointed staff before issuing the final appointment
- Ensuring the annual staff appraisal, increment process, staff confirmation process through the respective supervisor(s)

Salary and benefits
For the position starting salary will be within the range of 5-6 digits (also it is negotiable) per month plus all other benefits like two festival allowances, contributory provident fund, gratuity, travel, mobile and medical (including spouse and dependent children) allowances etc. as per Foundation's policies.

Interested professionals are requested to send their short CV with passport-size color photo image (photo taken not before 15 days) to hr@coastbd.net on or before 20 September 2025. The CV format is <https://coastbd.net/job-opportunity-for-leadership-position/>. CVs rather than this attached format will not be acceptable. The applicants who have no experience in Micro Finance NGOs do not need to apply.

Persuasion is highly discouraged. This advertisement will also be found on www.coastbd.net. This is a permanent position; not for donor-dependent projects. Only shortlisted candidates will be communicated for interview.

Myanmar polls results due by end of January

Says polls official

AFP, Naypyidaw

An official from Myanmar's junta-stacked election commission said yesterday that the results of its upcoming and widely disputed national poll are expected by the end of January next year.

"The final election result is expected by the end of January 2026," an official of the Union Election Commission (UEC) told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Myanmar has been consumed by a civil war since the military deposed the government of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, making unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud.

The commission held a news conference yesterday in Naypyidaw, where it said six political parties would run for national office in staggered polls beginning on December 28.



Protesters gather outside Nepal's Army headquarters during a curfew imposed to restore law and order in Kathmandu yesterday. Shops, schools and colleges stayed shut in the Nepali capital and surrounding areas, but some essential services had resumed.

PHOTO: AFP

TRUMP-NETANYAHU TIES

Qatar bombing tests the limits of the alliance

REUTERS, Washington

Less than four months ago, President Donald Trump met with the leader of Qatar, praising his opulent palace and signing a sweeping defense agreement with the Gulf monarchy, a key ally that hosts the biggest US base in the Middle East.

Israel's surprise attack on Tuesday against Hamas leaders in Doha has jolted that relationship, angering Trump and drawing fierce condemnation from Doha and Western allies.

Ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and targeting the political offices of the Palestinian militant group, the strikes killed a Qatari security agent and five others, but failed to kill the Hamas leaders. Trump said he was "very unhappy about every aspect" of the Israeli operation.

But for all the indignation, the strikes are unlikely to change the president's fundamental approach toward Israel, analysts and US officials say. If anything, the bombings underlined the cold calculus beneath the Trump-Netanyahu relationship.

Israel has shown it is not afraid to act against US interests. The administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not formally warn Washington of its impending bombing campaign on Tuesday, US officials said.

That lack of warning recalled Israel's September 2024 attack on Hezbollah, when Israel wounded thousands of the militant group's

members with booby-trapped pagers, without informing then-President Joe Biden.

Trump, for his part, has occasionally expressed displeasure with Netanyahu. But his administration has strongly supported Israel's campaign to weaken Hamas and allowed it to largely take the lead on key issues such as Iran's nuclear program.

"On this one, I think Trump is

Tuesday night, during which he said the bombings did not advance US or Israeli interests.

"However," Trump wrote, "eliminating Hamas, who have profited off the misery of those living in Gaza, is a worthy goal."

The Israeli Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

Some analysts declined to rule out the possibility that Netanyahu



annoyed by Netanyahu's tactics," said Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and veteran US peace negotiator.

But, Miller added, "(Trump's) instinct is that he agrees with Netanyahu's notion that Hamas cannot just be hollowed out as a military organization. It needs to be fundamentally weakened."

Asked for comment, the White House referred Reuters to remarks by Trump on Truth Social on

may yet exhaust Trump's patience if he springs more surprises on Washington. In practice, that could mean a withdrawal of political cover for Israel's ongoing invasion of Gaza, which has provoked outrage among European and Arab nations as famine conditions spread.

Israel's campaign in the Palestinian enclave was triggered by a Hamas-led rampage in southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

SANAA STRIKES

Israeli army intercepts missile fired from Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

Israel's army said it had intercepted a missile yesterday fired from Yemen, a day after Israeli forces carried out air strikes there that killed 35 people and wounded more than 130.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the missile attack on Israel.

But the Iran-backed Houthi rebels have repeatedly launched missiles and drones at Israel since their Palestinian ally Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel sparked the Gaza war.

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in several areas in Israel, a missile launched from Yemen was intercepted," Israel's army said.

The Houthi armed forces' media operation in Sanaa, the rebel-held capital, was hit by Israel Wednesday, along with a Houthi complex in Jawf province, the group said.

Thirty-five people died and 131 were wounded, Houthi health ministry spokesman Anees Alasbahi posted on X, adding it was not a final toll.

The toll included 28 dead and 113 wounded in Sanaa, and seven dead and 18 wounded in Jawf, which borders Saudi Arabia, Alasbahi said.

NEPAL POLITICAL CRISIS

Army recaptures 200 prisoners

Thousands still on the run

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's army said yesterday it has recaptured nearly 200 prisoners after mass jailbreaks during deadly protests that toppled the government, a fraction of the thousands on the run.

Around 13,500 detainees escaped from prisons nationwide during the chaos, police said, leaving security forces scrambling to regain control.

It has added to the challenges facing the army and police as they try to restore order in the wake of the most violent protests in decades.

"The Nepali Army has recaptured 192 prisoners," the army said in a statement, saying they had fled jail in the southeastern city of Rajbiraj.

At another prison in Ramechhap, east of the capital Kathmandu, fighting erupted and the Nepali Army "opened fire, injuring 12 prisoners and killing two", the statement added.

India's border force said it had detained scores of fugitives who tried to sneak across the vast and porous frontier into the neighbouring states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, before handing them back to Nepali authorities.

"We have detained and handed over at least 60 prisoners who escaped from multiple Nepali prisons," an Indian border force official said, who was not authorised to speak to journalists.

Nepal's army said it had also recovered nearly 100 weapons looted in the uprising, during which protesters were seen brandishing automatic rifles.

RUSSIAN DRONE RAID

Poland restricts air traffic in the east

AFP, Warsaw



Poland yesterday said it would restrict air traffic in the eastern part of the country, a day after it shot down reported Russian drones over its territory.

Air traffic along Poland's border with Belarus and Ukraine will be closed to civilian flights up to an altitude of three kilometres (1.9 miles)

until December 9, the PZP air traffic control agency said in a statement.

The restrictions "do not concern civilian aviation" flying above three kilometres, it said.

The restriction zone reaches between 26 and 46 kilometres inside Polish territory, it said.

All drones in the restricted area are banned "day and night", it said. The measures were "being put in place to assure national security", it said.

Poland said it had called an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss violations of its airspace.

The incident was "an attempt to test the mechanism of action within Nato and our readiness to respond", Polish President Karol Nawrocki said yesterday during a visit to an airbase in western Poland.

Polish authorities said on Wednesday that the Nato and EU member's airspace was violated 19 times on Wednesday, with at least three drones shot down as Poland and Nato allies scrambled jets.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday urged Kyiv's allies to rethink their own air defence capabilities after incursions into Polish airspace by drones that Warsaw said were Russian.

N Korea's Kim Ju Ae 'likely successor'

Says S Korea spy agency

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's spy agency said yesterday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter, Ju Ae, who recently accompanied him on a high-profile visit to Beijing, is understood to be his recognised successor.

The teenager drew global attention earlier this month when she made her first official overseas trip with her father, as he met with China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Analysts have long seen her as Kim's likely successor, although some have suggested Ju Ae has an older brother who is being secretly groomed as the next leader.

South Korea's spy agency "assesses that she (Ju Ae) secured sufficient 'revolutionary narrative' needed to strengthen her position as a likely successor," following her China trip, lawmaker Lee Seong-kweun told reporters after being briefed by the agency.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN LINKS

Britain sacks Mandelson as US ambassador

REUTERS, London

Peter Mandelson, Britain's smooth-talking ambassador to the US, was sacked yesterday after his long-term association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein became a further distraction for under pressure Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Mandelson, dubbed the "Prince of Darkness" for his behind-the-scenes manoeuvring during the last Labour government, was forced from the most sought-after diplomatic post after his letters and emails to Epstein were published this week.

The 71-year-old, a veteran Labour politician, had come under scrutiny over his relationship with Epstein after a birthday book was released including a letter purportedly from the now ambassador describing Epstein as "my best pal".

Further emails were published in the media showing that Mandelson had advised Epstein to fight for early release when he faced charges over soliciting a minor.

"In light of the additional information in emails written by Peter Mandelson, the prime minister has asked the foreign secretary to withdraw him as ambassador," Britain's foreign ministry said. "The emails show that the depth and extent of Peter Mandelson's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein is materially different from that known at the time of his appointment."

The ministry said the revelation of Mandelson's suggestion that Epstein's first conviction was wrongful and should be challenged was "new information."



Former police officer Sam Pulia places flags at the South Reflecting Pool ahead of the annual 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Belarus frees 52 political prisoners

AFP, Vilnius

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's government has freed 52 political prisoners, his Lithuanian counterpart said yesterday, crediting US efforts to secure their release.

President Gitanas Nausėda wrote on X that "52 prisoners safely crossed the Lithuanian border from Belarus today," including six Lithuanians, saying he was "deeply grateful" for Washington and President Donald Trump's involvement.

According to Belta, 14 with foreign citizenship were among those freed -- six Lithuanians, two Latvians, two Poles, two Germans, one French national and a Briton.

Trump has pushed Belarus to free political prisoners in contacts with Lukashenko, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, stamping out free media and political opposition.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A fresh start for public procurement

Success will depend on proper implementation and oversight

About two decades ago, Bangladesh established a legal framework for public procurement, aiming to ensure transparency and efficiency. Yet, the system has remained less a mechanism for effective state spending and more a game of rent-seeking and collusion. It is against this backdrop that the interim government has unveiled its draft Public Procurement Rules, 2025, a set of reforms that promise greater transparency and accountability.

The single most consequential change is the removal of a controversial provision that disqualified any tender bid more than 10 percent above or below the government's estimated cost for a project. This seemingly innocuous clause was, in reality, a gaping loophole that invited corruption. As officials from the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority have candidly admitted, the rule made it difficult to prevent political interference. It was a tool exploited by both unscrupulous officials and politically connected entities for personal gain. Its elimination signals a commitment to curbing procurement-related corruption.

Crucially, the new rules also aim to build a more resilient system. At the heart of this ambition is a push for digitalisation. The plan to introduce a fully digital procurement system, complete with an electronic content management platform and an e-payment system, is a positive move. The existing e-GP system has already delivered remarkable results, with annual cost savings of an estimated \$150 million—enough to build 1,500 kilometres of rural roads or 3,000 primary schools. Competition has doubled, with the average number of bids per invitation increasing from four to eight. Now, by allowing contractors to submit bids, bills, and performance securities online, the reforms will further reduce physical interaction. This digital shield is perhaps the most effective tool to sever the unofficial, and often corrupt, ties.

Additionally, tighter subcontracting rules, which will limit such work to a maximum of 30 percent of the total contract value, directly address another major vector for corruption. The requirement for foreign bidders to partner with local IT firms is a commendable move and will foster domestic innovation. The inclusion of micro and small enterprises and NGOs, particularly in consultancy services for health and social sectors, signals a welcome shift towards a more inclusive economy.

The architects of these reforms are right to align them with international best practices. With a proposed 153 rules, the draft represents a comprehensive overhaul. However, the true test of these rules will be in their implementation. The introduction of beneficial ownership disclosure is a vital step for accountability, but it must be backed by a strong, independent oversight mechanism. In a country where effective project implementation has often been hampered by a lack of good governance and institutional capacity, the new rules offer a moment of hope. The task ahead is to ensure that the government's promise is fully realised, and the new rules are used as a fair tool for the benefit of all.

HC order brings hope for Dhaka's greenery

Development projects must not encroach on natural spaces

It is encouraging to see the High Court's injunction restraining the government from carrying out construction work in Panthakunja Park and the Hatirjheel waterbody in Dhaka. The order, issued on Wednesday, also directed the relevant authorities to open the park for public use and restore Hatirjheel's original waterbody from Moghbazar to the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) premise. This comes in response to a writ petition filed by environmental activists who argued that construction of the FDC-to-Palashi extension of the Dhaka elevated expressway would be environmentally damaging.

According to the petitioners, the original design of the expressway, as per the Strategic Transport Plan (2005), did not include this extension ramp. The design was changed several times, and despite warnings of increased traffic congestion, the former prime minister greenlit the Palashi ramp construction. Between 2023 and 2024, more than 10 acres of Hatirjheel Lake from Moghbazar to FDC were filled to construct the ramp. As predicted, this worsened waterlogging in the neighbourhood and damaged the biodiversity of the lake.

Meanwhile, hundreds of trees in Panthakunja were felled. Even the political changeover in August 2024 could not stop the Dhaka Elevated Expressway Authority from felling the park's trees, transforming the once lush green oasis in Dhaka's heart into a barren stretch. Members of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement led a 168-day sit-in protest at the park to save the trees. Although their movement eventually led to a hopeful ruling for one of Dhaka's limited green spaces, whether the relevant authorities will take necessary action swiftly remains uncertain.

There are reasons for such apprehension. In the past, there have been instances when judicial directives and executive decisions were ignored. Government bodies have at times even violated express laws, such as filling up a portion of Hatirjheel Lake in breach of the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act of 2010. These natural spaces are often given the least priority. In the name of development and beautification, large sums of money are spent, and infrastructure built with little regard for the environment. What is more unfortunate is that our policymakers do not appear to consider the long-term impact of environmental degradation.

As a result, Dhaka, with its ever-expanding brick and cement structures, is becoming increasingly unliveable. While finding a suitable alternative for relocating the FDC-to-Palashi extension may not be easy, the government must leave no stone unturned in this regard. We also urge that future development projects be designed with a focus on preserving the little natural space still left in the city.

Ducsu election: Identity, strategy, and the politics



Kamal Ahmed is head of the Media Reform Commission in Bangladesh and an independent journalist. His X handle is @ahmedkal.

KAMAL AHMED

The positive aspect of the just-concluded Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election is that it was held peacefully. No political violence occurred even after the results were announced, which was quite shocking for many. For this, the university authorities, the interim government, students, and political parties all deserve appreciation. However, concerns remain as to whether such peace can be maintained in the national election or the union elections at other universities.

The voter turnout was high overall. However, female student participation was about 15 percent lower than that of male students. If no special initiative is taken, it would probably not be wrong to assume that the women's turnout will also be low in the national election.

The flaws observed in election management also deserve attention. Various videos and candidates' complaints show that if the ballot marks were not dark enough, the scanners could not detect them, causing problems in counting. The attempt to introduce a technology-based counting system is good, but why couldn't the authorities of the country's top university solve this problem beforehand? It ended up resembling the Election Commission's past experiment with electronic voting machines (EVMs). In Britain, even when voting is done with a pencil, no such counting problems have been reported. There were also complaints about ballot distribution during the Ducsu polls. Allegations of distributing pre-marked ballots are absolutely unacceptable. It is unfortunate that those who worked at the polling centres lacked proper training. If a returning officer accuses a candidate of violating the code of conduct without even reading it, that must be considered inexcusable irresponsibility.

Those who won the election have set a new precedent. There is much to learn from their success. Hopefully, the outcome will encourage a culture of free thought, tolerance of differing views, and respect for dissent in the university, thereby playing a necessary role in establishing and safeguarding democracy. Ducsu's experience will also help in maintaining restraint in the face of criticism or condemnation, and in avoiding provocations. Even the refusal to respond to late-night rumours about government efforts to alter results through compromise is a good sign.

In analysing the results, some have said that students have rejected the binary politics of pro- and anti-

independence. That may be true, or it may not. Although the media reported that the winners were from Islami Chhatrashibir, why did they not contest under that identity, as Jatiotabadi Chatradal (BNP's student wing) did? Instead, they contested under the banner of Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote, which even included candidates



Although known as members of Islami Chhatrashibir, the new Ducsu leaders contested the polls under the banner of Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

who were not previously associated with Shibir. What is the explanation for not contesting under their real identity in an election held in a free environment after the fall of dictatorship? Can it be denied that they avoided their original identity because of Shibir and its parent organisation Jamaat-e-Islami's negative image of rejecting the Liberation War?

The question remains whether Shibir gained any special advantage by not contesting under their real identity. While Chatradal has a frightening image of hall takeovers and extortion, Shibir's record of hiding within Chhatra League and enjoying impunity for all kinds of wrongdoing has not been widely discussed. They have faced little accountability. A newspaper editor explained this well, "A Shibir member remains Shibir even if he joins Chhatra League, but a Chhatradal member becomes Chhatra League if he joins them." That's why Shibir has now been able to re-emerge openly. Another

brutal killings of Abrar Fahad at Buet and Abu Bakar at Dhaka University, both on suspicion of being Shibir members.

After the fall of dictatorship, Shibir quickly brought its underground activities and strength into the open. In the past, not only Chhatra League but also other organisations blocked Shibir's entry into Dhaka University. But due to their active participation in the anti-government protests and broader unity, they faced no obstacles after August 5, 2024. They were the first to jump into the student union election. In contrast, the organisationally weakened Chatradal probably struggled just to regroup.

After Sheikh Hasina's flight, another serious allegation arose against Chatradal and its parent party BNP: land grabbing and extortion. Others are not free from such accusations, but BNP's record during its time in power cannot be erased. Moreover,

October last year. They considered the Dhaka city corporation elections, but due to endless protests and blockades by various interest groups, inability to control law and order, and low morale among law enforcement agencies, they abandoned that idea. Instead, they considered the Ducsu and a couple of other student union elections to be suitable for the rehearsal, and one must admit their objective has been largely successful.

This rehearsal has probably also been a major benefit for BNP. Initially, they were reluctant about the Ducsu election. But their participation was perhaps aimed at testing their own capacity. If they had won, their confidence would have risen, but it might also have made them complacent and less strategic in preparing for future elections. Their defeat in Ducsu polls has provided them with an opportunity for self-reflection and learning. Whether they will make use of this opportunity is up to them.

Trees can be the cheapest anti-heat, anti-anger infrastructure



Maruf Ahmed is an architect and lecturer of the architecture department at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET).

MARUF AHMED

I have lived through enough summers in Dhaka to know that the city's heat is no longer merely a discomfort but an aggression. It presses against the body with a weight that drains patience and shortens the distance between thought and outburst. I feel it in the way tempers flare over small inconveniences, in the way conversations are cut short, and in the way people move with an urgency born not of efficiency but of escape. In psychoanalytic terms, the heat pushes us into a state of heightened arousal, where the ego's capacity to mediate between instinct and reason thins to a fragile thread.

It is in this climate that I have come to see trees not as decorative indulgences but as essential instruments of public policy. A tree is a cooling device for the body, but it is also a cooling device for the mind. The shade beneath its canopy is a holding environment, a psychic buffer that interrupts the unrelenting exposure of both skin and nerves. I think of the banyans and rain trees where I have stood not to admire a view but to reclaim a part of myself from the

oppressive immediacy of heat.

In my research I have often described holding environments in architecture—spaces that can contain emotional intensity without amplifying it—and I realise now that trees do this in the open city. They slow the pace of movement, soften the glare, and create microclimates where people can linger without irritation. Without them the public realm becomes an arena of collisions: pavements without shelter, intersections that feel like furnace mouths, plazas that blind and exhaust. These conditions are not neutral; they prime us for confrontation.

The argument for trees is not only psychological but economic. They are the cheapest infrastructure we could invest in to cool a city. They require no imported technology, no energy source, and no specialised maintenance once established. A single planting, if protected, can serve for decades, lowering surface temperatures, filtering polluted air, absorbing noise, and offering a spatial gentleness that no concrete structure can match.

Yet in Dhaka, trees are treated

as expendable. They are cut down for road-widening with no plan for replacement. Beautification projects too often strip the streets bare in the name of openness. I sometimes think our planning institutions carry an unconscious hostility towards softness, as if vulnerability itself must be erased from the city's fabric. The result is an urban landscape stripped of mediating forms, where there is no gradual transition from the harshness of sun and noise to the more bearable conditions of shade and quiet. It is simply the raw confrontation of body with environment.

I often imagine how different the city's atmosphere could be if trees were restored as anchors of daily life. A shaded lane would slow the tempo of movement without stalling it, soften the soundscape, and allow a more measured rhythm of interaction. It would offer a place to pause that is neither inside a shop nor under a paid roof but open, free, and shared. This is a form of spatial psychoanalysis: creating conditions where the urban subject is not forced into polarities of withdrawal or attack but can inhabit the subtle in-betweens.

If trees are incorporated in public policy, they could be legislated into permanence: minimum canopy-cover requirements for every kilometre of road; compulsory planting as part of any building permit; penalties for felling without replacement; and an annual audit of shade deficits

alongside air quality reports. Most of all, there can be a planning culture in which trees are not the leftovers of design but one of its first lines—an essential threshold between the exposed violence of the city and the softer tissue of its people.

The psychoanalytic lens helps me understand why this matters beyond climate adaptation. A shaded street is a street where the superego—our internalised sense of civility—stands a better chance against the irritability of the id when overheated. The tree canopy becomes a quiet moral structure, regulating mood before it spills into violence. In this way, environmental planning, urban design and civic ethics meet in the most ordinary of forms.

We cannot air condition our way out of the heat crisis, and we cannot police our way out of public aggression. Both are symptoms of a deeper estrangement between body and environment. Planting trees is environmental work, but it is also civic repair. It is the restoration of the holding environments that makes public life liveable for both body and mind. If heat has become our national season, then shade must be our national policy. And if we can accept that a tree is not a luxury but the simplest and most democratic form of public peacekeeping we have, then perhaps we can begin to replant not only our streets but also our capacity to live together without the constant abrasion of climate and temper.

Nepal's Gen Z revolt is a mirror Bangladesh should study hard



Barrister Khan Khalid Adnan is advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, fellow at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and head of the chamber at Khan Saifur Rahman and Associates in Dhaka.

KHAN KHALID ADNAN

Call it what it is: a legitimacy crisis with revolutionary energy. Nepal's streets did not wake up one morning and decide to overthrow a government for sport. A sweeping ban on 26 social media platforms detonated public trust, protests erupted, at least 25 people (as of the latest count) were killed in clashes, and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli resigned amid burning symbols of state power. The ban was rolled back soon after its imposition, but the fuse was already lit. This is not a tidy textbook revolution yet, but it is no routine protest either.

Let's be precise on the trigger. Kathmandu tried a hard pivot to platform regulation by blocking Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, X, and more after the companies refused to register locally. Young Nepalis saw it as a gag order on modern life. The curfew did not cool anything. Parliament was stormed, state buildings torched, the ban withdrawn, and Oli still exited stage left.

But the spark is not the fire. Nepal has been marinating in scandal for years, from the fake Bhutanese refugee racket to gold smuggling and notorious land grabs, with big names circling accountability and often escaping it. Add to that youth underemployment and a political class that treats public patience like an infinite resource. When a government that has not delivered decides to switch off the public square that lives on phones, it advertises weakness, not strength.

The constitutional question now is simple in text and messy in practice. Nepal's constitution says a prime minister can resign and the same council of ministers keeps the lights on until a new council is formed. Appointment pathways run through Article 76, with confidence votes under Article 100. On paper, this is fine. In a boiling street context, with mass resignations and calls for dissolution, the risk is presidential overreach or improvised caretaker deals that stretch the spirit of the law. Nepal's courts have previously overturned unconstitutional dissolutions, so the judiciary is not shy. The system has the rules, but rules need political



Demonstrators gather during a curfew in Kathmandu, Nepal on September 9, 2025, to protest the killing of 19 people in anti-corruption protests earlier, triggered by a social media ban which was later lifted.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

actors willing to play by them.

How to land the plane? First, a credible independent inquiry into the killings with legal consequences, not cosmetic committees. Second, a transparent digital governance reset based on lawful orders, narrow tailoring, and appeal rights, not blanket blocks that punish citizens and small businesses. Third, a time-bound roadmap to a confidence vote, or if numbers do not exist, to early polls inside the constitutional frame and supervised by

an empowered election commission. Fourth, fast-tracking anti-corruption cases that everyone in Kathmandu knows by name. Without justice, you only buy downtime.

Bangladesh knows this script. Our July uprising began with a quota dispute, but it was the state's force posture that converted grievance into a mass movement. The prime minister resigned on August 5, 2024 and an interim set-up followed, while the dead and

and election timelines. Nepal today sits at the hinge moment between negotiated reset and uncontrolled cascade. The equation is clear: youth networks plus perceived injustice plus digital chokeholds equal a legitimacy cliff.

Is there a great game connection? Geopolitics always hums in the background. India and China track every tremor in Kathmandu for obvious reasons. But neither New Delhi nor Beijing banned Facebook in

endless committees and call it accountability. Ensure a short, credible election roadmap with guardrails, supervised procurement for security gear with human rights safeguards, and a judicial fast track for graft and abuse cases. If you must regulate platforms, do it the boring way with due process and content-neutral rules that survive court review. That is how you de-risk the street and onboard the generation that will actually pay the taxes.

For Bangladesh, the comparative lesson is double edged. First, never again treat digital rights as a luxury item. When the street is online, a platform blackout is a force multiplier for anger, not a safety valve. Second, interim does not mean indefinite. Our path improves only when the rules are clearer than the personalities. The more

Bangladesh last year delivered regime change and mounted a still-unresolved constitutional debate about interim authority and election timelines. Nepal today sits at the hinge moment between negotiated reset and uncontrolled cascade. The equation is clear: youth networks plus perceived injustice plus digital chokeholds equal a legitimacy cliff.

our institutions behave like institutions, the less any single crisis becomes existential. Nepal's shock should prompt us to finish our own homework on police reform, election administration, party finance transparency, emergency law, and other essential reforms.

The takeaway for the region is practical. South Asia does not have a protest problem; it has a consent problem. Governments that earn consent through delivery and fairness rarely face mobs at their doors. Governments that mock consent will keep discovering that Gen Z is not a focus group, it is a force. If we insist on stability without justice, we will keep buying quiet that expires before the ink on the curfew order dries. If we invest in institutions that outlast leaders, we might finally get the most underrated outcome in politics—boredom. Boring budgets, boring elections, boring headlines. That is the growth hack the subcontinent needs next.

Transparency alone won't modernise our power sector



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AFIA MUBASSHIRA TIASHA

A continuous and uninterrupted energy supply is undoubtedly crucial for sustaining Bangladesh's growth momentum and addressing its development challenges. Upgrading transmission lines, settling outstanding debts, and completing ongoing projects are the primary goals of this year's power and energy sector budget. The government has allocated Tk 7,90,000 crore in this year's budget. This is slightly lower than the previous year's, reflecting the government's increased focus on fiscal prudence and the economy. Although the budget speech appears encouraging, several issues remain unresolved. In the national budget for FY2025-26, Tk 2,178 crore has been allocated to the energy sector and Tk 20,342 crore to the power sector. The total allocation amounts to Tk 22,520 crore, a decrease of approximately 0.80 percent from the proposed budget for the current fiscal year.

One of the key measures in this year's budget is the repeal of the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act, 2010. This step aims to enhance transparency and accountability in the power sector. A national committee has been formed to evaluate agreements executed under this legislation. In addition, a separate committee has been established to review and revise the tariff structures of power purchase agreements (PPAs). Many PPAs have proved financially burdensome due to costly capacity payments to idle power facilities. These measures may foster greater transparency, but their success will depend on political will, independent review panels, and public access to the outcomes.

To make the power distribution system more reliable and effective, underground distribution lines and substations are currently being installed in metropolitan areas as part of the sector's expansion and

modernisation. The interim government has focused most of its budget on upgrading grid networks and distribution lines across six divisions rather than building new power plants. Moreover, it hopes to supply electricity from the 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant to the national grid by December this year, as construction is expected to conclude soon. Allocations have also been made to ongoing projects, including the 1,200 MW coal-based Matarbari Power Plant, the 800 MW gas-fired Rupsha Plant, and the 150 MW HSD-based Syedpur Power Plant.

These steps are positive but still fall short of addressing Bangladesh's major energy challenges. At present, renewable energy accounts for only about 4.5 percent of total capacity. The government plans to add 3,400 MW of clean energy by 2028, but this progress remains slow.

In the FY26 budget, Tk 37,000 crore has been set aside for power sector subsidies, compared with Tk 40,000 crore initially allocated the previous year. The amount was later revised to Tk 62,000 crore after the interim government cleared the majority of unpaid bills.

On a positive note, in October 2024, Bangladesh signed a deal with Nepal to import 40 MW of hydropower at a low cost. Although modest in scale, this agreement signals growing regional electricity trade. Such trade is vital to strengthening energy

security and diversifying sources, particularly during the hot summer months.

However, the government continues to spend heavily on fossil fuels. BAPEX has planned to carry out a 270 km geological survey, a 700 km 2-D seismic survey, and a 700 sq km 3-D seismic survey from FY2025-26 to FY2027-28. It also intends to drill 69 wells and complete the workover of 31 wells using its own rigs. Simultaneously, initiatives are underway to build cost-effective and sustainable infrastructure to help regulate energy prices in the medium term. The government has approved buying two LNG cargoes from the spot market for a total of Tk 1,000.85 crore.

Additionally, the government has proposed expanding the gas pipeline network by 40 km to improve pressure and delivery at the consumer level. To enhance gas monitoring and reduce system loss, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) and GIS (Geographic Information System) technologies will be introduced into the existing gas network—an encouraging step towards digital management of energy infrastructure.

In the oil sector, a new project will establish Eastern Refinery Limited Unit-2, with the capacity to refine three million metric tonnes of crude oil annually. At the same time, the government has paid \$570 million in import dues to stabilise fuel supplies. To improve

control, Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) devices using SFDMS technology have been installed on more than 2,465 fuel tankers, allowing real-time tracking and helping prevent fuel theft or adulteration.

The FY2025-26 budget includes several significant projects to strengthen and make Bangladesh's energy sector more efficient. These include expanding transmission lines and increasing the capacity of grid substations to ensure more reliable power. Reducing system losses and unpaid bills in the distribution system is also a top priority. The government will review current power generation projects and seek to increase electricity trade with neighbouring countries to improve output and reduce costs. In terms of resources, the plan includes extracting 6.5 lakh metric tonnes of coal and 1.3 lakh metric tonnes of stone domestically. To improve and modernise the gas system, the government will also install SCADA systems and use GIS mapping tools.

In summary, the FY2025-26 power and energy budget focuses on gradual but steady changes. While there are signs of improved planning and greater transparency, long-term success remains uncertain due to the slow growth of renewable energy and continued reliance on fossil fuels. Bangladesh needs deeper policy and structural reforms to truly modernise its energy sector rather than relying on incremental fixes.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

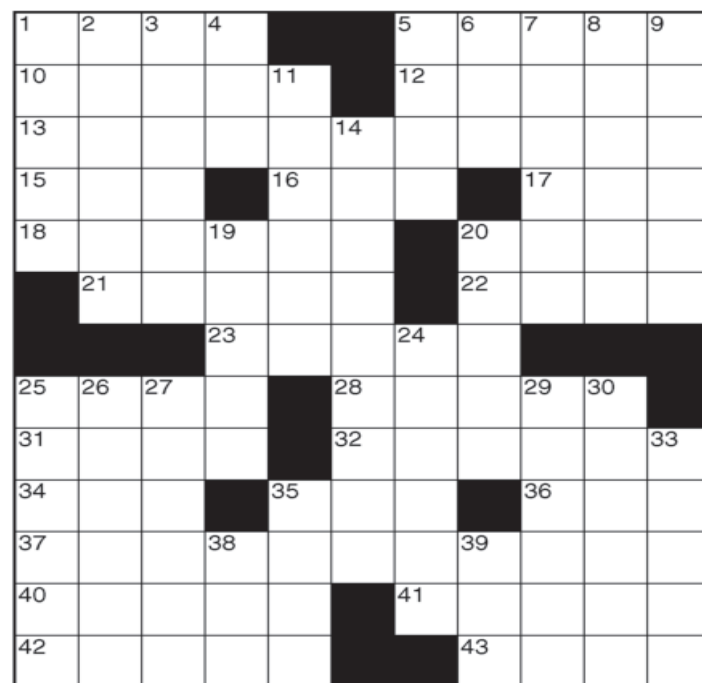
- 1 In addition
- 5 Heiress, at times
- 10 Brings up
- 12 Musical set in Argentina
- 13 Botched
- 15 Finish
- 16 Misbehaving
- 17 Barracks bed
- 18 Searched deeply
- 20 Portion (out)
- 21 Plover pioneer John
- 22 Not new
- 23 Writer Asimov
- 25 Volition
- 28 Uses one's incisors
- 31 Historic times

DOWN

- 1 Ready for war
- 2 Inclined
- 3 Rider's seat
- 4 Valuable rock
- 5 Hoe target
- 6 Hosp. hookups

ACROSS

- 7 Dance clubs
- 8 Peter of "Troy"
- 9 Floated on the breeze
- 11 Fencing swords
- 14 Screwed up
- 19 Hides
- 20 Old gold coin
- 24 Dried chili peppers
- 25 Prepared leftovers
- 26 Large lizard
- 27 Bank, at times
- 29 Scottish sprout
- 30 Coxswain's call
- 33 Bank fixtures
- 35 Calendar units
- 38 CPR expert
- 39 Cry of surprise



WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS



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PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'Adhunik Bangla Hotel' was a gamble

MOSHARRAF KARIM

Celebrated for his versatility and intense screen presence, Mosharraf Karim has a unique ability to switch effortlessly between humor, suspense, and drama. His latest performance in the web series 'Adhunik Bangla Hotel' is a testament to his talent, where he masterfully brought to life not one, but three completely distinct characters, leaving both critics and viewers impressed.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

His stellar performance earned him the Best Actor (Male) in the Popular category at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

While accepting the award, Karim shared the journey behind the making of Adhunik Bangla Hotel.

"We never really thought that this series would ever be showcased," he said. "Kazi Asad, Daniel Dany, and I sat together and realised we loved the story, but we didn't have the money or the means to finance it. At that moment, we decided to work on the first episode with our own money for *Boal Macher Jhol*. When Chorki saw it, they really liked it and agreed to finance

the rest of the series. That's how the dream of *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* started taking shape."

Karim did not forget to acknowledge the collaborative effort behind the series. "I want to mention the names of Dany and Asad, and Theophilus Scott, who worked as the art director. And of course, all the actors and actresses who gave their best. We had to work extremely hard on this project, and it's incredibly rewarding to see the results. This award belongs to the entire team," he said, his gratitude evident.

He continued, "Heartiest gratitude to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star, to my theater troupe Natyakendra, and to my guru, Tariq Anam Khan. Their guidance and support have been invaluable throughout my career."

Afran Nisho spotted in Kazakhstan for 'Domm'



Afran Nisho was recently spotted in a remote desert in Kazakhstan for preparations of his upcoming film *Domm*, alongside director Redoan Rony, producer Shahriar Shakil, and an international crew.

Chorki CEO and filmmaker Rony shared photos from the location, captioned: "The test for *Domm* begins." Images show Nisho with the script amid the desert and Rony discussing plans with the crew. The team appears to be scouting locations and assessing challenges.

Afran Nisho and Chanchal Chowdhury will lead the cast, while the lead female role is yet to be finalised. Jointly produced by SVF Alpha-i Entertainment and Chorki, *Domm* is slated for release during Eid-ul-Fitr 2026.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Dhaka Socials – The Autumn Fest



The Autumn Fest, a two-day celebration of art, music, lifestyle, workshops, food, and community vibes – will take place all under one roof. Experience the city like never before with the Van Gogh Immersive Experience (for the first time in Dhaka), alongside TEDx-style talks, concerts, movie nights, and more.

Date: Friday-Saturday | 12-13 September, 2025
Time: 9am-11pm
Venue: Aloki

New 'Harry Potter' audiobook series to cast Keira Knightley and James McAvoy

Actors Keira Knightley and James McAvoy will lend their voices to Professor Umbridge and Mad Eye Moody in Audible's upcoming *Harry Potter* audiobook series, according to US media reports.

The star-studded roster also features Kit Harington as Professor Lockhart, Iwan Rheon as Professor Lupin, Ruth Wilson as Bellatrix Lestrange, Ambika Mod as Nymphadora

Tonks, Leo Woodall as Bill Weasley, Simon Pegg as Arthur Weasley, Gemma Whelan as Professor Sprout, and Matt Berry as Sir Cadogan.

The first instalment, adapting *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, will debut on Audible on November 4, with each of the six remaining audiobooks releasing monthly worldwide.



NEWS

ICT unhappy over failure

FROM PAGE 12 mentioned this earlier too."

Tajul then resumed his submission and highlighted the charges against the five accused, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman and ex-additional deputy commissioner of DMP's Khilgaon zone Rashedul Islam.

Other accused are then Rampura Police Station officer in charge Mashur Rahman, then sub-inspector of the station Tarikul Islam Bhuiyan, and then Rampura police outpost Assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar. Only Chanchal is in custody, while the others are on the run.

The charges brought against the accused include murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, complicity, facilitation, abetment, incitement, failure to prevent crimes or take action, and command responsibility under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

On July 19 last year, six-year-old Musa was shot and critically injured during police action in Rampur.

The same bullet fatally struck his grandmother, Maya Islam, who died the next day. Another victim, Md Nadim, was also shot dead.

In another incident that day, a video circulating on social media shows 18-year-old Amir Hossain hanging from the cornice of an under construction building while two policemen fire at him.

Meanwhile, the state-appointed counsel for the absconding accused and the defence for the arrested accused submitted petitions seeking the discharge of their clients.

Sarwar Jahan, representing ASI Chanchal, argued that his client was not present at the scene of the crime. He claimed that Chanchal was on duty near gate No. 3 in Rampura at the time. The prosecution said in a video clip Chanchal was seen firing during the incident. The defence lawyer dismissed the claim, arguing that the person in the video and his client was not the same.

Lawyer Sarwar sought an extension of time to submit supporting documents. The tribunal granted it and

asked him to file them by Sunday.

The tribunal also set September 16 for delivering its decision on whether to frame charges or discharge the accused.

Besides, two witnesses yesterday testified in a case filed over the killing of six people in police firing at Chankharpu on August 5, 2024.

Tipu Sultan, a New Market shop employee, told the tribunal that around 11:00am, he joined a procession in front of Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College when police shot sound grenades and bullets at protesters. Yakub from his area was shot and died at Mitford Hospital, while another protester, Ismamul, died from bullet injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Another witness, Md Moniruzzaman, a resident of Chankharpu, said he and his son joined the protest. He recounted that in the Khalifa Patti area, police opened fire, killing protester Junaid in front of him. Five to six others were killed that day, he added.

Both witnesses demanded justice for the killings.

their alleged role in the December 30, 2018 polls. The Awami League got two-thirds majority in that election.

Opposition parties alleged ballot-stuffing the night before election day in the polls conducted by the KM Nurul Huda-led commission.

The Jatya Oikyafront alleged that between 30 and 60 percent of the votes were cast the night before. Transparency International, Bangladesh, in a study found that stamping of ballots took place the night before election day in more than one centre of the 33 out of 50 surveyed constituencies.

According to Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), the turnout was 100 percent in 213 polling stations, it was between 90 and 99 percent in 7,689 centres.

ACC summons 12 ex-officials

FROM PAGE 12 former secretaries; Md Manjurul Bashid, former senior district and sessions judge; Syed Aminul Islam, former Supreme Court registrar general and district judge; Prof Nehal Ahmed, former director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

According to a complaint against them, under the "Grihayan Dhanmondi (Phase I)" project of the National Housing Authority, flats were allocated at higher prices in violation of the established guidelines.

A total of 18 flats were constructed in a 14-storey building on plot No. 711 (New 6/63) on road No. 13 (New 6/A) in the Dhanmondi residential area. Of these, 60 percent (12 flats)

were supposed to be allocated for government officials and 40 percent (six flats) for private owners, but special privileges were reportedly given to officials of secretary-level rank.

The complaint alleges that these flats were allocated during Sheikh Hasina's tenure to reward officials involved in "carrying out election day votes at the night before" the 2018 national parliamentary elections.

On May 5, a private TV channel aired a report on the matter, prompting the ACC to launch an investigation.

The housing and public works ministry cancelled the allotment of the flats for the 12 former officials on July 8.

Previously, in January, the ACC had decided to investigate officials of the deposed Hasina administration over

Trump blames 'radical left'

FROM PAGE 12 said in a video message from the Oval Office just hours after Kirk's death.

"This kind of rhetoric is directly responsible for the terrorism that we're seeing in our country today.

"My administration will find each and every one of those who contributed to this atrocity, and to other political violence, including the organizations that fund it and support it."

Kirk was shot in the neck while speaking at an event at Utah Valley University on Wednesday. Video from

the scene showed him addressing a large crowd when the sound of a single shot rang out.

The father-of-two appeared to collapse in his chair before the camera swiftly moved and sounds of panic erupted in the audience.

The Utah Department of Public Safety said the shooter, dressed in dark clothing, fired from a nearby rooftop in what authorities called a "targeted attack."

Students at the university described the shooting as "crazy" and "scary". "It makes me feel like I should be very

careful about expressing my political ideas," said Samuel Kimball, a software engineering student, told AFP. "If I was someone considering going into politics, I'd be afraid to get shot."

The shooter remained at large despite door-to-door searches by federal, state and local officers.

Orem city mayor David Young said multiple law enforcement agencies were investigating but confirmed that the suspect had not yet been apprehended. The FBI established a digital line for the public to share tips.

President seeks end to crisis engulfing Nepal

FROM PAGE 12

Rakshya Bam, an activist who was among those at the army meeting on Wednesday.

Journalist Pranaya Rana said there were "divisions", but it was "natural

in a decentralised movement like this that there are going to be competing interests".

Karki, 73, Nepal's first woman chief justice, has told AFP that "experts need to come together to

figure out the way forward", and that "the parliament still stands".

Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah, a 35-year-old former engineer and rapper, was also among the names suggested as a potential interim leader.

Jamuna Paper Mills Ltd.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Jamuna Paper Mills Ltd. is a top Paper manufacturer in Bangladesh. It supports the Paper industry with advanced technology and skilled workforce. We are inviting applications from experienced & qualified candidates for the following positions.

Position	JOB DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
DGM Corporate Sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement the strategic sales plan for the corporate sector, including FMCG, pharmaceutical, printing & publishing, packaging. Identify new business opportunities and key growth areas for the paper and packaging products. Lead the entire corporate sales cycle from prospecting to closing, ensuring all targets are met or exceeded. Conduct regular market visits and client meetings to understand customer needs and market trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduate. MBA will get preference 10-12 years experience in corporate sales. Experience in the paper industry will get preference
DGM Retail Sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and execute a comprehensive retail sales strategy to meet and exceed revenue and profitability goals. Identify new retail opportunities and distribution channels to expand market reach. Oversee the entire retail sales operation, from distributor management to point-of-sale execution. Work closely with the marketing team to ensure retail campaigns are aligned with overall brand strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduate. MBA will get preference 10-12 years experience in retail sales including noyabazer & other paper markets.
Manager Brand & Creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and own the overall brand strategy, brand identity, and brand guidelines for Jamuna Paper Business and its product portfolio. Oversee the conceptualization, design, and production of all creative assets, including product packaging, advertising, social media content, and corporate presentations. Ensure all creative output is on-brand, consistent, and of the highest quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduate. MBA will get preference 10 years experience in brand management marketing or a creative leadership role. Experience in the paper industry will get preference
Sr. Manager Distribution & Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, organize, and supervise the overall distribution and logistics operations of paper products across national and regional markets. Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual MIS reports for senior management. Automate recurring reporting processes for operational efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduate. MBA will get preference 10 years experience in logistics, distribution. Experience in the paper industry will get preference

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20 injured in clash between JCD, Shibir at Muladi College

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barishal

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Government Muladi College in Barishal yesterday.

Witnesses said the incident occurred around noon when JCD activists allegedly attacked Shibir members, who were preparing a freshers' reception programme in the college.

Shibir leaders claimed that the attackers, armed with locally made weapons, carried out vandalism and created panic on the campus. At least 15 Shibir activists were injured in the attack.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal, while the others received treatment at Muladi Upazila Health Complex.

Shibir's Barishal district president, Md Akbar Hossain, alleged that Muladi upazila JCD convener Mohiuddin, secretary Belal, college unit president Rifat Mallik, and secretary Kawser led the attack.

"We demand immediate arrest of the attackers," he added.

However, JCD refuted the allegations. Muladi upazila JCD convener Mohiuddin Dhali said, "Shibir men barred our activists from entering the campus and beat up at least five of our local activists."

Jahangir Hossain, a physician at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, confirmed that six injured students were admitted to the surgery ward and are undergoing treatment.

Muladi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shafiqul Rahman said, "A scuffle took place centring Shibir's programme, leaving several people injured. We have not received any written complaint yet."



School children along with members of Amar Prakriti Amar Chabi staged a protest demanding the installation of a foot-over bridge in the area adjacent to Khilgaon Bagicha railway. Students said that a foot-over bridge was essential to ensure they could cross the street safely to attend their schools and then return home. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

357 iron bridges in Barguna at risk of collapse

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At least 357 iron bridges in Barguna have become unfit for use due to years of neglect, causing immense suffering for locals.

Among them, 18 have already collapsed. Despite their dilapidated state, thousands of people and vehicles continue to cross these risky structures every day.

According to the Barguna office of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the bridges were built during the 1997-98 fiscal year under a low-cost project meant for light vehicular movement.



Patharghata, and 31 in Taltali.

Rebuilding them is estimated to cost Tk 1,400 crore, while 142 identified as "urgent" would require around Tk 650 crore, according to officials.

Locals said the structures have not been repaired since their construction, leaving them severely worn out. In many cases, cement sleepers, railings, and other structural parts are broken, while some iron components have been stolen.

In Bamna upazila's Hogopati village, fourth grader Asma Akter has to cross a shaky iron bridge every day to reach her school. "The bridge trembles when I step on it. Sometimes I'm too scared to go to school," she said.

During a recent visit, a 30-year-old iron bridge over the Holta river, which separates Bamna and Mathbaria upazilas, was found to be almost unusable. Its beams have nearly disappeared, with

villagers propping it up using palm tree trunks just to keep it functional.

In Sadar upazila's Gaurichanna Bazar area, another inter-upazila bridge used daily by hundreds of students and commuters has also become hazardous.

"The iron pillars gave way about six years ago. Now motorcycles and autorickshaws cross over wooden sleepers. A major accident could happen anytime," said resident Masum Billah.

Monir Hossain Kamal, president of Barguna's chapter of Transparency International Bangladesh's Citizens' Committee, said, "These 357 iron bridges have become death traps. Fatal accidents may occur at any time."

Contacted, Barguna LGED executive engineer Md Mehedi Hasan said, "All 357 iron bridges in the district have been declared risky. Of them, 142 have been marked as urgent for reconstruction. A proposal has been submitted under a new project to rebuild the bridges. Once implemented, it will end the longstanding suffering of Barguna residents."

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 12

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:30	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Security scanner left idle at Cox's Bazar train station



MOKAMMEL SHUVO

With the launch of train services between Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, tourism has entered a new era. At the same time, yaba traffickers have become increasingly active, choosing trains as a mode of transport.

To curb smuggling, Bangladesh Railway installed a US-made "Astrophysics" brand scanner machine at the main entrance of Cox's Bazar Railway Station on August 4 – the first such initiative in the country's rail history. But sources said the machine has remained non-operational since its inauguration.

Locals had hoped drug trafficking through the railway would finally be brought under control. Instead, during a recent visit, passengers were seen freely entering the platform through the main gate while the scanner stood idle. Two workers from the station construction project were posted near the machine, while law enforcement members further ahead manually checked the luggage of some passengers.

The workers said the scanner was

occasionally switched on but, in practice, security personnel relied mainly on hand-checking bags.

Cox's Bazar Railway Station Manager Golam Rabbani said the machine was functional, but sometimes remained off.

He said no drugs had yet been seized using it.

Sources said the scanner was used only in the first couple of days after its inauguration and has since been left unused.

Contacted, ABM Kamruzzaman, Chattogram divisional railway manager, said in the initial stage, operation of scanning machine was hampered due to some complications over trained manpower and technical setup.

"But currently, as far as I know, the machine is fully operational," he added.

Passenger train services on the Cox's Bazar route began on December 1, 2023. Currently, Cox's Bazar Express and Parjotak Express run on the Cox's Bazar-Dhaka route, while Saikat Express and Probal Express operate between Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

Ichamati dredging stalled

FROM PAGE 3

The 82km Ichamati river originates from the Padma and flows into the Hurasagar in Bera upazila of Pabna. Over the decades, the river has almost disappeared due to rampant encroachment and pollution.

"People of Pabna have long been struggling to save the Ichamati, which is our lifeline. Finally, the much-talked-about project has started. We want proper dredging as per the CS map to rejuvenate the river," said SM Mahabub

Alom, an organiser of the Ichamati saving movement.

WDB earlier identified 1,053 illegal structures on the river and removed them. Yet encroachers, who allegedly prepared land documents in their favour over decades, have taken the matter to court.

"Ichamati will be dredged according to the CS map. Once legal issues are settled, we will complete the project," said Shudhangsha Kumar Sarkar, superintendent engineer of WDB and project director of the

scheme. "As encroachers have gone to court, we have to fight it out legally."

Land occupiers, however, claimed that a petty settlement known as petty-CS was made during the British period. "Most occupiers have four records. Those who have legal papers went to court," said Md Maxim, one of the listed encroachers.

"We are not against the river. If our land is needed, it should be acquired as per government rules with proper compensation," he said.

Pakistan PM calls

FROM PAGE 3

satisfaction over the "positive trajectory" of the two countries' bilateral relations, including people-to-people contact, academic exchanges, and trade links.

Recalling earlier meetings in New York and Cairo, Sharif praised the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus for his work in poverty alleviation and for his commitment to strengthening ties between Dhaka and Islamabad.

During the meeting, Khalid conveyed greetings from Prof Yunus and handed over a letter offering condolences for the loss of lives and property

caused by recent floods in Pakistan, along with an offer of relief assistance from Bangladesh.

Both sides also discussed the prospect of resuming direct flights between the two countries at an early date.

Sharif expressed hope that both countries would continue to exchange high-level visits to sustain the existing momentum in bilateral relations.

He reiterated his invitation to Prof Yunus to visit Pakistan, while the Bangladeshi side also extended an invitation for Sharif to visit Dhaka, on behalf of the chief adviser and the Bangladesh government.

Hilsa gets costlier in markets across Barishal

Traders say prices may climb further as export of 1,200 tonnes approved



SUSHANTA GHOSH

The announcement of hilsa exports has immediately pushed up prices by at least 10 percent in wholesale markets across Barishal, with traders warning that rates may climb by 50 percent once exports actually begin.

A visit to the city's largest wholesale hub, Barishal Fish Market on Port Road, found traders preparing to send consignments of hilsa to Dhaka in corkshut boxes.

Mohammad Arif, manager of Shakil Enterprise, said a day ago one maund (40kg) of one-kilo-sized hilsa was selling for Tk 85,000, but yesterday the price jumped to Tk 88,000. Similarly, hilsa weighing 700-800 grams – known as LC-size – rose from Tk 73,000 to Tk 76,000 per maund within two days.

"Prices will soar further once export starts," Arif said. "A kilo of hilsa could soon cost one and a half times more than it does now."

According to the Barishal divisional fisheries office, hilsa production in July was 10,876 tonnes, while on September 19 alone, 22,066 tonnes were landed across 372 stations in the division. Despite the rising supply, retail prices remain high.

Md Anisuzzaman, assistant director of the divisional fisheries office in Barishal, said, "In Barishal, a one-kilo hilsa is already selling for Tk 2,200. I don't see how exporters will manage at a lower price."

The government has approved the export of 1,200 tonnes of hilsa, with each kilo priced at \$12 (around Tk 1,500), still below current domestic market rates.

Md Alauddin, a hilsa trader from Bhola, said fish are now being caught mostly in deeper seas, raising operational costs. Frequent fishing bans due to rough weather also force fishermen to borrow from moneylenders, pushing up prices further.

Shariful Islam, manager of the BFDC station in Alipur, said medium-sized hilsa (600-800g) sold for Tk 65,000 per maund yesterday, up from Tk 55,000 last year. "Prices were already higher this year, even before the export decision," he added.

Kalpona named

FROM PAGE 12

"She was critical to the Bangladesh Safety Accord after the Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013, urging brands in the Global North to sign up, and she made sure that worker groups were involved in the European Union's Sustainability Compact (a series of EU initiatives and measures aimed at promoting sustainability and a circular economy within the trade bloc and through international partnerships)," it added.

Vogue Business noted that Kalpona is driven by a deep commitment to labour justice, gender equality and climate resilience for working-class communities and that she is a continued ally of workers in their struggle against systemic oppression.

"This year, she demanded a substantial increase in the minimum wage for Bangladeshi garment workers and championed their rights on the global stage, actively pushing for the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) to include legally binding measures that protect

workers and prevent human rights violations," said the magazine.

It noted Kalpona's work involves championing a "just transition" to a more sustainable future.

This year's list includes entrepreneurs, founders, tech innovators and industry disruptors.

"It was never easy to be a sustainability thought leader, but this year has tested even the strongest-willed. From the US to the EU, politicians have whipped up an anti-ESG (environmental, social, and governance) frenzy, prompting regulators to roll back hard-won policy momentum and taking the wind out of the fashion industry's sustainability efforts in the process," the magazine mentioned.

"Undeterred by political, economic and organisational headwinds, these innovators are pushing fashion to confront its social and environmental impacts head-on."

Laudes Foundation, an independent philanthropic organisation, congratulated Kalpona for her fearless advocacy for garment workers.

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e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের "Dhaka and Western Zone Transmission Grid Expansion Project" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1143220	27.21.0000.453.14.001.25.317; Dated: 09.09.2025	Procurement of Manpower Service (02 Nos. of office attendant) for 24 Months through outsourcing under Dhaka and Western Zone Transmission Grid Expansion Project

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আবুল কাশেম
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)
ঢাকা এবং পশ্চিমাঞ্চলীয় গ্রিড সঞ্চালন ব্যবস্থা সম্প্রসারণ প্রকল্প

Litton shines

FROM PAGE 12 just before the Asia Cup. Litton also surpassed retired Mahmudullah Riyad to become the second-highest run getter in T20Is for Bangladesh. He started his 11th T20I game with 2,437 career runs beside his name, needing eight more to overtake Riyad (2,444 runs in 141 matches). The first spot is held by all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who has scored 2551 runs in 129 T20Is. Having elected to field first, bowlers ensured that Bangladesh had a modest total to chase, with pacers Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim

Hasan Sakib scalping two wickets each. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain got two wickets for 31 runs in his four overs, becoming the sixth Bangladeshi bowler to get to 50 T20I wickets. Rishad got both his scalps in the final two deliveries of his spell, removing Hong Kong's top scorer of the game, Nizakat Khan (42 off 40) and Kinchit Shah (0 off 1). This also meant Rishad would be on a hat-trick the next time he comes on to bowl for Bangladesh. Bangladesh will next play Sri Lanka tomorrow at the same venue.

Rift persists over implementation

FROM PAGE 1 Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz said there was consensus on swiftly implementing reforms that could be carried out by ordinances or administrative orders of the interim government. The charter, he said, reflected the views of all stakeholders, and parties had been asked to submit two names by tomorrow to sign it. "The question now is whether consensus can be reached or a pathway established on the constitutional matters. We remain hopeful that progress is possible," he added.

constitution on the interim government's authority. Experts had recommended ordinance, executive order, referendum and constitutional order. The BNP had proposed that all parties commit to the charter in their election manifestos, with the winner responsible for its implementation, including constitutional reforms, within two years of taking office. The Jamaat e-Islami had called for a "Provisional Constitutional Order," effective from August 5, 2024, placing the charter above all existing laws. The National Citizen Party and AB Party had demanded a constituent assembly, while Islami Andolan Bangladesh suggested a presidential proclamation. G a n o s a m h a t i Andolan had called for a "Constitutional Reform Council", implementation of constitutional matters within six months of the next government taking office, and full charter implementation within a year. R a s i r o s h o n g s k a r Andolan had sought election to a "Constitution Reform Convention/Assembly" along with parliamentary polls. Several parties, including AB Party, Khelafat Majlish, Zaker Party and Gono Odhikar Parishad, support a referendum, while the Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) backed one only if consensus emerged.

Salahuddin's argument, saying that the July uprising must take precedence over parliamentary continuity. "A legal foundation of the charter is essential; cosmetic reforms will not be enough," he said, citing the 1970 Legal Framework Order and the 1977 referendum. He called for reforms through a constitutional order or referendum, arguing that the latter would give greater sustainability. NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen said constitutional amendments have often been struck down by courts while the 2024 uprising had created a structural break. If reforms, especially those tied to the constitution, are merely incorporated into the existing framework, their implementation will depend on the goodwill of future governments, he said. "Drafting a new constitution is the only viable path," Akhter added. The July Charter has sought firm commitments from political parties not to challenge its legality in court and to ensure safeguards at every stage of implementation. The commission has called for constitutional and state recognition of the people's 16 year struggle for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which culminated in the July uprising, and proposed that the charter itself be incorporated into the constitution.

Three challenges for free, fair and credible polls

FROM PAGE 12 constitutional amendments will be, he said at the event organised by civil society platform Nagorik Coalition. "However, we cannot allow a precedent to be set that will be challenged in the relevant court, and remain questionable and problematic for ratification in parliament." The ongoing reform, election, and trial have no "clear interdependency," Salahuddin said, while stressing that the trial should not be "conditional" on any specific timeframe but must be conducted by an independent judiciary. Political parties have to compromise over key reform issues to reach a consensus, said Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, adding that the EC must do its duty with "hundred percent neutrality" to ensure a credible election. The chief adviser has reiterated his commitment that the election will take place in the first half of February next year, said his Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam. Besides, the chief adviser further warned that any derailment could have devastating consequences for the country, he said. Key stakeholders in the government have been

holding regular meetings to ensure a free, fair and credible election. The recently held Dhaka University Central Students' Union polls was a "big test" for the students who passed it successfully with no major law and order situation and high turnout, Alam added. The EC must launch its campaign for poll environment this month by forming an "observation coordination committee", said Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolan. It will not be possible to hold the election properly by taking the present law and order situation lightly, said Jasmine Tuli, an expert on elections. Referring to the planned 42,000-odd polling centres and nearly 250,000 polling booths for the upcoming polls, she said it will not be possible for the Election Commission alone to monitor all the establishments. She suggested creating teams consisting of various stakeholders including political party members, police and officials from the administration and the EC for election monitoring. The EC and the administration must ensure a level playing field for all political parties during the election, she added.

There are concerns over the polls being peaceful given that political parties remain divided, especially over the implementation of the proposed July National Charter, said Dilip Kumar Sarkar, chief coordinator of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan). With the election approaching, voters should create pressure on the candidates for a clear mandate about eradicating menace like corruption and unemployment, said Justice MA Matin, acting president of Shujan. A fair and safe election is an aspiration of every citizen of the country, said Photographer and Drik founder Shahidul Alam, while urging political parties to demonstrate tolerance for a successful election. The EC must tackle illicit financing during the polls and take preventive measures to stop rumours on social media, said Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser for the Southern region of the National Citizen Party. BNP Organising Secretary Shama Obaed, Islami Andolan Bangladesh Joint Secretary General Sheikh Fazle Bari Masud, Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan and Nagorik Coalition Co-Convenor AKM Fahim Mashroor spoke among others at the discussion.

No alternative

FROM PAGE 1 "Therefore, keeping the election in mind, we must finalise the basic reforms. At the same time, we must remember that we have no alternative but to hold elections in the first half of February," he added. Yunus said reform is one of the three main mandates of the incumbent interim government. Thus, the issue of the July Charter must be considered with the same level of importance as elections and justice, he continued. The two-hour-long meeting discussed the proposals put forward by the Consensus Commission regarding the implementation of the July Charter, as well as the proposals from political parties in this regard. Consensus Commission

members told the meeting that the commission would soon submit its report to the interim government, the press release read. The National Consensus Commission will meet again with the political parties next Sunday to take this issue forward. Consensus Commission Vice-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz, Commission members Justice Md Emdadul Haque, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Badiul Alam Majumder, Md Ayub Mia and Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor Monir Haider were present at the meeting. Interim government advisers Muhammad Fawzul Kabir Khan, Asif Nazrul, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman were also present.

proposals agreed upon in the first two rounds of talks, some can be implemented through government orders or existing laws. But a significant portion requires constitutional amendments. At the outset of yesterday's talks, the commission presented parties with a document setting out possible implementation methods, based on consultations with parties and experts. Earlier, political parties had suggested options such as a referendum on all or parts of the charter, a Special Constitutional Order by the president, a constituent assembly, enactment through the next parliament, designating parliament as a constitutional reform assembly, and seeking the Supreme Court's opinion under article 106 of the

The Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal and GonoForum insisted that constitutional changes should be left to the next parliament. Yesterday, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed dismissed other options as "generally unacceptable", stressing that constitutional continuity must be preserved. A constituent assembly, he argued, is only justified for drafting a new constitution or altering its basic structure. He also noted that a Provisional Constitutional Order, as in 1972, was relevant only when no constitution existed, while proclamations during Ziaur Rahman's tenure merely suspended the constitution before being legitimised by parliament. Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad countered

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Sherpur www.lged.gov.bd Memo No. 46.02.8900.000.07.001.25-1223 Date: 10/09/2025 e-Tender Notice Invitation for Tender No. 01/e-GP/2025-26 e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works. Details are given as follows: Table with columns: SI No., Tender ID, Name of scheme, Last selling date & time, Closing date & time. Includes signature of Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Pirojpur E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com Corrigendum/Amendment-02 Table with columns: No., Ministry/Division, Agency, Procuring entity name, Procuring entity code, Procuring entity district, Corrigendum for, Corrigendum 02 Ref No., Date. Includes KEY INFORMATION, FUNDING INFORMATION, PARTICULAR INFORMATION, and INFORMATION FOR TENDERER.

বাংলাদেশ মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর (সংস্থাপন শাখা) ১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬, মোবাইল: ০১৭৬৯-৭২১০১০ ই-মেইল: regoffice@bmu.edu.bd ওয়েব: www.bmu.edu.bd বজ্রি নম্বর: বিএমইউ/রেজি-৩৩৬/২৫/০৪ তারিখ: ১১/০৯/২০২৫ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৩ সনের ৪৭নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি-এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে শিক্ষক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে: Table with columns: ক্রমিক নং, পদের নাম ও পদ সংখ্যা, গ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল, সর্বোচ্চ বয়স, মন্তব্য.

প্রকৌশল দপ্তর চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চট্টগ্রাম তারিখ: ১০/০৯/২০২৫ইং উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র নোটিশ নং-১৪/২০২৫-২০২৬ চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজসমূহ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্ত এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিতকর্তার কর্তৃক সীলমোহরকৃত কোটেশন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত কাজের সিডিউল ১০/০৯/২০২৫ইং তারিখ হতে ১৬/০৯/২০২৫ইং পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নবর্ণিতকর্তার অফিস হতে পাওয়া যাবে এবং ১৭/০৯/২০২৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ টেন্ডার বক্সে জমা দিতে হবে এবং উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে টেন্ডার বক্সে জমা দিতে না পারলে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। এদিন ০২-০০ মিনিটের সময় দরপত্রসমূহ দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) নিম্নবর্ণিতকর্তার অফিসে ককে খোলা হবে। Table with columns: ক্রমিক নং, কাজের নাম, কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়, শর্তাবলী.

Corrigendum/Amendment No. 02 Corrigendum Text: This corrigendum has been made due to unavoidable circumstances. Table with columns: Field Name, Old Value, New Value. Corrigendum/Amendment No. 01 Corrigendum Text: This corrigendum has been made due to unavoidable circumstances. Table with columns: Field Name, Old Value, New Value. Includes signature of Tanvir Ahmed, Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD Road Division, Pirojpur.



The Bangladesh national football team pose for a picture after arriving in the country from Nepal on a Bangladesh Air Force aircraft at around 4:40 pm yesterday. The booters, who had been stranded at a hotel in Kathmandu for three days after flight operations in the Himalayan nation were disrupted due to political unrest, were relieved to return home safe and sound -- with captain Jamal Bhuiyan describing the entire ordeal as a "different experience." The team was originally scheduled to return on Wednesday, but the second and final FIFA friendly match against Nepal, slated for September 9, was called off following Monday's violence, which claimed several lives and led to the resignation of the country's Prime Minister.

PHOTO: BFF

A dream for Oman, a chance to gauge for Pakistan

STAR SPORTS DESK

On paper, the Asia Cup match between Pakistan and Oman in Dubai today might seem like a mismatch, but it will offer both sides different points to prove -- Oman looking to mark their first ever appearance in the continental event with a memorable outing, while Pakistan aim to continue their good run of form before facing archrivals India in their next Group A fixture.

Pakistan enter the tournament on the back of a tri-series win in Sharjah against the UAE and Afghanistan, gaining valuable exposure to Gulf conditions -- already a familiar setting for them, having played many matches there over the past decade.

➤ This is going to be the first T20I meeting between Pakistan and Oman.

➤ Oman, who qualified for the event finishing as top two sides in the ACC Men's Premier Cup last April, will be playing in the Asia Cup for the first time.

The Salman Ali Agha-led side won four of their five matches in the tri-series, with their only defeat coming against Afghanistan in the round robin stage.

Meanwhile, Oman, led by Jatinder Singh, might be short on game time in T20 cricket. Their last outing was a home series against the USA in February, where they lost all three matches.

For Oman, however, simply featuring in the Asia Cup is an achievement in itself. Their skipper Jatinder recently reflected on what this moment means for the nation.

"When we started, our primary goal was to find a job; cricket was always secondary," Jatinder told PTI Videos last week.

A 'Nagin' reminder for HASARANGA!

EKUSH TAPADER from Abu Dhabi

"Nagin, Nagin!" shouted some fans at Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga from the gallery of the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. The leg spin bowling all rounder didn't notice the chants at first, when he did, he responded with a faint smile.

The said fans were a group of Bangladeshi expatriates who had arrived early to watch the Tigers practice at the venue ahead of their opening Group B match of the Asia Cup against Hong Kong later in the day.

The fans told the reporter that the Hong Kong match didn't interest them much and they were desperately trying to procure tickets for the games against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, however, the online portal showed that none were available for either games.

By teasing Hasaranga with the "Nagin" chants, the expatriates stirred up the memories of the Nidahas Trophy in 2018, a tournament that sparked the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka rivalry, which has turned into the second most

spiciest cricketing contest in the sub continent after India-Pakistan.

On Thursday, the Sri Lankan team, who will face the Tigers on Saturday, had a scheduled training session in Abu Dhabi before Bangladesh. As the Tigers entered the venue, the Lankans were still training, and a few players exchanged greetings.

Players from both sides have recently tried to downplay the rivalry in the media. Hasaranga did not even want to touch the topic as when this reporter asked, "Are you fully prepared for

the rivalry?" while he was leaving the ground, he replied, "Bangladesh media? No comments."

In July, Bangladesh defeated Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka for the first time in a T20I series, but Hasaranga did not play due to injury.

The leg spinner usually does well against Bangladesh in T20Is, having claimed six wickets from four games. Beyond wickets, pressure created from his end has many-a-times led to wickets at the other.

Hasaranga has a strong record at Abu Dhabi as well, with five wickets in three matches while never conceding more than six runs per over.

He generally bowls after the Powerplay, which makes him major threat to Bangladesh's middle order consisting Litton, Jaker Ali, Saif Hassan, and Tawhid Hridoy -- all right handers, which plays into the leg spinner's advantage.

Bangladesh players as well as fans know that neutralising his threat would be key for them when playing the six-time Asia Cup champions. Hasaranga, who has been out of action since last July, himself faces the challenge of regaining his rhythm. And during Thursday's practice, he got a taste of what kind of atmosphere awaits him in the Abu Dhabi stands in his comeback game.



Rony balances pride and regret on world stage

ANISUR RAHMAN

Representing the national team at an international event is a matter of pride for any athlete. The same holds true for hurdler Najimul Hossain Rony, who is set to compete in the 400m hurdles at the World Athletics Championships on Monday in Tokyo, Japan.

However, along with pride, Rony also carries a sense of regret.

"It has really been an honour to represent the country at the international level, but we usually can't give back anything to the nation despite trying our best in these world-class meets. It is more of a regret than a bad feeling," Rony told The Daily Star over phone, reflecting on the struggles of Bangladeshi athletes on the global stage.

The 26-year-old hurdler's appearance in Tokyo will mark only his second international meet, following his debut at the Asian Athletics Championships last March in South Korea. Rony was selected for the national team after setting a new record at the National Athletics Championships in February.

Although competing against the world's best may seem daunting, Rony has set his sights on using his experience at the World Athletics Championships, which gets underway on Saturday, as preparation for the upcoming South Asian Games.

"What I achieved at the national or Asian Athletics Championships is far from international standard, but I think I can repay the nation in the South Asian Games if I improve on my national

record timing of 50.84 seconds," he said, adding that he would be happy if he could better that mark in Tokyo.

"I know it will be tough to achieve something big with my current timing [50.84], but I need to bring it down to around 49.20 or 49.30 seconds for the South Asian Games," the Bogura-born athlete said. "Of course, this is possible if I get proper training facilities under a foreign coach, along with a proper diet."

Rony clocked 52.39 seconds at the Asian Athletics Championships in March before producing 52.30 seconds (hand-timed) last month at the Summer Athletics Championships -- a competition before which the Bangladesh Army man went through a knee injury that saw him refrain from training for nearly 12 days.

In Japan, he will undergo three days of official training starting today before stepping on the track on Monday. However, he kept himself active by warming up and running in open spaces around his hotel in Tokyo.

Rony's rise has not been easy. He began competing in the National Athletics Championships only in 2022, five years after joining the Bangladesh Army. He first caught the attention of selectors in 2018 through inter-unit competitions but had to wait until 2021 to earn a call-up to the Army athletics team.

Since then, Rony has not looked back, winning gold in the 400m sprint at the 45th National Athletics Championships before switching to the 400m hurdles -- an event in which he has now claimed three successive national gold medals.



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP All-women officials to make history

AGENCIES

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will feature an all-female panel of match officials for the first time in the tournament's history.

The panel comprises 14 umpires and four match referees, including Bangladesh's Shathira Jakir Jesy. While recent events such as the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the last two ICC Women's T20 World Cups also had all-female officiating teams, this marks the first time the Women's World Cup will achieve the milestone.

"This marks a defining moment in the journey of women's cricket, one that we hope will pave the way for many more trailblazing stories across all facets of the sport," ICC chairman Jay Shah said. "The inclusion of an all-women panel of match officials is not only a major milestone but also a powerful reflection of the ICC's unwavering commitment to advancing gender equity across cricket."

Match Referees: Trudy Anderson, Shandre Fritz, GS Lakshmi, Michelle Pereira

Umpires: Lauren Agenbag, Candace la Borde, Kim Cotton, Sarah Dambanevana, Shathira Jakir Jesy, Kerrin Klaaste, Janani N, Nimali Perera, Claire Polosak, Vrinda Rathi, Sue Redfern, Eloise Sheridan, Gayathri Venugopalan, Jacqueline Williams.

Mirpur spirit comes alive in Abu Dhabi

EKUSH TAPADER from Abu Dhabi

Wherever Bangladesh play, the roar of their fans follow. In Mirpur, a sea of red and green waves in unison, and across the globe -- be it Melbourne or Dubai -- small pockets of Bangladesh fans keep that same spirit alive.

On Thursday evening at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, it was no different. Bangladesh opened their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong, and even though the opposition wasn't glamorous and the stands looked sparse, a small band of migrant workers turned the concrete galleries into a little Bangladesh.

They had no drums, no trumpets, and no corporate-sponsored fan zones -- only flags draped over their shoulders, painted cheeks, and voices full of unshakable belief.

Al Islam from Narayanganj and Abul Kalam Azad from Brahmanbaria work in Dubai, but on Thursday they left behind their jobs and drove 150



kilometres to Abu Dhabi. "We didn't go to work just to watch. We believe this team will do well," Al Islam said, smiling despite knowing he will have to pay a fine for his absence.

Saiful Ismam, another worker, also risked deductions from his salary. "Inshallah, we will play the final," he declared with conviction.

For these fans, life in the UAE is not easy. They toil long hours in construction sites, shops, and offices, sending money home to families they rarely see. A day off costs them heavily, both in wages and, sometimes, in penalties. Yet on this weekday afternoon, they chose cricket.

Amidst such optimism, there was also a hint of nostalgia. "I miss Shakib Al Hasan a hundred out of a hundred," said Jewel Ahmed, an emotional fan. "The team needs him. But even without him, I believe. This team can fight."

Kamrul, wrapped in a Bangladesh fan, termed Bangladesh captain Litton Das a "true T20 hero". His friends nodded in agreement, tipping Litton, Jaker Ali, and Taskin Ahmed as the pillars of Bangladesh's campaign. "Litton is in superb form -- we expect something big. We enjoy Jaker's sixes. And Taskin is our best bowler. This time, we'll be champions." The crowd may have been small in number, but their passion was boundless. Each cheer, each chant, each raised flag stitched a piece of Bangladesh onto the desert air of Abu Dhabi.

Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited
 has been renamed as
Nevian Lifescience PLC

Public Announcement Company Name Change

Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited has been renamed as Nevia Lifescience PLC with effect from 10 September 2025, following the acquisition of its majority shares by Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited from Novartis AG Switzerland, with due incorporation by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms (RJSC), while the shareholding status of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) in the Company remains unchanged.

This milestone has been achieved after fulfilling all statutory and regulatory requirements, ensuring a seamless and compliant transition.

Earlier on 05 December 2024 Novartis announced its intention to sell its stake in Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited to Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited, a leading and trusted pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh.

Nevian Lifescience PLC ensures that patients in Bangladesh will have continued access to Novartis' global brands manufactured under-license using the same process, under the same quality standards, as well as through import and distribution of Novartis' innovative life-saving medicines under the banner of Nevia Lifescience PLC.

Nevian Lifescience PLC
 Tongi, Gazipur 1711, Bangladesh



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'FLATS FOR VOTE RIGGING' ACC summons 12 ex-officials

They include 7 former secretaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has summoned 12 former secretaries and officials of the same rank for questioning over allegations of receiving flats in Dhaka's Dhanmondi in exchange for assisting in irregularities during the 2018 election.

They will have to appear before the ACC on September 17, 18, and 21, the commission's Director General Akhter Hossain told reporters yesterday.

Two of them had served as ACC commissioners. They are Md Zahurul Haque, former judge, and Md Mozammel Haque Khan, ex-senior secretary.

The others are Md Yunusur Rahman and SM Golam Faruk, ex-senior secretaries; Md Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary and election commissioner; MA Kader Sarkar, M Aslam Alam, Aktari Momtaz, Md Sirajul Haque Khan,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Charred vehicles are seen outside the Supreme Court during a curfew imposed to restore law and order in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RAMPURA CASE ICT unhappy over failure to arrest all accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the investigation agency's failure to arrest all the accused in a case linked to last year's July uprising in Dhaka's Rampura.

During the charge framing hearing, with only one of the five accused in the dock, the tribunal enquired whether the others were in the country or abroad. Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said they were not aware of their whereabouts.

Tribunal member Justice Shofiqul Alam Mahmood then said, "There are allegations that even after being informed of the locations of accused, they are not being arrested. You have been given the power to arrest. Even after that, only a small number have been held."

In response, Tajul suggested such remarks might be inappropriate here (in the open court), but Justice Shofiqul pressed, "Why should we not say? You have been given the power to arrest."

Tajul explained, "Immediately after the uprising, many accused fled. Although we have the authority to arrest, we don't have the means to do that."

The chief prosecutor said one of the accused fled after getting information that investigators would arrest him in a raid. In reply, the tribunal member said, "Yes, you

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Dengue claims 6 lives, highest in a single day this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six dengue patients died in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- the highest number of deaths reported in a single day this year.



Among the deaths, three are from Dhaka South City Corporation areas, and one each from Dhaka North City Corporation, Mymensingh division and Rajshahi division, according to the DGHS. Meanwhile, 586 patients were hospitalised across the country during this period.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 145, while total dengue cases rose to 36,662.

Among the cases, 34,745 dengue patients have been released so far.

Currently, 1,792 patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, with 1,046 of them from outside Dhaka.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, identified delayed hospitalisation as a major reason behind the rising fatality rate this year.

President seeks end to crisis engulfing Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's president said yesterday that he was seeking an end to the crisis that has engulfed the Himalayan nation since deadly protests this week ousted the prime minister and left parliament in flames.

The army has imposed a curfew in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people, with soldiers patrolling the largely quiet streets for a second day after the worst violence in two decades.

President Ramchandra Paudel appealed to "all parties to be confident that a solution to the problem is being sought, as soon as possible".

Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel has launched talks with key figures and "representatives of Gen Z", a military spokesperson said, referring to the loose umbrella title of the youth protest movement.

Demonstrations began on Monday in Kathmandu against the government's short-lived ban on social media and over corruption, with at least 19 people killed in the crackdown.

A day later, protests escalated into an outpouring of rage nationwide, with government offices, a Hilton Hotel and other buildings set on fire.

In the chaos, more than 13,500 prisoners broke out of jails countrywide, leaving security forces scrambling to regain control. Only around 250 have been recaptured, according to Nepal's security forces and an Indian border official.

"Our first demand is the dissolution of

parliament," Sudan Gurung, a key figure among the Gen Z protesters, told reporters on Thursday.

"My humble request to everyone, including political parties: please don't send the same old leaders," he said, saying the protesters were not seeking power themselves.

"We don't need positions in government," he said. "We need real reform."

Protests fed into longstanding economic woes in Nepal, where more than a fifth of people aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita just \$1,447.

'EVERY EFFORT'
KP Sharma Oli, 73, a four-time prime minister, resigned Tuesday.

His home was set ablaze the same day, and his whereabouts are unknown.

Constitutionally, 80-year-old Paudel should invite the leader of the largest parliamentary party to form a government.

But much of the political old guard has vanished from view.

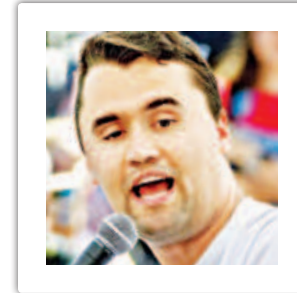
"I am consulting and making every effort to find a way out of the current difficult situation in the country, within the constitutional framework," said Paudel, whose presidential offices were also set on fire.

Former chief justice Sushila Karki is the leading choice for interim leader, a Gen Z protester representative said Thursday, although their backing is not unanimous.

"Right now, Sushila Karki's name is coming up to lead the interim government -- we are now waiting for the president to make a move," said

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

KIRK SHOOTING Trump blames 'radical left' for political violence



AFP, Orem

A manhunt was underway yesterday after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was shot to death at a university in Utah, a killing that sparked fears of worsening political violence in the United States.

President Donald Trump lashed out at the "radical left" after the shooting of Kirk, a powerful voice in conservative US politics at just 31 years old, and vowed to crack down on those responsible for what he described as "a dark moment for America."

"For years those on the radical left have compared wonderful Americans like Charlie to Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals," a somber-looking Trump

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Three challenges for free, fair and credible polls

Say speakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consensus among political parties, improving the law-and-order situation and ensuring the Election Commission's neutrality are the biggest challenges for the upcoming parliamentary polls to be free, fair and credible, said speakers at an event yesterday.

"The country has been freed from fascism but a consensus for democratic transition has not been reached yet -- there is still time," said BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed at the discussion styled 'Expectations and Challenges for a Fair Election: Doable for the Government, Political Parties and Civil Society in Arranging a Successful Election'.

He went on to express hope that political parties could reach a consensus to this end through talks ahead of the election.

Stating that the national parliament is the only legitimate body to pass any proposal regarding constitutional amendment, Salahuddin said his party, however, will agree if there is any other legitimate, lawful and constitutional avenue for this.

In the meantime, before going to parliament, the political parties could build consensus on what the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

The country has been freed from fascism but a consensus for democratic transition has not been reached yet.
Salahuddin Ahmed
BNP Standing Committee Member

ASIA CUP 2025

Litton shines as Tigers win convincingly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh skipper Litton Das continued his good run with the bat, notching his 15th T20I fifty -- the most by any Bangladeshi batter in the format -- to help the Tigers to a convincing seven-wicket win over Hong Kong in their opening Asia Cup game at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

This was also Bangladesh's first T20I victory over Associate Nation Hong Kong, who staged an upset against the Tigers during a T20 World Cup game in Chattogram back in 2014.

Litton scored a fluent 39 ball 59, laced with six fours and a maximum, and starred in a crucial 95-run third-wicket stand with Towhid Hridoy (35* off 36), as Bangladesh chased down a 144-run target in 17.4 overs after restricting Hong Kong to 143 for seven in 20 overs.

This was Litton's third fifty in his last four T20Is, having already won the player of the series in Bangladesh's last series at home against the Netherlands

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



THE LONESOME LANGUR . . . A Hanuman langur sits on the railing of the Batiaghata bridge in Khulna, its long tail trailing behind. Forced into human spaces by shrinking forests and scarce food, it scans the roadside trees for fruit. These langurs, native to the Indian subcontinent, inhabit dry forests, scrublands, and even urban parks, feeding on leaves, fruits, flowers, and seeds. Though listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, they face habitat loss, road accidents, and human conflict. Sacred in Hindu mythology as followers of the monkey-god Hanuman, they often live near temples and villages. With expressive black faces, agile leaps, and strict social hierarchies, they are vital to South Asia's ecosystem.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Kalpona named among Vogue Business 100 innovators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leader Kalpona Akter has topped the list of "Vogue Business 2025 100 Innovators" under the "Sustainability Thought Leader" category.

This is an annual list of individuals that the editors at the leading fashion business magazine believe have the potential to change the luxury industry for the better.

Kalpona, founder of the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, was recognised for her decades of activism for labour rights in the readymade garments sector.

"Trade unionist Kalpona Akter began working in garment factories at the age of 12 and has been a vocal advocate for her fellow garment workers ever since," said the magazine.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



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VOL. XXXV No. 229

BHADRA 28, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

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STOP THIS GENOCIDE

The Daily Star STANDS WITH PALESTINE

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PALESTINE

PHOTO: AFP

ACT NOW, ENOUGH OF SILENCE

MAHFUZ ANAM

The world has been pushed to its breaking point and can no longer tolerate this barbarity. It's the duty of every government, the United Nations, and all international and national civic, non-governmental, and rights organisations to take a firm stand now. Every person of conscience—including writers, thinkers, poets, artists, editors, and journalists—must come together to work toward an immediate end to this GENOCIDE. It is a moral imperative that all of humanity rise up and act now.

Netanyahu's followers in Israel and around the world, especially in the US, have convinced themselves that Palestinians are not human beings and can be killed at will. By their continuous bombing of Gaza for two years, and systemic deprivation of food, medicine and water, they are convincing the world more and more that the very opposite is true – it is they who are not human. The Israeli leadership has degraded themselves to being the most brutal of all species. Using Hamas's attack on Israel to justify this GENOCIDE is a sham and the world rejects it. The continuation of this brutality for two years after the event clearly shows that Israel's purpose is far from defending itself but to kill all Palestinians and occupy all their land.

Every day people are being killed in shocking numbers—dozens, sometimes hundreds—including children who have done nothing to provoke this violence. The city is under a relentless assault: drones, bombs, and remote-controlled machines strike homes and streets indiscriminately. Robot bulldozers destroy around 300 houses daily, leaving no structure standing and entire neighbourhoods are being erased. Israel has further expanded their killing spree, destroying Palestinian homes and killing Palestinians in the West

Bank. Even more chilling is the rhetoric emerging from some Israeli civilians online, with calls to “kill their children”, justifying themselves by saying they “will grow up to be terrorists.” Gaza's hospitals are overwhelmed, schools lie in ruins, and millions of

world is witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe of unimaginable proportions, and yet the attacks continue.

They have bombed Qatar and later Yemen. Earlier they attacked Lebanon, Iran and Syria.

Israel is today no more a threat

and every norm of tolerance, and respect for others which lies at the root of our civilisation.

The irony of it all is that Israel is doing to the Palestinians what the Nazis did to the Jews during the Second World War. We are watching a “holocaust” being

In the post industrial world it was the West that claimed to represent all the higher values of humanity. Now everything we hold sacred is being thrashed by one of them. If the rest of the West do not act immediately to stop this GENOCIDE then it will lose all its

in your lap? As your child begs for a morsel of food, a piece of bread, a sip of water – anything to relieve them of the agony of hunger – you stand helpless in remorse and guilt and in anger as you cannot fulfil your most basic instinct that nature has given you – the ability to save your offspring. The agony does not end in a day or a week or even in months. You watch your beloved child lose weight, lose senses, become emaciated, their rib cage showing through their skin, the eyes hollowed, your child losing the energy to smile, talk, cry, to move their limbs, to breathe.

And all this while your child is in your arms.

Parents of the world, how long can we look the other way and allow this to happen? Every day Israel decides to kill more and more Palestinians. So we urge all Parents – men and women to rise up against this GENOCIDE.

The people of Bangladesh have already shown their support. The Daily Star, as a newspaper, declares once again its complete solidarity to the cause of stopping the GENOCIDE immediately and freeing the people of Palestine. The coming General Assembly of the United Nations will discuss this issue again. We urge all UN members to take urgent action and Stop the GENOCIDE immediately and recognise the State of Palestine. All NGOs and UN agencies should also unite in protest. We urge the United States without whose support Netanyahu cannot continue this cruelty, and we urge President Trump personally, who wants to be remembered as a peacemaker, to stop Israel from continuing with the GENOCIDE, something that will truly earn him global goodwill and perhaps even that title.

We call on the whole world to act immediately.



A mother bids farewell to her child, killed in an overnight Israeli strike in al-Maghazi in the central Gaza Strip, at the morgue of the Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir el-Balah on June 25, 2024.

PHOTO: AFP

children face hunger, disease, and trauma. The scale of destruction and the targeting of civilians suggest a campaign that threatens not just lives but the very existence of Palestinian communities. The

only to the Palestinians but to all the neighbouring countries. It is a threat to the civilised world as it breaks every international law, every human value, all gains of our civilisation, all sense of decency

repeated on the Palestinians with the present perpetrators being the earlier victims. Just as the world in unison destroyed the Nazis it must today stop the GENOCIDE and demolish the regime that is doing it.

standing in rest of the world.

The cruelty of what is happening can be fully gauged by asking one simple question to all parents of the world: how would you feel to watch your child die of starvation

THE SKY BEARS WITNESS

September in Gaza talks into someone's ears

BY MOHAMMED MOUSSA

September in Gaza carries the scent of newly-harvested absence, caught between the gossips of a newborn breeze, gently tracing the face of a mother readying her voice to rise again. Her words endure, etched in the features of her son, who bears her likeness on his first day in a school housed within a tent. It tastes of a parched farewell, sipping its first drop after hours of waiting alone in a queue. It speaks like a bloodied dawn, stripped of words to bridge the silence between life and death. It looks like fatherhood peeled bare, with no life left to give.

No one will ever weep over you my friend

BY MOHAMMED MOUSA

No one will ever weep over you, my friend. I'm here, I can tell you. Not even the sound of gunfire, the stranger who was once your good friend. Everyone is caught up in their own lives, their evening habits, buying flowers for their partners. The Arabian Sea, the return key, even the palm tree your hands planted in the garden of melancholy didn't shed a tear, as if you weren't a peer. No one cried over you, my friend, not even this returnee who knows your name and your favourite black tea.

The night refused to fade

BY RUBA KHALID

2:40 a.m.
The world was asleep.
So was I—
until something inside me whispered:
Run.
But I didn't.
I froze.
And then—
the bomb fell.
Not a sound,
but a force
that punched the air from my lungs,
threw me backward,
into the closet,
into a space barely big enough
for the shaking heart I carried.
I curled up,
pressed a pillow to my face
as the windows exploded—
glass spinning like a swarm of knives.
Some found my feet.
Pain bloomed sharp and wet.
But I stayed silent.

POEMS FROM GAZA

If i must die

BY REFAAT ALAREER

If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up
above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale.

(Refaat Alareer, who wrote this poem shortly before his death, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on December 6, 2024 along with his brother, his brother's son, his sister, and her three children.)



Even my breath hid from the world. I didn't know if I was waiting to live or waiting to die. And when it passed—when the screaming dust began to settle—I was still there, half-buried in fear, wondering why I was spared. The night didn't end. It stayed with me. Inside me. Louder than the blast.





GENOCIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT

Despite killing nearly 65,000 people, mostly civilians, and reducing much of the territory to rubble, Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza shows no sign of abating. Israel's deliberate aid blockade has already pushed parts of Gaza into famine. According to top UN experts, Israel has targeted facilities essential for survival and deliberately attacked children, undermining Gaza's ability to regenerate as a society. No other genocide in recent memory has received such relentless media coverage, yet these atrocities fail to awaken the conscience of global elites. Now, as Gaza's entire population faces the risk of permanent expulsion, such inaction may amount to a death sentence for them.

PHOTO: AFP & REUTERS



The Daily Star STANDS WITH PALESTINE

GAZA GENOCIDE IN NUMBERS

SOURCE: GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY, AL JAZEERA, IRC, UN

FROM OCTOBER 7, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

64,718

Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks in Gaza.

163,859

People continue to suffer from injuries of varying degrees.



19,424

children killed

At least one Palestinian child is killed every hour on average by Israeli forces. In addition to those killed, more than 42,000 children have been injured, many suffering life-altering disabilities.

436,000

homes destroyed

The UN estimates that 92 percent of Gaza's homes have been damaged or destroyed, leaving nearly 50 million tonnes of debris.



1 in 10

children are malnourished

An estimated 132,000 children below the age of five are projected to be at risk of death from acute malnutrition by June 2026.

1.9 million

Gazans displaced

According to the UNRWA, around 90 percent of the population has been displaced, many multiple times. Israel's push to seize Gaza City has forced residents to choose between repeated evacuation or staying under fire.

90+

Gazans are killed daily

Estimates from the WHO and International Rescue Committee say 94 percent of all hospitals in the Gaza Strip are damaged or destroyed. Israel's intensified assault has essentially collapsed Gaza's health system amid mass displacement and severe shortages of food, water, medicine, fuel, and shelter.



2,000+

aid workers and health workers have been killed



247

journalists killed

More journalists have been killed in Gaza than in any other modern conflict.

1,487

people killed while collecting aid

Before the war, 500 aid trucks entered Gaza daily; that level has never returned. On May 27, Israel and the US launched the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, replacing UNRWA's 400 distribution points with four militarised "mega-sites" near combat zones. Civilians risk death for food, with soldiers reportedly firing on crowds almost daily.



\$17.90 billion

in military aid has been given to Israel by the US since October 2023.

