



Vandalised police vehicles outside the Bhanga Police Station after protesters, who were opposing the new constituency delimitation, carried out an attack there yesterday.

PHOTO: SUZIT DAS

We're ready to scale up US imports CA tells US official



UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said Bangladesh is prepared to scale up its imports from the United States and hoped this would pave the way for further tariff reductions, contributing to a more sustainable and mutually beneficial trade partnership.

He reaffirmed Bangladesh's strong

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Jamaat, other Islamist parties to take to streets 5-point demand includes polls under PR system

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jamaat e-Islami and several other like-minded parties have decided to take to the streets to realise their five-point demand that includes holding the election on the basis of the July Charter and under the proportional representation system.

Jamaat, Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) and Khelafat Majlis yesterday

separately announced the three-day programme starting from September 18, following Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis's announcement on Sunday.

The parties will hold separate rallies and processions in Dhaka on September 18, processions in all divisional cities on September 19 and processions in all districts and upazilas on September 26.

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Chaos in Bhanga over EC's new boundary map Upazila parishad complex, police station attacked; four people injured

STAR REPORT

Opposing the change in constituency demarcation, protesters went on a rampage at the Bhanga Upazila Parishad and Bhanga Police Station in Faridpur yesterday, vandalising at least five police vehicles, torching 11 motorcycles, injuring four people and causing extensive damage to properties.

The violence erupted around 12:45pm and continued for nearly an hour. During that time, the protesters damaged properties inside and outside the upazila complex and the adjoining Officers' Club. Before that, they had stormed the police station.

Bhanga upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Tansib Jubayer said four people, including two journalists, had sustained injuries during the attack on the upazila parishad complex. "They were treated at the upazila health complex."

Residents of Bhanga upazila have been demonstrating since September 5 against the transfer of Algi and Hamirdi unions from Faridpur-4 to Faridpur-2.

On September 4, the Election Commission issued a gazette notification redrawing boundaries of 46 constituencies across the country.

As per the EC's revised demarcation, Hamirdi and Algi now fall under Faridpur-2. Previously, the two unions were under Faridpur-4.

Protesting the decision, demonstrators enforced blockades for several days in Bhanga upazila, suspending train services and causing immense suffering to passengers.

Tensions escalated Saturday night following the arrest of Algi Union

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Star ROUNDTABLE ON LDC GRADUATION

Reform or brace for setbacks

Business leaders push for a deferral while the government insists on timely transition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders have continued to push the government to seek a deferral of Bangladesh's graduation to a developing nation by five to six years, warning that a premature transition would cripple industries, erode export competitiveness, and trigger massive job losses.

The government, however, stresses that while the timeline is largely out of Bangladesh's hands, the central task remains strengthening competitiveness and preparing for life after preferences.

"Whether graduation comes in 2026 or later, the task is the same: to shift from preference-driven growth to productivity-driven competitiveness," said Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser.

Bangladesh must also ensure that policy continuity and institutional reforms become the hallmarks of the next phase of development, he added, emphasising deeper collaboration between the government and the private sector.

He was speaking at a roundtable on "Empowering the Private Sector to Face the Challenges of LDC Graduation", organised by The Daily Star at its Dhaka office. The discussion, the final of a series, brought together leaders of major chambers, trade bodies, exporters, economists, and bankers.

Chowdhury said his office has been holding consultations with entrepreneurs across sectors to identify challenges. He announced plans to hold two national dialogues on tax and credit policy, and on energy by December.

While acknowledging that some industries would be affected once benefits as a least developed country are withdrawn, he reminded that postponement of the graduation is not a decision Dhaka can make alone.

He also stressed that many preparations were already underway. These included reforms at the National Board of Revenue and Chattogram port, the launch of a national single window that issued over 500,000 trade licences in two months, and the roll-out of a one-stop service centre, he said.

Business leaders, however, warned that the country is simply not ready.

AK Azad, chairman and managing director of Ha-Meem Group, painted a bleak picture: eight to nine hours of power cuts daily in factories, no new gas connections for industries, and a distressed banking sector weighed down by bad loans -- about a third of all disbursed credit.

Add to that \$28 billion laundered abroad, rampant bribery in licence renewals, and chronic gas shortages, all of which are not in favour of graduation, he said.

Once Bangladesh graduates, its exports to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Explore FTAs with key markets to offset tariff shocks

Strengthen Ctg port, NBR efficiency to cut delays, costs

Fix gas, power crisis to ensure stable supply

Seek product-specific waivers, particularly in pharmaceuticals



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“Bangladesh must shift from preference-driven growth to productivity-driven competitiveness and deepen collaboration between government and business.”

Anisuzzaman Chowdhury
Special assistant to the chief adviser



“When industries don’t have energy security, then proceeding with the LDC graduation will be suicidal with the imposition of export tariffs.”

AK Azad
Chairman of Ha-Meem Group



“What we are requesting is not to avoid graduation, but to delay its implementation by three to five years so that our industries have time to adjust.”

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez
President of BCI



“Even if Bangladesh wants to pursue a deferral, it should also prepare for the graduation. For example, Vietnam has signed FTAs with the EU, reducing its export tariffs to zero.”

Mustafizur Rahman
Distinguished fellow, CPD



“Let’s invite the Committee for Development Policy to evaluate the private sector and economic readiness for graduation immediately. Let’s start lobbying with the EU and friendly states for support on deferral.”

Syed Nasim Manzur MD
of Apex Footwear Ltd



“When Bangladesh graduates from the LDC category, foreign borrowing will become expensive, directly impacting exporters who rely on affordable credit to maintain competitiveness in global markets.”

Mashrur Arefin
MD of City Bank



“Even if Bangladesh wants to pursue a deferral of graduation, it should also take preparations for the graduation.”

Zahid Hussain
Former lead economist of World Bank’s Dhaka office



“We need to explore all possible avenues. We should first try to defer the graduation. We need to make an effort. But if we don’t improve our capabilities, there will be no benefit.”

Md Fazlul Hoque
MD of Plummy Fashions Ltd



“There are sufficient arguments why we should not rush to graduation. We have to preserve our international trade preferences. These are going to erode the moment we graduate.”

Kamran T Rahman
President of MCCI



“As 75 percent of Bangladesh’s exports are linked to LDC privileges, the country should team up with Nepal and Laos, also set to graduate, to push for a collective deferment.”

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque
Chairman of RAPID

Bangladesh condemns Israeli attack on Qatar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The unprovoked and unjustifiable Israeli attack on the sovereign territory of Qatar is not merely an attack on Qatar but an affront to the dignity of the entire Muslim Ummah, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday.

He made the remarks while attending the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit held in Doha on September 15, 2025.

At the summit, Bangladesh called for coordinated diplomatic, political and economic measures by all OIC member states to deter further Israeli provocation and aggression.

The summit was chaired by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. OIC Secretary General Hussain Ibrahim Taha and Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit delivered welcome remarks.

It was attended by 24 heads of state and government, while delegations from other countries were led by foreign ministers or senior dignitaries.

The leaders called for an immediate end to Israeli occupation of Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian state under the two-state formula, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They urged uninterrupted access to international aid and food supplies for the people of Gaza, saying Palestinian men and women are dying of starvation.

They also demanded intervention from the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice to hold Israeli leaders accountable for violating the territorial sovereignty of Muslim states and committing genocide in Palestine.

Tenure of consensus commission extended by one month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday extended the tenure of National Consensus Commission by one month.

A gazette notification signed by Cabinet Secretary Dr Sheikh Abdur Rashid said the commission, formed through SRO No-55 Act, 2025 on February 12, will now continue its work until October 15.

The seven-member commission, led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, was tasked with reviewing and adopting recommendations from six national reform commissions. As part of its responsibilities, it has been engaging with political parties to reach agreements on reforms.

Reform or brace for setbacks

FROM PAGE 1
The European Union and Canada will face tariffs between 12 and 18 percent – a factor that will undermine competitiveness, Azad added.

Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh, said, “Graduation must be a controlled landing, not a crash landing. The process is well defined. I think technical eligibility does not mean readiness.”

He said while the private sector is not prepared, bureaucrats are making “fake claims”. “LDC graduation now would be suicidal,” he warned.

Manzur recounted how buyers in the US, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong warned him during recent visits. “All the buyers say, ‘Sir, you must be competitive. No space of emotion or relationship here.’ The biggest buyers in H&M, Inditex say, ‘If you lose preference, we will reduce business.’”

He urged Dhaka to immediately invite the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) to assess readiness, target the November 25 CDP review, and intensify lobbying in Brussels, Strasbourg and friendly capitals. Bangladesh should also coordinate with Nepal and Lao PDR, two other graduating countries, to push for deferral.

Manzur also recommended benchmarking finance costs with Vietnam and India, easing central bank export rules, expanding Export Development Fund facilities, and modernising payment regulations to cut the cost of doing business.

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said business enterprises, particularly SMEs, have been battered since 2020 by one crisis after another: pandemic, Ukraine war, and energy shortages. Yet they received little coordinated support.

He also said businesspeople understand that graduation is inevitable. “But the core issue is whether we are prepared to withstand the impact. What we are requesting is

not to avoid graduation, but to delay its implementation by three to five years so that our industries have time to adjust,” he said.

Parvez said the loss of duty-free access to key markets such as the EU, UK, and Canada will hit Bangladesh’s exporters hard.

“We are particularly concerned about the influx of foreign merchandise in the domestic market, which will severely undercut local manufacturing,” he said.

Kamran T Rahman, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also warned that graduation would strip Bangladesh of preferential trade and concessional financing.

“It is imperative that the government works closely with the private sector to create a comprehensive roadmap that addresses these challenges head-on,” he said.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director of City Bank, highlighted the looming financial squeeze: graduation will end concessional lending from multilateral agencies. “Borrowing terms from multilateral agencies such as JICA and the World Bank will become less favourable, resulting in higher interest rates,” he said.

Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions, lamented that even as incentives on export receipts were cut, private sector voices remained marginal in policymaking. He urged faster port operations and productivity upgrades at factories.

Economist Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said if any country meets the graduation criteria for six years in the triennial review, as Bangladesh has done, then it can still approach the UN CDP for a deferral.

CDP will review Bangladesh’s case on November 25. “Remember, the formulation of the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) is part of the CDP mechanism. When a country graduates, they must prepare the STS, and that review will now take place,”

Mustafizur said. He stressed that even if Bangladesh wants to pursue a deferral of graduation, it should also take preparations for the graduation. “I agree we must prepare. But why not also try for a deferral? On the technical side, this STS we have prepared can be used to argue, for example, about our single-window export readiness...”

He pointed to other options like Vietnam’s FTAs with the EU, which allowed duty-free exports even after losing LDC preferences.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development, urged launching immediate diplomatic efforts through the G-77, the EU, India and the US.

However, he admitted that since Bangladesh’s graduation resolution has already gone to the UN General Assembly, deferral will be difficult. He stressed coordination with Nepal and Lao PDR and called for lobbying to ease EU GSP Plus conditions.

He also urged continuing subsidies, improving the Savar tannery CETP to attract leather orders shifting from China, and addressing infrastructure bottlenecks that raise costs.

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at World Bank’s Dhaka office, suggested thinking about alternatives if Bangladesh cannot seek a deferral.

For instance, Bangladesh can demand a waiver on some pharmaceutical products, he said. Bangladesh can also lobby with the EU for signing an FTA and ease the conditions for GSP Plus facilities.

But whatever the outcome is, Bangladesh needs structural reforms and improved efficiency, he said.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the government could have paid more attention to the preparation, noting that it has only 14 months left to act decisively.

“The well deserving private sector was also not given proper attention in the steps of preparation,” he added.

He was referring to the USTR’s recent decision – announced on July 31 – to lower the reciprocal tariff rate on Bangladeshi exports to the US from 35 percent to 20 percent, a move he described as a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations, said Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

During the meeting, both sides discussed strategies to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries, as well as Bangladesh’s intention to expand imports of US agricultural products such as cotton

and soybeans. Discussions also covered enhanced energy cooperation, including LPG imports from the US, civil aircraft purchases, drug control measures and the ongoing Rohingya humanitarian crisis.

Emphasising continued progress in bilateral engagement, Yunus voiced optimism regarding the early signing of the draft bilateral trade agreement currently under negotiation.

The chief adviser also highlighted Bangladesh’s actions in regard to the 11-point Labour Action Plan proposed by the US.

Looking ahead, Yunus said the interim government expects increased flows of investment and concessional credit in key sectors such as health and education.

“We must make sure the door to US investment in Bangladesh becomes wider,” he said, reassuring the visiting USTR team that the interim government would improve the climate for foreign direct investment in the country.

Brendan Lynch commended the constructive approach taken by Bangladeshi counterparts throughout the trade dialogue and welcomed the strengthening partnership between the two nations.

He appreciated that Bangladesh began the process back in February when the national security adviser met him and offered to unilaterally reduce the trade gap with the US.

“You dispatched a tough negotiating team who worked very hard and effectively,” he told the chief adviser.

He emphasised the importance of timely implementation of the tariff agreements and the purchase commitments.

Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, USTR Director for South Asia Emily Ashby, Senior Secretary (SDGs Affairs) Lamiya Murshed, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, and US Chargé d’Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson were present.

Chaos in Bhanga over EC’s new boundary

FROM PAGE 1
Parishad Chairman Md Siddique, a key organiser of the movement. A case was filed under the Speedy Trial Act against 90 named individuals, including two UP chairmen, and 100-150 unidentified people.

On Sunday, the home adviser warned of stern action if the movement was not halted.

However, protesters enforced a dawn-to-dusk blockade that day, obstructing road communication between Dhaka and 21 districts in the southwest.

Yesterday morning, demonstrators attempted another blockade but were stopped by law enforcers. As the day progressed, thousands of people, including women and children, took to the streets, witnesses said.

By 11:00am, blockades were enforced at Dakshinpara point on the Dhaka-Barishal Highway and at Chhowadi on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway, halting traffic on both major routes.

Around noon, a large procession called the “Long March to Bhanga” began from Algi union and marched towards the upazila headquarters. Thousands gathered at Bhanga intersection and surrounding areas.

Police officials trying to control the situation near the Eidgah Mosque came under attack and took shelter inside the mosque.

The mob then stormed the Bhanga Police Station, vandalising five

vehicles, two motorcycles, and the traffic police office. They later crossed the Kumar River and attacked the Bhanga Upazila Parishad complex.

Inside the parishad hall room, protesters destroyed over 100 chairs, the speaker’s dais, 10 ceiling fans, and more than 30 lights. They also vandalised around 20 offices in both the new and old parishad buildings, damaging air conditioners, CCTV cameras, and windows. Seven motorcycles parked in the garage were set ablaze.

The Officers’ Club was also attacked, with its AC units smashed and CCTV cameras looted, said several government officials.

Eyewitnesses said over a thousand people, mostly aged between 12 and 35, participated in the attack, many with their faces covered and some wearing helmets. They alleged many attackers carried sticks and machetes and used petrol to set vehicles on fire.

Nazrul Islam Mridha, a cloth trader in Bhanga Bazar, said law enforcers did not intervene while the rampage was underway.

The situation began calming down around 3:00pm.

Asked, Bhanga upazila unit BNP President Khandakar Iqbal Hossain said, “Our movement for an undivided Bhanga has been peaceful. None of our leaders or activists were involved in the attacks on police and upazila offices.”

Faridpur’s Additional

Superintendent of Police Shamsul Alam told The Daily Star that the situation had returned to normal and bus services resumed in the evening.

“An assessment of damages is underway. Cases will be filed soon in connection with the attacks,” he said, adding that no police injuries were reported.

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking an order on the EC to restore Faridpur-4 and Faridpur-5 constituencies to their pre-2008 structure.

Meanwhile in Bagerhat, a dawn-to-dusk hartal was enforced by the all-party combined committee demanding the retention of Bagerhat’s four constituencies.

No long-haul or inter-district buses left Bagerhat’s Central Bus Terminal, but shops and businesses remained open. Motorcycles, battery-run three-wheelers and rickshaws continued to ply the highways and local roads.

Protesters will stage sit-ins today and tomorrow in front of the district and upazila election offices to press home their demand, said MA Salam, coordinator of the movement and former president of Bagerhat BNP.

As per the EC’s new gazette, the number of parliamentary constituencies there has been reduced to three from four.

(Our Faridpur and Bagerhat correspondents contributed to the report.)

We’re ready to scale up US imports

FROM PAGE 1
commitment to deepening bilateral relations with the US, particularly in trade, investment, energy and development cooperation.

“Thank you very much for the support. We are very happy about what has happened. This is key to our economy,” Prof Yunus said during a meeting with Assistant United States Trade Representative Brendan Lynch at the Chief Adviser’s Office in Tejgaon, Dhaka.

He was referring to the USTR’s recent decision – announced on July 31 – to lower the reciprocal tariff rate on Bangladeshi exports to the US from 35 percent to 20 percent, a move he described as a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations, said Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

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Iran must dismantle uranium prog: US

REUTERS, Vienna
Iran’s uranium-enrichment programme must be “completely dismantled”, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told the UN nuclear watchdog’s annual General Conference yesterday.

The US and Israel bombed Iran’s uranium-enrichment plants in June, arguing Iran was getting too close to being able to produce a nuclear weapon, even though the International Atomic Energy Agency that inspects

Iran’s nuclear facilities said it had no credible indication of a coordinated weapons programme.

The IAEA has, however, said it is concerned that Iran amassed an estimated 440.9 kg (972 lbs) of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, close to the roughly 90% of weapons grade. That is enough, if enriched further, for 10 nuclear bombs, according to an IAEA yardstick.

Iran’s enrichment plants were seriously damaged or destroyed in the

attacks. It is less clear what happened to its stock of enriched uranium. The IAEA has not been able to carry out verification inspections since the attacks.

“If it wasn’t already clear enough, I will restate the United States’ position on Iran,” Wright said in a speech to the meeting of all IAEA member states.

“Iran’s nuclear weapons pathway, including all (uranium) enrichment and (plutonium) reprocessing capabilities, must be completely dismantled.”

Use talent, creativity for nation's progress

CA urges the youths
STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the youths to use their talent, energy and creativity for the country's development, saying no problem will remain unsolved if they stay active and involved.

"May your success not be limited to personal achievements but also inspire others. I believe that if the youth are active, no problem of the country can remain unresolved," he said while addressing the Youth Volunteer Award 2025 ceremony at the Chief Adviser's Office, reports UNB.

A total of 12 volunteers received awards for their outstanding voluntary service and inspirational contributions to society.

The Ministry of Youth
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Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus with the recipients of the 'Youth Volunteer Award 2025' at a programme at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

MOVEMENT FOR PR Jamaat's threat part of plan to create chaos: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir

Rizvi yesterday said Jamaat-e-Islami's threat to launch a strong movement if their demand for proportional representation (PR) is not met is part of a plan to harm the nation by creating a disastrous situation.

"An Islamic party [Jamaat] has said in a press conference that it will launch a vigorous movement if their demand for proportional representation is not met. This, we believe, is a well-planned master plan that will benefit no one," he said.

Rizvi made the remarks after meeting cancer-affected Hefazat-e-Islam leader Maulana Enamul Hasan Faruqi and providing him with financial assistance at Jamia Madania Madrasa in Baridhara, Dhaka.

Over the past 16-17 years, BNP and many other political parties, including all Islamic parties, fought for democracy, but they didn't raise the issue of PR system at that time, said Rizvi.

The BNP leader questioned the motive behind Jamaat and other Islamist parties' sudden insistence on holding elections under the PR system, warning that it could mislead people.

No let-up in dengue woes

Death toll, number of cases continue to rise

HELEMUL ALAM

With five new dengue-related deaths reported yesterday, the nationwide toll this year has risen to 155, showing an alarming trend.

Of the deaths, 33 occurred in the first 14 days of September, compared to 39 deaths in August, 41 in July, 19 in June, three in May, seven in April, three in February, and 10 in January, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dhaka South City Corporation areas account for the highest number of deaths, with 78. Barishal and Chattogram divisions follow with 21 deaths each, while Dhaka North City Corporation has recorded 17 deaths.

In the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, at least 636 dengue patients were hospitalised. With the new cases, the total number of hospitalisations this year has reached 38,527, DGHS data shows.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said delayed hospitalisation, reduced concern about dengue compared to earlier years, not taking dengue as seriously as before, comorbidities, and referring patients to Dhaka hospitals are some of the key reasons for the rising number of deaths.

"Although dengue cases are slightly lower than in previous years, deaths are higher because people are paying less attention amid the presence of other viruses," he said.

Currently, four viral infections -- influenza, dengue, chikungunya, and Covid-19 -- are circulating in the country, according to medical experts.

"Many patients fail to recognise warning signs such as severe abdominal pain, difficulty

admission for elderly patients, those with comorbidities, and pregnant women to reduce risks. He also warned about cross-infection from different dengue serotypes, which can cause severe complications if treatment is delayed.

Explaining why DSCC hospitals report the highest number of deaths, Dr Ahsan said many critically ill patients are referred from outside Dhaka.

"They are infected outside the capital but die in Dhaka hospitals. Delays in referral are another major factor. A patient from Barishal or other districts may need several hours to reach Dhaka and another hour for admission. If the patient is already in shock, the delay can be fatal," he said.

He urged district-level hospitals to follow national dengue treatment guidelines and treat patients locally. "Only patients in severe condition should be transferred to Dhaka. Often, patients are referred prematurely out of fear, even when their condition isn't critical," he added.

Dr Ahsan stressed that patients in shock should only be transferred after initial stabilisation. "Unfortunately, many hospitals fail to do this, resulting in patients arriving in decompensated shock, resulting in higher death risks."

Public health expert Mohammad Mushtuq Husain echoed the call for earlier treatment and stronger local healthcare capacity.

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MONTH-WISE DEATH TOLL

September (till 14th): 33 deaths	May: 3 deaths
August: 39 deaths	April: 7 deaths
July: 41 deaths	February: 3 deaths
June: 19 deaths	January: 10 deaths

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Early admission
- Avoid referral delays
- Stabilise patients in shock
- Strengthen secondary care hospitals
- Raise awareness about warning signs
- Expand blood collection

breathing, bleeding, extreme fatigue, or a sharp drop in urination or platelet count. By the time they arrive at hospitals, their condition is often critical," Dr Ahsan explained.

He recommended early

DNCC to construct 3 bridges over Rampura canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation has begun construction of three bridges over the Rampura canal (Narai river) to ease communication between Aftabnagar and the Rampura-Banasree areas of the capital.

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz yesterday inaugurated the work by laying the foundation stone for the proposed bridges at a ceremony held at Aftabnagar Lakeview Road.

Once completed, two of the bridges will be opened for vehicular movement, while the other will serve as a pedestrian bridge.

Bangladesh Navy will provide technical assistance for the construction.

"Based on the long-standing demand of the people of Aftabnagar and Banasree, we have decided to build the bridges," Azaz said.

"In the future, traffic pressure in the Aftabnagar area will increase. These bridges are being built to handle that pressure. At the same time, to reduce traffic congestion in Rampura via Pragati Sarani and mitigate travel difficulties during the ongoing metro rail project, we have taken the initiative to construct these bridges," he said.

RU abuzz as electioneering begins ahead of Rucusu election

NUR AHSAN MRIDUL

The Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu), hall unions, and senate student representative elections have entered the campaign phase, with formal canvassing beginning yesterday.

From 10:00am, candidates started campaigning on campus in line with electoral rules, turning the university grounds into a festive space filled with students' voices.

The Rucusu election is scheduled to take place on September 25, with 28,905 registered voters -- 17,600 across 11 male halls and 11,305 across the six female halls.

On Sunday, the Election Commission published the final list of candidates.

As per the code of conduct, candidates may campaign from the announcement of the final list until 24 hours before voting day, between 10:00am and 10:00pm daily.

During a visit to the RU campus, candidates were seen distributing leaflets at Tuktuki Chatter, the Transport Market, and around academic buildings.

The handbills they distributed carried ballot numbers and pledges, with candidates appealing for support in the election. Students eagerly accepted the leaflets and shared their expectations with the aspirants.

Independent candidate Mahir Faisal, contesting for the post of Secretary of Environment and Social
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



CUCSU ELECTION Campaigns heat up CU campus

SM MAHFUJ AHMED

Chittagong University campus is abuzz with activities as the long-awaited Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections have been scheduled for October 12 after three decades of stalemate.

The atmosphere on CU campus has already turned festive, with major student organisations and independent aspirants racing to finalise panels and strategies.

Posters, banners, and slogans are filling both campus and social media ahead of the election.

At least eight panels are expected to contest the polls, alongside several independents.

Student groups including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Islami Chhatra Shibir, Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, Chhatra Union, and others have begun announcing slates and manifestos, focusing on transport crises, dormitory shortages, academic complications, and campus security.

Chhatra Odhikar Parishad has nominated Roman Rahman for Vice President under the banner "Cucusu for Rapid Change".

Islami Chhatra Shibir is preparing a panel inclusive of women, minorities, and injured students, while Islami Chhatra Andolon has declared a 28-member slate with Abdur Rahman Robin for VP and pledged to eliminate irregularities.

The Left Alliance (Droh Parishad), formed by
SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



US citizen remanded over 'conspiracy to oust interim government'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Enayet Karim Chowdhury, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, on a two-day remand in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Sub-Inspector Azizul Hakim of Ramna Model Police Station filed the case against the 55-year-old on Sunday, a day after his arrest in Dhaka for suspicious movements and alleged conspiracy to overthrow the interim government.

Enayet was arrested on September 13 under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from Dhaka's Minto Road. He was later produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka and sent to jail.

Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate
SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

MN Larma envisioned a pluralistic state

Speakers tell discussion marking his 86th birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said revolutionary leader Manabendra Narayan Larma (MN Larma), through his life and struggles, envisioned a pluralistic state, and his contributions remain relevant for building an inclusive state for all citizens of Bangladesh.

The programme was organised by the MN Larma 86th Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in Dhaka.

"If this state is to be built for all people, we must embody the life and struggles of MN Larma. Behind the phrase 'become Bangalee' lies the national ego of Bangalee Muslims," said Zakir Hossain, joint coordinator of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord Implementation Movement.

He said Larma fought for the right to live with dignity.

Researcher Pavel Partha said Larma was the first to scientifically identify the politics of self-identity in Bangladesh.

"He envisioned a pluralistic state and protested strongly against Bangalee hegemony. Even today, binary mindsets continue to dominate this country."

Dipayan Khisa of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) said Larma's activism began as a student protesting against the Kaptai Dam.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A makeshift three-wheeler emits black smoke as it illegally plies the Khulna-Satkhira highway, posing a serious threat to the environment and public health. Beside it is a rickshaw-van, which is also not permitted on highways. The photo was taken in Gutudia area yesterday.

3 of a family found dead in N'ganj flat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police recovered the bodies of a man, his wife, and their four-year-old son from a flat in Narayanganj city's Bhuiyapara area yesterday.

The deceased are Md Habibullah Shiplu, 35; his wife Mohini Akter Mim, 24; and their son Afran.

Police said Shiplu's body was found hanging from a ceiling fan, while the bodies of his wife and child were in the adjacent room with pillows pressed against their faces.

Locals broke into the flat around 5:30pm, with the family's relatives' permission, after finding the doors locked for hours, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Tarek Al Mehdi. Police then recovered the bodies.

Shiplu worked as a manager at a cooperative fund, Sommito Sanchoy Tohobil, which collapsed during the pandemic following alleged embezzlement by its director. While the director was later arrested and released on bail, Shiplu faced mounting pressure from depositors, said Md Nasir Ahmed, OC of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station.

He said Shiplu had been named in several cases filed by the depositors and appeared in court last week over a case.

Neighbours said the family had moved into the flat four months ago and had previously lived in nearby rental homes. "After the cooperative shut down, people used to come to Shiplu's home, asking him to return their money," said a woman living next door.

"Preliminary evidence suggests Shiplu may have suffocated his wife and child before taking his own life," said ASP Mehdi.



A schoolgirl, sheltered under her mother's scarf, returns home joyfully in the rain after classes yesterday. The photo was taken at Amanatganj intersection in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Two to die for rape, murder in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A Barishal tribunal has sentenced two men to death for raping and murdering a woman and later dumping her body in a canal in Hizla upazila in 2013.

Judge Md Rokibul Islam of the Barishal Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict in the presence of the convicts yesterday afternoon.

The convicts are Kabir Akon, 28, and Jabbar Bepari, 45 -- both residents of Purbokoralia village in Hizla upazila.

According to the prosecution, on July 28, 2013, the victim was on her way home when the convicts ambushed her, took her to a nearby garden and raped her. They later killed her and dumped the body in the Shilnia canal after tying her hands and feet.

Following the incident, the victim's uncle, Moktar Hossain, filed a murder case with Hizla Police Station on July 30, 2013.

Police initially arrested Kabir Akon based on local witnesses' accounts. After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against the two accused.

The court delivered the judgement after recording testimonies of 18 witnesses.

US citizen remanded over

FROM PAGE 3

Atiqur Rahman granted the remand after police produced Enayet before the court with a 10 day remand prayer, said a court staffer.

According to the case statement, "During primary interrogation, Enayet confessed that he came to Bangladesh as an agent of a foreign intelligence agency, with the objective of overthrowing the present interim government. This claim was initially supported by data found in the seized mobile phones from his possession."

It further said, "He is a US passport holder. He went to the US in 1988 and obtained a passport in 2004. When questioned about his Bangladeshi passport, he claimed that he lost it after moving to the US and currently does not possess any Bangladeshi passport or NID."

Investigators analysing two seized mobile phones found that Enayet arrived in Dhaka on September 6 at 9:50am. "He himself claimed to be a contract agent of a particular foreign intelligence agency," the case statement said.

The statement added, "He [Enayet] said he came to Bangladesh to replace the current government with either a national government or a caretaker government. He stayed at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on September 6 and 7. During this time, he held secret meetings with several senior government policymakers, influential leaders of political parties, and business leaders."

The statement also said, "Enayet further claimed that he collected information on the positions of senior government and non-government officials, as well as political

leaders, and handed such information over to different intelligence agencies."

"The accused, along with unidentified others, secretly conspired and held consultations with leaders of marginalised political parties, senior government and non-government officials, and business elites, with the aim of ousting the government by creating public unrest, spreading panic among citizens, and causing damage to state property through public protests," it added.

RU abuzz as electioneering

FROM PAGE 3

Welfare, was seen campaigning at Tuktuki Chattar alongside his wife. "I'm contesting independently, without any political backing. If students find me worthy, I believe they'll vote for me. I'm hopeful about my chances," he told The Daily Star.

Independent candidate Nisha Akhter, vying for the post of Women's Affairs Secretary, was spotted distributing leaflets. "Please keep me in your prayers. I am running for the Women's Affairs Secretary position," she said while approaching students.

Meanwhile, allegations of violating the code of conduct have also surfaced. Such an allegation was

raised against Nafiu Jibon, general secretary candidate from the Chhatra Dal panel. He was accused of campaigning inside a classroom.

Denying the allegation, Nafiu Jibon said, "I entered the classroom only to talk to first year students of my department. At first, I wanted to meet them outside. But due to the inclement weather, I met them inside instead. However, there was no discussion regarding any campaign."

According to the commission, a total of 903 candidates are contesting this year -- 248 for the central union, 58 for the senate, and 597 across 17 residential halls.

For the top three posts in

the central students' union, 18 candidates are running for vice president (VP), 13 for general secretary (GS), and 16 for assistant general secretary (AGS).

In the hall elections, 61 candidates are vying for VP, 58 for GS, and 57 for AGS. In the six women's halls, 16 candidates each are contesting for VP and GS, while 15 are in the race for AGS.

Use talent

FROM PAGE 3

and Sports organised the event, where the youths were awarded in five categories.

Among the awardees was Afida Khondokar, captain of the Bangladesh women's national football team, reports BSS.

Addressing the programme, Yunus said young people should become pioneers of new policies, innovative ideas, and social transformation, adding that their collective efforts will enable Bangladesh to stand tall as a developed, humane, and innovative country.

He also congratulated the award winners.

"New challenges will constantly come our way -- from public health crises to educational barriers and environmental disasters. But instead of getting discouraged, we must face them unitedly with our strength. I hope our youth will lead in this work too," he said.

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Secretary Md Mahubul-Ul-Alam, and award winner Suraiya Farhana Reshma also spoke at the event.

Campaigns heat up

FROM PAGE 3

Chhatra Front and Chhatra Union, named Rijju Laxmi Aborodh for vice president and Ifaz Uddin Ahmed for general secretary.

The Democratic Student Alliance is finalising its list, with president Dhruvo Barua confirming preparations.

Chhatra Dal, initially undecided, has now collected nomination papers, while BGCS leaders Muntasir Mahmud, Al Masnun, and Sultanul Arefin are likely contenders.

Several independents, many of them having actively participated in

the July uprising, are also preparing to contest the polls.

Mahfuzur Rahman, an independent aspirant for the VP post, said, "Our panel will represent frontline activists from the July Uprising, including injured students and women representatives." Rashid Dinar is expected to contest for GS from the panel.

According to the election schedule, nomination forms have been available since September 14. So far, 169 students collected forms -- 97 from the central office, 26 from male halls, and 46 from female halls.

No let-up in dengue

FROM PAGE 3

He stressed strengthening secondary care hospitals for vulnerable groups such as elderly patients, infants, and those with comorbidities so they can be stabilised before being referred to tertiary hospitals.

He also urged awareness campaigns to encourage people to use free dengue

testing facilities provided by city corporations. He also recommended expanding blood collection centres and secondary care facilities to ease pressure on medical college hospitals.

Mushtuq emphasised the need for year-round, community-driven cleaning efforts to control mosquito breeding.

PRAYER TIMING					
SEPTEMBER 16					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45	
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:15	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MN Larma envisioned

FROM PAGE 3

"He spoke about inclusivity and equality even during the 1972 constitution-making process. He was right then, and he is right now. Yet neither the Constitutional Reform Commission nor the National Consensus Commission has engaged with indigenous peoples in dialogue," he said.

Mainthin Promila of the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum said, "Larma always spoke for the neglected and marginalised, and called for an exploitation-free Bangladesh after independence. But today the people of Bangladesh themselves overlook him."

Journalist Ehsan

Mahmud criticised branding Larma as separatist.

Ang Shwe Sing Marma of the Bangladesh Marma Students' Council said, "Larma's vision is relevant not only to the hills but across Bangladesh. Even after 27 years, the core provisions of the CHT Peace Accord remain unimplemented. Indigenous issues must be seen through indigenous lenses, not majority lenses."

The event also featured poetry recitations in honour of Larma and a reading of his biography. Leaders of various indigenous student and youth organisations expressed solidarity with the programme.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1635 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mrs. Zakia Rouf Chowdhury, Managing Director, Metro Foils Limited
-Versus-
RJSC and another

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Sections 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rules 8 & 263 of the Companies Rule, 2009 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of respondent No.2 Company has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohail was pleased to admit the application on 01.09.2025. Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Sheikh Sohail Mahmud)

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Sohail & Associates, Suite# 14-B, Tropicana Tower (14th Floor)
45, Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000. Mobile No. 01711-356191.

ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণের দরপত্র আহ্বান

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর ২০২৬ সালের ওয়াল ও ডেক ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণ, বাঁধাই ও সরবরাহের জন্য ক্যালেন্ডার ছাপানোর পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত মুদ্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ থেকে নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ	সিডিউলের মূল্য
ওয়াল ও ডেক ক্যালেন্ডার- ২০২৬	১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২৫ থেকে ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২৫ পর্যন্ত	ট ১,৫০০/-

নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় কেন্দ্রীয় হিসাব বিভাগ (১১তম তলা) থেকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত সময় অনুযায়ী দরপত্র গ্রহণ এবং খোলা হবে। উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৫% হারে জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে কোম্পানী বাধ্য নয় এবং যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার কোম্পানী সংরক্ষণ করে।

সংস্থাপন বিভাগ

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
ডেল্টা লাইফ টাওয়ার, প্লট-৩৭, রোড-৯০, গুলশান-২,
ঢাকা-১২১২, ফোন: ০৯৬১ ৩৬৬০০০ এক্স ৪৩২

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

Request for Quotation: Automated Audit Tool Solution for BRAC Bank PLC.

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to Individuals as well as business entities with a network of 191 Branches, 100 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking a vendor to provide an Automated Audit Tool Solution for BRAC Bank PLC.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission has been issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ, along with details of the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website:

<https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to participate in the RFQ as per the mentioned bidding process.



Bangladesh Bank

(Central Bank of Bangladesh)

Head Office

Motijheel, Dhaka-1000

Bangladesh

Website: www.bb.org.bd

Extension of Application Deadline for Establishment of Digital Bank

Reference is hereby made to the advertisement published on 26 August 2025 by Bangladesh Bank inviting applications for the establishment of Digital Bank(s).

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the deadline for submission of applications has been extended up to 02 November 2025.

Accordingly, applications must be submitted to the address mentioned below, same in the original advertisement, during office hours within 02 November 2025. Applicants are also required to submit all relevant documents (soft copy) to the email address: apply.db@bb.org.bd.

For other details, terms and conditions, please refer to the original advertisement and the GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH DIGITAL BANK, Version-2, available on the Bangladesh Bank website: <https://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/guidelist>.

Md. Bayazid Sarker

Director (BRPD)

Banking Regulation and Policy Department

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office

Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Tel: +88-02-9530252

Email: gm.brpd@bb.org.bd

যাচাই ও স্বাক্ষর করা পূর্বে ব্যক্তিগত নথি রাখুন।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Controller of Stores (East)
Bangladesh Railway
CRB, Chattogram-4000
www.railway.gov.bd
Ref. No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02 Dated: 11-09-2025

e-Tender Notice

The Controller of Stores (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram has invited e-Tenders through National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from the Eligible and Qualified Potential Tenderers for the following procurements:

S. No.	Tender ID/Package No.	Procurement Nature/Title	Procurement Method (Type)	Publication and closing date
1	1142026, EB-6/109/006/25	Procurement of Magnesium Oxy-Chloride composition (Flooring Composition)	OSTETM (NCT)	15-Sep-2025 11:00:00 14-Oct-2025 12:00:00
2	1142050, EB-6/109/005/25	Procurement of Magnesium Oxy-Chloride Composition (Cry steel).	OSTETM (NCT)	15-Sep-2025 11:00:00 14-Oct-2025 12:00:00
3	1142053, GB-10/120/009/25	Procurement of Oil Cleaner as per specification (Magnus) No. 755 or equivalent).	OSTETM (NCT)	15-Sep-2025 12:00:00 21-Oct-2025 14:30:00
4	1142054, GB-10/120/007/25	Procurement of Fire clay.	OTM (NCT)	15-Sep-2025 10:00:00 07-Oct-2025 12:00:00

Note:
1. Only electronic tenders in e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) shall be accepted and evaluated.
2. Manual/hard copy of tender shall not be acceptable.
3. All interested suppliers are requested to participate in e-Tenders.
4. All suppliers enlisted in COS (E), CRB, Chattogram office are requested to complete their user registration in the e-GP System of the government without any delay. More e-Tenders are coming soon.
5. For more information regarding user registration, they may contact with e-GP helpdesk of CPTU (24/7 open).
6. Help Desk Phone: +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529, +8801762625530, +8801762625531;
Help Desk e-mail: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd

এস (২৫) (৫১)

Engr. Md. Rabid Hossain
Controller of Stores (East) (Adl. Charge)
01711-691652
coso@railway.gov.bd

Indian forces gun down top Maoist rebels

AFP, New Delhi

Indian security forces killed a top Maoist commander and two other rebels in a gun battle yesterday, officials said, as the government intensifies efforts to crush the decades-long conflict.

India is waging an all-out offensive against the last remaining traces of the Naxalite rebellion.

The latest gun battle took place early yesterday in Jharkhand, India's Central Reserve Police Force said in a statement.

Three "top Naxal commanders" were killed in the fight, the CRPF said, including Sahdev Soren, who was part of the central committee of the Maoist organisation. Authorities had issued a bounty of around \$13,000 for his capture.

More than 12,000 rebels, soldiers and civilians have been killed since a handful of villagers rose up against their feudal lords there in 1967.



An aerial view shows folk dancers adorning traditional clothes as they perform 'Garba' during a rehearsal ahead of the Hindu festival of Navaratri in India's Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel is trying to make Gaza City unliveable

Says top UN expert Francesca Albanese, accuses int'l community of complicity

REUTERS, Geneva

The top UN expert on Palestinian rights, Francesca Albanese, said Israel was trying to make Gaza City unliveable in its assault on the enclave's largest urban area and was endangering the lives of Israeli hostages.

"Israel is bombing using unconventional weapons ... it is trying to forcibly evacuate Palestinians. Why? This is the last piece of Gaza that needs to be rendered unliveable before advancing the ethnic cleansing of that piece of land," Albanese told reporters in Geneva.

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN rejected Albanese's comments.

"Her numerous statements have showcased her willingness to go to extreme lengths in (the) delegitimization of the State of Israel," the Mission said in a statement.

"According to her, Hamas doesn't embed itself in civilian infrastructure, doesn't cynically use civilians as human shields, and generally doesn't really exist," it added.

Israel says the offensive to take control of Gaza City is part of a plan to defeat Palestinian militant group Hamas for good and that it has warned

civilians to head south to a designated humanitarian zone.

However, the UN and numerous countries say its tactics amount to forced mass displacement and that conditions in the humanitarian zone are dire, with food in short supply.

Italian lawyer Albanese serves as a special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, one of dozens of experts appointed by the 47-member UN Human Rights Council to report on specific global issues.

"The ongoing assault to take the last remnant of Gaza will not only devastate the Palestinians but endanger also the remaining Israeli hostages," Albanese said.

She accused Israel of genocide and said the international community was complicit.

The nearly two-year campaign in the Palestinian enclave has killed nearly 65,000 people, according to local authorities.

Some rights groups like Amnesty International have also accused Israel of committing genocide, but not the United Nations itself. UN officials have in the past said it is up to international courts to determine genocide.

Will go after states which takes our assets: Russia

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia yesterday warned it would go after any European state that sought to take its assets after reports that the European Union is looking for new ways to leverage hundreds of billions of dollars of frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine.

"If this happens, Russia will pursue the EU states, as well as European degenerates from Brussels and individual EU countries who try to seize our property, until the end of the century," former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram.

Russia will pursue European states in "all possible ways" and in "all possible international and national courts" as well as "out of court," said Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council.

Russia says any seizure of its assets amounts to theft by the West and will undermine confidence in the bonds and currencies of the US and Europe.

World fishing deal comes into effect

REUTERS, Geneva

A landmark agreement to curb billions of dollars in subsidies contributing to overfishing came into force yesterday, the World Trade Organization said -- a move activists hailed as a step towards helping global fish stocks recover.

It was the first agreement to take effect at the WTO since 2017 after years of stalled debates and fighting, on top of a surge in US tariffs that left some critics asking whether the Geneva-based body had a future.

The formal ratification by Brazil, Kenya, Tonga and Vietnam yesterday meant the deal, first agreed in 2022, now had the required support of two-thirds of members, a WTO



spokesperson said.

Governments are now prohibited from providing subsidies for overfished stocks and for fishing in international waters beyond their jurisdiction. Poorer states will be able to access a fund to help ease them into the deal.

"Fish stocks around the world will

have a chance to recover, befitting local fishers who depend on a healthy ocean," Megan Jungwittanaporn from the Pew Charitable Trusts said.

Governments around the world pay out roughly \$35.4 billion annually to their fishing fleets, including fuel handouts that allow them to fish in distant oceans, a 2019 study in Marine Policy showed. It listed the top five subsidisers as China, the EU, the United States, South Korea and Japan -- though not all of them are within the scope of the WTO deal.

The first part of the agreement that came into force on Monday took more than 20 years of negotiations and will expire in four years if more comprehensive rules are not agreed.



Francesca Albanese, UN expert on Palestinian rights, said Israel was trying to make Gaza City unliveable in its assault on the enclave's largest urban area and was endangering the lives of Israeli hostages.

Career Opportunity



Amendment of Advertisement Ref: 30.34.0000.073.29.000.25.559 Date: 10-09-2025
Published on 11-09-2025.

Ref: 30.34.0000.073.29.000.25.572 Date: 15 September 2025
Join our Senior Management Team as Director Finance

Are you a strategic financial leader ready to make a significant impact? Biman Bangladesh Airlines is seeking a **Director Finance** to join our dynamic team and help us soar to new heights.

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স্মারক নং- ২৭.৭১.০০০০.০০২.০২.১১২.২৪-৭৯২ তারিখ: ৩১ ভাদ্র ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ।
২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ খ্রি.

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের আওতাধীন পাওয়ার সেলের বিভিন্ন প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে ক্রয়কৃত ০৪ (চার) টি পাড়া "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় রয়েছে" সে অবস্থায় ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃত পাড়া ব্যবসায়ী/পাড়া সরবরাহ/পাড়া সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/যে কোন ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বা হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদধারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত তফসিল অনুযায়ী শর্তসাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরসহ প্রার্থীরা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো।

তফসিল "ক" (পাড়ার প্রকৃতি, নম্বর ও অবস্থান ইত্যাদি)

ক্র.নং	পাড়ার প্রকৃতি	পাড়ার নম্বর	সন	পাড়ার অবস্থান
১)	মাইক্রোবাস	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-৫১-০৯৯৭	১৯৯৬	কেন্দ্রীয় ভান্ডার, বিউবো, ঢাকা, পাজিপুর।
২)	মাইক্রোবাস	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-৫১-০৯৯৯	১৯৯৬	কেন্দ্রীয় ভান্ডার, বিউবো, ঢাকা, পাজিপুর।
৩)	কার	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-১১-৭৮৪৭	১৯৯৬	গুয়াপদা ভবন, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
৪)	জীপ	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-১১-২৩৮৭	১৯৯৭	কেন্দ্রীয় ভান্ডার, বিউবো, ঢাকা, পাজিপুর।

তফসিল "খ"

১)	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ:	বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ, বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২)	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদানকারীর দপ্তর:	মহাপরিচালক, পাওয়ার সেল, বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (১৪ তলা), নবাব আব্দুল গনি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৩)	দরপত্র সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)
৪)	দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য:	নগদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা প্রতি পাড়ার জন্য (অফেরৎ যোগ্য)।
৫)	দরপত্রের বিবরণ:	বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ কর্তৃক পণ্ডিত কমিটির মাধ্যমে অফেরৎ যোগ্য প্রকল্পের ০৪ (চার) টি পাড়া নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র আহ্বান।
৬)	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তি ও জমাদানের স্থান:	পরিচালক (ম্যানেজমেন্ট), পাওয়ার সেল, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (১৪ তলা), নবাব আব্দুল গনি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৭)	সিকিউরিটি/জামানত:	প্রস্তাবিত দরের ১০% "মহাপরিচালক, পাওয়ার সেল" এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট হিসেবে দরপত্রপ্রার্থীর সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৮)	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা:	জনাব এ.জে.এম. এরশাদ আহসান হাবিব, মহাপরিচালক, পাওয়ার সেল, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (১৪ তলা), নবাব আব্দুল গনি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ০২-২২৩৩৮৬০৪০ E-mail: dg@powercell.gov.bd
৯)	যে কোন প্রয়োজনে:	ফোন: ০২-২২৩৩৮৬০৪০, ২২৩৩৪০১২৫, ২২৩৩৪২৩০৮ মোবাইল: ০২৫২২-৩৩১৯২৭
১০)	অন্যান্য:	প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলি সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।

তফসিল "প" (দরপত্র গ্রহণ, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও স্থান)

পর্যায়ে	দরপত্র বিক্রয় পুরুর তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ সময় ও তারিখ	দরপত্রের খাম উন্মুক্তকরণের সময় ও তারিখ	মন্তব্য
১ম পর্যায়ে	১৬/০৯/২০২৫ সময়: ১২:০০ ঘটিকা	৩০/০৯/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:০০ ঘটিকা	৩০/০৯/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:৩০ ঘটিকা	যে পর্যায়ে দরপত্র পূহিত হবে তার পরবর্তী পর্যায়ের বর্ণিত তফসিল বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
২য় পর্যায়	০৪/১০/২০২৫ সময়: ১২:০০ ঘটিকা	২০/১০/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:৩০ ঘটিকা	২০/১০/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:৩০ ঘটিকা	
৩য় পর্যায়	২২/১০/২০২৫ সময়: ১২:০০ ঘটিকা	০৬/১১/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:৩০ ঘটিকা	০৬/১১/২০২৫ সময়: ০৩:৩০ ঘটিকা	

দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বর্ণিত রয়েছে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাঠে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলি ও অধ্যাদি এই নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তির অংশ হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(এ.জে.এম. এরশাদ আহসান হাবিব)
মুদ্রাসচিব, বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ ও মহাপরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)
ফোন: ২২৩৩৮৬০৪০
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A shocking revelation

How did fake names enter the July martyrs' list?

Having seen over the decades how those in charge have botched the list of Bangladesh's freedom fighters, leading to the frequent inclusion of "fake" beneficiaries and exclusion of genuine candidates, it shouldn't come as a surprise that a similar botchwork is in play with the listing of July uprising martyrs. Yet, it surprises us. The preparation of such a high-impact list under a political government may lend itself to politicisation and exploitation, but a non-political administration should, ideally, be able to handle it more efficiently. Sadly, nothing has been ideal about it so far, as per an investigative report by Prothom Alo.

The report reveals that of the 834 individuals currently listed as martyrs, at least 52 do not meet the legal definition of a July martyr. The July Uprising Martyr Families and July Warriors Welfare and Rehabilitation Ordinance, 2025 clearly states that only those killed by state security forces or ruling party affiliates during the uprising would qualify as a martyr. But the current list includes 35 people who died in arson-related fires, three in road accidents, two from illness, one from electrocution, and several killed in personal disputes or clashes unrelated to the uprising. Even three policemen, one Chhatra League leader, and even one person who attacked the protesters have been added to the roll of honour.

The absurdity of this situation becomes further evident when you consider that five of the names belong to individuals who died after the Awami League government's fall on August 5. Many of the families Prothom Alo spoke with admitted that their relatives did not die from injuries caused by atrocities during the uprising, but they received benefits anyway. Some even confessed that they enlisted their names to access government compensation. As we know, each listed martyr's family is entitled to a lump sum of Tk 30 lakh, including through savings certificates. There is also a monthly stipend of Tk 20,000, and the prospect of getting flats in Dhaka. The allure of these provisions has clearly created avenues for abuse and deception.

Needless to say, this undermines the credibility of the entire exercise, stripping a solemn state recognition of its sanctity. The question is, how could such glaring discrepancies slip through the vetting process by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, particularly the Directorate of July Mass Uprising? This cannot be a simple clerical mistake; it points to the complicity of corrupt officials and the manoeuvring of political opportunists. Apparently, the government has instructed deputy commissioners (DCs) to re-verify the list, but such reactive measures cannot undo the damage already caused, nor do they absolve those responsible for trivialising the sacrifices of the true martyrs.

We urge the government to immediately suspend all benefits to disputed names until proper verification is completed. Independent committees must be formed to ensure thorough re-vetting, and the updated list must be published with case details to restore public confidence. The July uprising is a watershed event in our history, and to taint its legacy with a manipulated list would be a betrayal to those who truly fell for freedom.

Why are women falling behind?

Survey raises concerns about women's labour force participation

We are deeply concerned by the declining participation of women in the labour force, as found in the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' (BBS) Labour Force Survey 2024. The survey reveals that our labour force shrank by 17 lakh in just one year, with women accounting for most of it. In 2024, the total labour force stood at 7.17 crore, down from 7.34 crore in 2023. This is particularly alarming because between 2010 and 2023, the labour force had grown by over 1.6 crore, driven largely by increased female participation, which rose from 1.72 crore in 2010 to 2.53 crore in 2023. However, this upward trend has now reversed. While male participation remained relatively stable at 4.8 crore in 2024, compared to 4.81 crore the previous year, female participation dropped significantly from 2.53 crore to 2.37 crore, which deserves scrutiny by our policymakers.

According to experts, although the economy is gradually shifting away from agriculture, this transformation hasn't led to better employment opportunities for women. Women's participation in urban, semi-skilled, and formal jobs has also not seen much improvement over the years. Economists have opined that one major reason behind this decline is the slow pace of job creation or "jobless growth." According to them, despite periods of high GDP growth, Bangladesh has failed to generate enough decent jobs to lift people out of poverty. Needless to say, scarcity of job opportunities has affected women disproportionately.

Reportedly, shrinking employment opportunities in manufacturing may be behind the decline in urban labour force participation among less-educated women. In industries like garments, automation and advanced technologies have already reduced the number of jobs available to women. Therefore, to stay competitive, women now need more skills and training. Moreover, in rural areas, women are facing significant barriers to entrepreneurship, such as limited access to capital, markets, and information. Government support for them also remains inadequate. For women with higher levels of education, the picture is even more complex. Limited availability of jobs matching their aspirations, lack of supportive infrastructure like childcare, and deep-rooted societal norms all contribute to their limited participation in the workforce.

To reverse the trend, the government must urgently implement bold, coordinated reforms and introduce inclusive policies. For educated urban women, more opportunities must be created in modern service sectors such as education, healthcare, finance, and hospitality. Removing persistent gender inequalities in the job sector is also crucial to achieve progress. Without meaningful actions, women will continue to fall behind, the poverty rate will increase, and Bangladesh's future development will be at risk.

Lessons from Bangladesh and Nepal's youth uprisings

MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.



FAHMIDA KHATUN

The recent political development in Nepal reflects a broader political pattern emerging across South Asia. After Sri Lanka and Bangladesh experienced similar unrest in 2022 and 2024, respectively, Nepal has now joined the list of countries where public dissatisfaction and anger, particularly among the youth, escalated into mass mobilisation, leading to the removal of governments.

Nepal's current political upheaval stems from a mix of structural, economic, social, and governance issues. Slow economic progress, high unemployment, and limited opportunities have left many young people feeling frustrated and disillusioned. Furthermore, inflation and rising living costs have worsened their economic and social crises. The youth have also felt excluded from

However, despite these institutional adjustments, stable governance remained elusive. Since 2008, Nepal has seen change in governments 14 times, with none completing its full term. One reason for this is the country's proportional representation electoral system, which often prevents any single party from securing an outright majority. Coalition governments, although theoretically more inclusive, have proven fragile, prone to internal divisions, and have been unable to implement long-term policy agendas.

This led to the youth-led protests that resulted in the resignation of the former government, marking a significant turning point in Nepalese politics. The protest amplified the voices of young people through social media and enabled swift mobilisation.

to the streets to demand change. The rise of youth-led political activism in South Asia has important implications for countries worldwide.

It challenges the notion that political stability relies solely on institutional inertia or elite control. Today, a highly connected and knowledgeable youth group can put considerable pressure on governments. These

election timeline. This difference reflects variations in strategic choices. Nepal's approach indicates an understanding that political uncertainty can be economically and socially destabilising. This was not the case in Bangladesh initially, as the interim government felt that reforms would require a reasonable amount of time, and the country could consider



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh's youth, too, led mass demonstrations last year, challenging political complacency and corruption and ousting the Hasina regime.



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

The youth-led protest in Nepal resulted in the resignation of the government, marking a significant turning point in the country's politics.

the benefits of national development, which have concentrated among the few. They noted widespread corruption among political elites. The perception that elite capture of public resources has created mistrust in political institutions, leading many Nepalis, including the youth, to believe that political leaders are more focused on their personal and partisan interests than on the country's welfare.

On the political front, Nepal's political landscape has been characterised by turmoil, fractured party politics, and frequent government changes for decades. This has increased distrust and concern among the people, especially the younger generation, who called for responsive and transparent governance. Since adopting the 1990 constitution, which introduced a multiparty parliamentary system in Nepal, the country has experimented with various governance forms, shifting from a constitutional monarchy to a federal democratic republic.

As in other countries, the internet has fostered collective action on an unprecedented scale. The grievances rapidly turned into nationwide protests.

The unrest in Nepal reflects broader regional trends. In Sri Lanka, large-scale protests against economic mismanagement and corruption led to the resignation of the then president. In Bangladesh, youth-led mass demonstrations challenged political complacency and corruption. Moreover, beyond South Asia, Indonesia has recently experienced violent protests against government corruption and proposed legislation, which is perceived to have threatened democratic principles.

Nepal's case presents several common threads: a politically aware youth population, significant economic discontent, widespread corruption, and governance failures that neglect the needs of citizens. When governments seem indifferent and unresponsive, young people take

events underscore the risk of political instability in developing economies, where high youth unemployment and inequality persist. Governments that ignore the voices of young citizens may face a sudden loss of legitimacy, as witnessed in Nepal and Bangladesh.

The uprisings also highlight the transformative influence of social media and digital mobilisation in shaping political outcomes. Policymakers worldwide must recognise that information flows, online activism, and digital solidarity networks can accelerate political crises or enable swift reform movements. In fact, governments are scared of the power of social media, which is reflected in their attempts to shut down social media during such protests. This has been observed both in Bangladesh and Nepal.

The South Asian experience also underscores a universal need for accountability, transparency, and inclusion. Political legitimacy is increasingly reliant on governments delivering tangible results for citizens, rather than merely holding office. Youth-led protests serve as a benchmark of unmet social and economic expectations. Countries worldwide can take note that proactively engaging younger generations through education, employment, political participation, and governance reforms is crucial to preventing unrest.

It is also worth noting the similarities and differences between Nepal's and Bangladesh's recent political upheavals and their aftermath. In Nepal, the interim government's quick decision to hold elections within six months demonstrates a focus on political legitimacy and stability. In contrast, Bangladesh's interim government prioritised institutional reforms before elections, leading to a longer electoral process, and took quite a while to announce a specific

an election only after implementing some crucial reforms.

Interim governments in both Nepal and Bangladesh face the complex challenge of balancing political legitimacy, administrative continuity, and electoral preparation. Nepal's interim administration has chosen an assertive approach, announcing elections within six months. This strategy aims to restore democratic legitimacy swiftly, even if the resulting government is likely to be short-lived due to the political dynamics. The decision reflects an implicit understanding that legitimacy stems not only from procedural correctness, but also from the timely conduct of elections that enable citizens to choose their representatives directly.

Although Bangladesh has made some improvements in a few economic indicators since the July 2024 upheaval, much more needs to be done to improve the economic conditions of the general public. The delay in elections and incomplete implementation of reforms have held back private and foreign investment. The youth, whose activism played a crucial role in the previous government's downfall, are yet to be meaningfully engaged in the economy through employment. Bangladesh now faces a paradoxical situation. While governance reforms aim to boost credibility and legitimacy, the delay in elections has created an environment where economic confidence is muted. Investors remain cautious due to the absence of political predictability, a weak law and order situation, and the fact that the youth's expectations for job creation are largely unmet. This delay risks undermining the momentum of the youth movement that sparked the government change. And prolonged uncertainty can lead to disillusionment and social frustration.

Why our public buildings no longer reflect who we are

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



MARUF AHMED

When I hear debates about rewriting the constitution, I cannot help but feel that the crisis is deeper than legal amendments; it is about the metaphysical foundation of our people, our collective memory and place. Institutions no longer reflect who we are. Laws are written and rewritten, monuments renamed, yet the void remains. The disillusionment after last year's uprising feels less like a political disappointment and more like an existential rupture, because when the forms of a nation, whether in law or in architecture, cease to embody the patterns of belonging, they lose their meaning.

I see this estrangement most

clearly in our buildings. Modernism in Bangladesh was once more than just buildings to live in; it was an attempt to be metaphysically modern, to give shape to memory and aspiration at a moment when we were searching for our future. Public buildings were imagined as vessels of our identity, but they no longer speak to us. The ministries, courts, and city halls of today stand like fortresses, detached from the lives they are meant to serve, and even monuments raised in the name of memory feel like frozen gestures rather than living presences. This is why I think our architecture mirrors our politics. Just as architecture has slipped into

technocratic utility, politics has collapsed into performance. The constitution is fought over as if it were only words, not the living covenant of a people. Buildings are erected as if they were only structures, not cultural expressions. In both cases, the dialogue with the psyche has been severed.

That is why Muzharul Islam's idea of a "return home" continues to resonate with me. When Muzharul Islam spoke of it, he was not calling for nostalgia but for a return to the psychic ground of the Bangalee people. A constitution can only endure if it grows out of that ground, just as a building can only be alive if it embodies cultural memory. Without this return, reform is cosmetic and buildings are lifeless shells. The July uprising, in its fury and its hope, revealed how hungry people are for recognition. They wanted more than new laws; they wanted forms in which they could see themselves reflected. Yet, that hunger remains unanswered because reform has been treated as a surface adjustment rather than a metaphysical renewal. I feel this every time I walk past a government building

that does not belong to me, every time I hear promises of reform that never touch the ground of our being.

To me, architecture offers a lesson for politics. A parliament should feel like a courtyard where people gather, a library should carry the intimacy of a veranda, and a city square should echo the openness of a field. These are not sentimental images but metaphysical necessities; they are how a people recognise themselves in their forms. Without recognition, law and architecture both fail. Bangladesh cannot keep building its future on estrangement. To rewrite the constitution without returning to the psychic ground of its people is to invite another cycle of disillusionment, and to keep raising buildings that serve but do not speak is to deepen alienation. What we need is a return home, not to the past but to the ground of our being, where form and life are reconciled, where law finds conscience and space finds psyche. Without that return, both our politics and our architecture will remain uninhabited, like shells abandoned on the shore.

China's strategic edge as rare minerals emerge as a geopolitical currency



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HUSSAIN A SAMAD

In a world increasingly driven by technology and green energy, a seemingly obscure group of 17 metallic elements known as rare earths has quietly become one of the most critical resources on the planet. From smartphones and computers to electric vehicles and advanced military hardware, these elements are the invisible enablers of modern life. Yet, despite their name, their scarcity isn't due to a lack of abundance within the Earth's crust, but rather the rarity of economically viable concentrations needed for mining and processing.

In a stunning display of strategic foresight on one side and a complete lack of it on the other, the global rare earth market has become a high-stakes game of Monopoly, where one country holds all the winning cards—that is China. While the rest of the developed world was busy outsourcing its manufacturing and bemoaning the environmental impact of digging up obscure minerals, China was quietly cornering the market on the very materials that power our "green" future and our "smart" gadgets.

The story of China's rare earth dominance is a masterclass in long-term planning, contrasted with the West's penchant for short-term profits. Back in the 1980s, while Western nations like the US were struggling to keep mines like California's Mountain Pass open because they were too costly and messy, China's then leader Deng Xiaoping famously declared, "The Middle East has oil; China has rare earths." It was a quote that should have been a screaming headline, but instead, it was treated like a footnote.

And so, China went to work. It poured state money into developing the complex and often dirty process of separating and refining these 17 elements. The result? Today, China doesn't just dominate mining; it controls an overwhelming majority of the world's

processing capacity. The West, in its infinite wisdom, happily bought the raw materials from China and then, for a truly mind-boggling second act, shipped them back to China for processing.

This near monopoly extends beyond just light rare earths; China controls a staggering portion of the refining for the heavy rare earths like dysprosium and terbium, which are essential for high-performance magnets that can operate at high temperatures. In terms of global production, while its share of mining has fluctuated, China still accounted for an impressive 70 percent of global production of rare earth minerals in 2023. Other producers, such as the US (11.6 percent in 2024) and Myanmar (7.97 percent in 2024), play a role but they lack the comprehensive processing infrastructure that China has built over decades.

The story of China's rare earth dominance is a masterclass in long-term planning, contrasted with the West's penchant for short-term profits. Back in the 1980s, while Western nations like the US were struggling to keep mines like California's Mountain Pass open because they were too costly and messy, China's then leader Deng Xiaoping famously declared, 'The Middle East has oil; China has rare earths.' It was a quote that should have been a screaming headline, but instead, it was treated like a footnote.

So, why did the world become so dependent on these materials? Rare earth elements have unique magnetic, fluorescent, and catalytic properties that make them indispensable in much of modern technology. For instance, the element neodymium is a key ingredient in the world's strongest permanent magnets, which are essential for the compact, powerful motors in electric vehicles (EVs) and the massive generators in wind turbines. These magnets



A mining machine is seen at the Bayan Obo mine containing rare earth minerals, in Inner Mongolia, China.
FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

have enabled both the miniaturisation of technology and the efficiency of clean energy.

Lanthanum, on the other hand, is used to make lenses in phone cameras distortion-free, while yttrium and europium phosphors create the vibrant colours on LED screens. As the global push for a sustainable future accelerates, so too does the demand for these elements. From guided missiles and fighter jets to advanced radar and sonar systems, rare earths are crucial for military hardware, too. The US Department of Defense has identified this dependency as a critical national security risk.

The irony is that as the West championed the shift to a green economy, it was simultaneously strengthening China's control over the very materials needed for that transition.

Fast forward from the trade war under the Trump administration, where China first floated the idea of restricting rare earth exports as its ace up its sleeve. That threat is no longer theoretical. In December 2023, Beijing moved beyond rhetoric and officially banned the export of technologies used to process rare earths and create high-performance magnets. This move was the equivalent of not just threatening to turn off

security, and force a chaotic scramble for alternative sources.

The good news is, the wake-up call has been heard. The bad news is, it's a very, very late wake-up call. The US and its allies are now in a frenzied race to build their own rare earth supply chains. This has sparked a global hunt for new deposits, leading to significant recent discoveries. In early 2023, Sweden announced the discovery of Europe's largest known deposit of rare earths, and in mid-2024, an even larger deposit was confirmed in Norway, potentially capable of meeting a significant portion of Europe's demand for decades. Similar large-scale deposits are being explored in Wyoming in the United States.

Policy is also finally catching up. The EU has enacted its Critical Raw Materials Act, setting ambitious targets to mine and process more of its own strategic minerals by 2030. The US Department of Defense is now directly funding the construction of processing facilities on American soil to break the Chinese stranglehold.

More interestingly, a quiet revolution is brewing in research and development. Scientists are working furiously to find substitutes for rare earths, particularly for permanent magnets. Promising materials like iron nitride and manganese-based compounds are being explored, offering the tantalising possibility of magnets made from abundant, cheap elements. A crucial and growing field is the effort to reclaim rare earths from e-waste; advanced recycling techniques are being developed to efficiently extract these valuable elements from old hard drives, electric motors, and batteries. The long-term hope is to "design out" the need for these elements altogether.

However, moving from a mineral discovery or a lab prototype to industrial-scale production is a long, arduous process that can take a decade or more. For the foreseeable future, the world remains largely at China's mercy. While the West is finally putting its mind and money into solving this problem, it's a testament to China's decades-long strategy that the world is only now starting to play catch up. The rare earth elements may be tiny, but their story is a monumental lesson in how a simple group of materials can upend global power dynamics.

It is a testament to China's decades-long strategy that the world is only now starting to play catch up. The rare earth elements may be tiny, but their story is a monumental lesson in how a simple group of materials can upend global power dynamics.

TEJGAON SANITATION CRISIS

A look into workers' health in Dhaka

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AFRIN NUR and FORKAN AHSAN

Tejgaon, one of Dhaka's oldest and busiest industrial zones, is often celebrated as the beating heart of the capital's economy. Its factories, warehouses and offices churn out goods and services round the clock. Yet, behind this story of economic vibrancy lies a stark and shameful paradox: the very workers who keep this industrial hub alive are condemned to live in squalid conditions that rob them of health, dignity and hope.

A recent survey among slum residents in Tejgaon paints a sobering picture of the crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). It highlights that without access to safe water and sanitation, urban growth remains not only inequitable but also unsustainable.

The findings reveal that more than half of slum dwellers rely on rudimentary pit latrines, while 38 percent depend on fragile tin structures. Alarming, nearly one in ten households resort to makeshift toilets built from cloth and wood. In one of the world's most densely populated cities, such arrangements are not only unhygienic but downright dangerous.

Overcrowding compounds the problem. More than 40 percent of families share a single toilet with three to six households, while another third must share with as many as ten. In some extreme cases, up to 20 families rely on one latrine. Under these circumstances, maintaining basic hygiene is almost impossible.

The consequences are borne disproportionately by women and children. Lack of privacy, exposure to harassment, and heightened risks of infection turn everyday survival into an ordeal. Sanitation, in this context, is not simply about infrastructure; it is about human dignity.

The survey also highlights disturbing lapses in hygiene practices. Only 43 percent of respondents reported using soap

consistently after using the toilet. Another 36 percent do so occasionally, while a staggering 20 percent never use soap at all.

This is not merely about awareness; many families simply cannot afford to purchase soap regularly. What may appear to be a minor omission has devastating public health implications. Poor handwashing habits contribute directly to diarrhoeal disease, skin infections and respiratory

Ensuring safe water and sanitation cannot be left solely to government initiatives. It demands a coordinated effort involving city corporations, NGOs, employers and community groups. Subsidised water supply schemes, community-led sanitation projects and mass awareness campaigns could offer tangible relief.

illness. Children are especially vulnerable, and the resulting malnutrition and absenteeism undermine their education and future prospects.

Access to safe drinking water remains another daily battle. Only 27 percent of respondents reported having personal water sources, while one-third depend on shared supplies. Another 32 percent rely on local tube wells, many of which remain vulnerable to arsenic contamination. A further six percent are forced to buy water, stretching already fragile household budgets.

Even where water is available, consumption patterns reveal a troubling reality: nearly half of residents drink fewer than seven glasses a day, with nine percent consuming fewer than four. Poor quality and inadequate intake leave many exposed to dehydration, gastrointestinal disease and chronic kidney complications.

These failings are not confined to the

slums. They spill over into Dhaka's wider economy. Many slum residents work as factory hands, drivers, domestic aides or security guards, integral to the city's daily functioning. Their poor health translates into lower productivity, higher absenteeism and greater healthcare burdens. In other words, unsafe WASH conditions are not just a humanitarian concern; they are an economic liability. A city cannot thrive when the very people who keep it running are locked in a cycle of disease and indignity.

Ensuring safe water and sanitation cannot be left solely to government initiatives. It demands a coordinated effort involving city corporations, NGOs, employers and community groups. Subsidised water supply schemes, community-led sanitation projects and mass awareness campaigns could offer tangible relief. At the same time, urban planning must acknowledge and prioritise the needs of informal workers, rather than relegating them to the margins of industrial prosperity. Outbreaks of waterborne disease, once rooted in slums, do not respect boundaries of class or geography.

If Bangladesh is serious about inclusive growth and sustainable urbanisation, urgent action is needed. Priorities must include investment in safe, affordable and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities; clean, arsenic-free water supplies, backed by subsidised schemes and regular monitoring; expanded hygiene education, particularly in schools and community hubs; and integrating slum populations into urban planning, ensuring that industrial growth is not built upon their neglect.

Dhaka's ambition to be a modern, liveable city hinges on addressing this silent emergency. Progress cannot be measured by skyscrapers and highways alone while the workers who sustain the city remain invisible, trapped in unsafe and degrading conditions.

The WASH crisis in Tejgaon is more than a story of deprivation. It is a litmus test of our collective conscience. Will we continue to overlook the silent suffering of those who sustain us, or will we finally act on the truth that their well-being is inseparable from our own? For reasons of justice, humanity and survival, the choice should be obvious.

Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission

Strengthening Capacity of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission Project
1st 12-Storey Govt. Office Building
Segunbagicha, Dhaka
www.btc.gov.bd

No. 26.01.0000.005.46.084.24(Part-1).281 Date: 14 September, 2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) for Selection of a Consulting Firm for Conducting Studies on "Impact Assessment of Anti-Export Bias on Export Diversification of Bangladesh", "Research on Trade Remedy Issues (Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard Measures): Constraints and Way Forward in Bangladesh" and "Strengthening of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission: Review of Existing Laws and Regulations"

A. Basic Information (Procuring Entity, Assignment, Procurement Method, Source of Fund, etc.) for the Consulting Firm:

1	Name of the Organization	Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission
2	Procuring entity name & designation	Md. Raihan Ubaidullah, Project Director
3	Expression of Interest for Selection of	A consulting firm for conducting Researches on: 1. Impact Assessment of Anti-Export Bias on Export Diversification of Bangladesh. 2. Research on Trade Remedy Issues (Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard Measures): Constraints and Way Forward in Bangladesh. 3. Strengthening of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission: Review of Existing Laws and Regulations.
4	REoI Ref No.	26.01.0000.005.46.083(3).
5	Package No.	01
6	REoI publishing date	16 September 2025
7	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
8	Source of fund	GoB
9	Development partner	N/A
10	Project name	Strengthening Capacity of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission
11	EoI proposals submission closing date, time and place	Date: 05 October 2025, Time: 05.00pm, Room # 1002, Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, 1st 12-Storey Govt. Office Building (10th Floor), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

B. Key Information for the Consulting Firm:

12	Brief description of the assignment	Please find the detailed REoI in the following website: www.btc.gov.bd
13	Experience, resource and delivery capacity required of the consulting firm	
14	Other details	

C. Procurement Entity Details

15	Name of the official inviting EoI	Md. Raihan Ubaidullah, Project Director
16	Designation of official inviting EoI	Project Director
17	Address of the official inviting EoI	Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, 1st 12-Storey Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
18	Contact details of official inviting EoI	Telephone: 02-58311768 Mobile: 01911233641 E-mail: raihan_ubaidullah@btc.gov.bd mdraihanubaidullah@gmail.com www.btc.gov.bd

The procurement entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all EoI proposals.



(1) Britt Lower beams after winning Lead Actress for 'Severance'. (2) Noah Wyle wins Lead Actor Emmy for 'The Pitt'. (3) Javier Bardem in a Palestinian keffiyeh at the Emmys. (4) Trammel Tillman makes history as the first Black man to win Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for 'Severance'.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AP

EMMYS 2025

A night of historic wins and bold political statements



(L) Outstanding Comedy Series winners 'The Studio' celebrate Emmy victory onstage. (R) 15-year-old Owen Cooper holds his Emmy after making history as the youngest Supporting Actor winner for 'Adolescence'.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards offered more than glitz and glamour. Marked by standing ovations, long-awaited reunions, record-breaking triumphs, and impassioned calls for justice, this year's ceremony showed that television's biggest night can be as culturally resonant as it is entertaining.

Apple TV+'s *The Studio* cemented its place in Emmy history, collecting 13 trophies the most ever awarded to a comedy series in a single cycle. The record was previously held by FX's *The Bear*, which won 10 in 2023. With nine victories at last week's Creative Arts Emmys and four more on Monday, *The Studio* established itself as this year's undeniable comedy powerhouse.

In the limited series categories, *Adolescence* proved dominant with eight wins, including best limited series. The cast received widespread recognition, with Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper, and

Erin Doherty all earning acting honours, while Jack Thorne and Graham also won for best writing.

Freshman drama *The Pitt* triumphed in the fiercely contested best drama series race. Stars Noah Wyle and Katherine LaNasa added to the show's success with wins for best lead actor and best supporting actress in a drama, bringing its total to five awards.

The night was also marked by history-making achievements. Fifteen-year-old Owen Cooper stunned the audience by becoming the youngest male actor ever to win an Emmy, taking home best supporting actor in a limited/anthology series or TV movie. Breaking a record that had stood since 1973, Cooper reflected in his emotional speech: "Tonight proves that if you listen, focus, and step out of your comfort zone, you can achieve anything in life."

Severance star Trammel Tillman made history as well, becoming the first Black man to win best supporting actor in

a drama series. His debut nomination turned into a career-defining moment, greeted with a standing ovation.

For veteran actor Noah Wyle, recognition was long overdue. A five-time nominee in the supporting category during his *ER* years, he finally claimed Emmy gold as best actor in drama.

The evening wasn't only about new achievements. Nostalgia also took center stage, with reunions from *Gilmore Girls*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and *Law & Order* reminding audiences of television's enduring legacy across generations.

Beyond the awards and reunions, the Emmys also became a platform for political courage. Several stars used the global stage to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and voice support for Palestine, reflecting a growing cultural boycott movement in Hollywood.

Academy Award winner Javier Bardem delivered one of the night's boldest statements, appearing with a kaffiyeh draped around his neck and declaring

"Free Palestine" on stage. Speaking to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Bardem reaffirmed his commitment to the Film Workers for Palestine movement, which calls for boycotts of institutions tied to Israeli state policies. "We are not targeting people by identity — we are targeting complicit institutions," he said.

Hacks star Hannah Einbinder, who won best actress in a comedy, echoed Bardem's sentiments backstage. "As a Jewish person, I feel obligated to distinguish between Judaism and the state of Israel," she said. "This boycott is about pressuring institutions complicit in the genocide — not individuals."

Others chose quieter but equally resonant acts of solidarity. Ruth Negga, Chris Perletti, and Aimee Lou Wood wore red ceasefire pins, while Megan Stalter carried a black handbag emblazoned with "Cease Fire!" "What's the point of being at these big events if you're not going to use your privilege?" Stalter told *Variety*.

Vicky Zahed brings flash fiction 'Ondho Balok' to Chorki

Vicky Zahed's flash fiction *Ondho Balok* premieres on Chorki at 12:01am on September 18. Written by Nazim Ud Daula, the story mixes romance, fate, and doubt, breaking away from Vicky's usual suspense style. Tawsif Mahbub plays Orko opposite Sadia Ayman as Dina; two lovers whose relationship fractures after the arrival of a mysterious blind boy.



Veteran actor Tariq Anam Khan and Shilpi Sarkar Apu appear in key roles. Vicky Zahed, whose career began with short films, said he remains drawn to Chorki's flash fiction format for its unique storytelling scope. The screenplay and dialogue were co-written by Zahed and Nazim Ud Daula, with cinematography by Bidrohi Dipon. Produced jointly by Chorki and Alpha-1, *Ondho Balok* is the platform's second flash fiction release.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'CHITRANGADA'

Acclaimed theatre troupe Swapnadal will stage Rabindranath Tagore's lyrical drama *Chitrangada*, directed by Zahid Repon, marking the production's 120th performance. Adapted from the *Mahabharata*, the play tells the story of Manipuri princess Chitrangada and her struggle between love, identity, and self-worth, offering a timeless reflection on human relationships.

Date: Thursday | September 18, 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS

Two die

FROM PAGE 12
Begum, 58, a homemaker from Anandi Dhaniram village — both in Parul Union.

Razzak reportedly slaughtered a sick cow on August 2 and developed fever and sores the next day. He died on August 9 after hospitalisation.

Komola Begum fell ill after handling and cooking meat from a sick cow and died on September 6.

Family members of both deceased said several relatives who came into contact with the meat have also been infected.

Razzak's son, Mizanur Rahman, said, "My father slaughtered the cow. I also handled the meat. Four members of my family including me were affected. My father's symptoms were the worst."

"First comes fever, then reddish boils that turn black," said Mizanur, who is undergoing treatment.

Dulal Mia, son of Komola Begum, said, "We did not know that touching or eating meat of a sick cow could cause such a disease. My mother contracted it while cleaning and cooking the meat, and she died. Two other family members and I have been infected. We have taken treatment."

Rangpur District Livestock Officer Abu Sayeed confirmed that meat samples tested positive for anthrax. "Infected cows were slaughtered and sold cheaply. Many preserved the meat in freezers, leading to widespread exposure," he said.

Over the past three months, more than 100 cows have died in Pirgacha, though not all were anthrax cases. Authorities have vaccinated 40,000 cattle and are distributing leaflets to raise awareness. Butchers have been warned against slaughtering sick animals.

Nazrul Islam, a farmer from Parul village, said two of his cows died and two others remain infected despite vaccination.

Rangpur Civil Surgeon Shahin Sultana said the situation remains under control. "Anthrax does not spread from human to human, but handling or consuming infected meat can cause transmission," she said.

Contacted, Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of IEDCR, said a team from IEDCR is still investigating the matter on the spot.

"I will be able to comment once I receive the report," she told this newspaper yesterday.

Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 12

showing the movement of Bangladeshi trawlers crossing into Myanmar waters under the cover of darkness. He said the BGB, navy, and coast guard are working in coordination to prevent drug smuggling.

Speaking on the issue of Bangladeshi fishermen frequently getting detained by Myanmar authorities, Mohiduddin said fishermen were detained only when they crossed into Myanmar waters,

Man hacked to death

FROM PAGE 12

On May 6, Ibne Samad Sardar of the same area was hacked by assailants and later died after months of treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rakib was arrested in that case and later released on bail.

Citing CCTV evidence and accounts from locals, the OC said, "Several assailants suddenly attacked Rakib with Chinese axes, striking him repeatedly until he collapsed. They fled immediately after."

After a post-mortem examination, Rakib's body was handed over to his family yesterday.

Police said Rakib's family and the attackers' families had a longstanding feud, with both sides accused in several cases, including murder.

"We suspect the killing stems from that conflict," the OC said, adding that police will file a murder case.

Meanwhile, also on Sunday night, a

Protests in Nepal

FROM PAGE 12

for PM. Karki, appointed on Friday, has already dissolved the House and announced that parliamentary elections will be held in six months, on March 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, in its first cabinet meeting, Nepal's interim government yesterday declared those who died in the uprising as martyrs and decided to provide cash relief to their families.

The government will provide one million rupees to each bereaved family, and an additional Rs500,000 to cover other expenses. It was also decided that funerals of the deceased would be held with national honours, and a day of mourning would be observed on September 17, with the national flag flown at half-mast.

A decision was also made to continue providing free medical treatment for the injured.

either mistakenly or intentionally.

"There has never been any incident of the Arakan Army entering Bangladesh to detain fishermen. We continuously warn our fishermen not to cross the maritime boundary," he said.

Since July 15, BGB has seized around 28 lakh yaba pills from border areas of Cox's Bazar and parts of Bandarban. During this period, 22 firearms, including sophisticated rifles, were also recovered.

65-year-old man was hacked to death by unidentified assailants on his way home in Narsingdi's Raipura upazila.

Manik Mia was a grocery shop owner in Uttar Bakhrnagar union, said Narsingdi Additional Superintendent of Police Sujan Chandra Sarker.

"The victim suffered sharp weapon injuries, especially to the neck. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Legal procedures are underway," the ASP said yesterday.

Quoting locals, the police said Manik closed his shop at Uttar Bakhrnagar Bazar around midnight and started for home. Miscreants stopped him near the bank of the Arial Kha river and attacked him with sharp weapons before fleeing the scene.

"We called him many times, but he did not answer. We found his body near the riverbank Monday morning," said his brother Suruj Mia, 50.

Murder suspect

FROM PAGE 12

proceedings in the morning," he added.

Following the death, Rab contacted Tanvir's family, local council representatives, police, and a doctor. In their presence, the hanged body was taken down and sent for autopsy at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, the officer said.

"We'll be investigating the matter internally, following protocol," the Commanding Officer added.

Moniruzzaman Molla, officer-in-charge of Golapganj Police Station, said, "The deceased's sister filed an unnatural death case. Preliminary evidence suggests suicide. We'll submit a full report to the court after receiving the autopsy findings."

The body was handed over to the family yesterday after the autopsy, he added.

US vows unwavering

FROM PAGE 12

He had also said Trump wanted the Gaza war to be "finished with" — which would mean the release of hostages and ensuring Hamas is "no longer a threat".

But talks were made more difficult last week when the Trump administration was caught off guard by an Israeli attack in Qatar against Hamas leaders.

"We sent a message to terrorists: you can run but you cannot hide," Netanyahu said.

The "raid didn't fail." Rubio said Washington would continue to tell Qatar to continue its "constructive role" as an intermediary in the Gaza war.

A US official later said Rubio will travel to Qatar today, where Arab and Muslim leaders gathered yesterday to pile pressure on Israel after the attack.

Qatar's emir said at the summit that Israel had sought to derail truce talks, which Doha along with Egypt and the United States have sought to broker between Israel and Hamas.

"Whoever works diligently and systematically to assassinate the party with whom he is negotiating, intends to thwart the negotiations... Negotiations, for them, are merely part of the war," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said.

In Gaza, Israeli strikes killed another 25 people yesterday, all but one in Gaza City, Gaza civil defence agency reported.

Foreign power backed

FROM PAGE 12

The tribunal has so far heard 46 witnesses.

During lunch break, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said Nahid Islam, a key leader of the July uprising, will testify today.

Mahmudur said Hasina's first move was to weaken the army. "Two months into her tenure, the BDR massacre was orchestrated with Sheikh family members — particularly former MP Sheikh Taposh — involved. Fifty-seven army officers were murdered and their families tortured, yet Taposh was never tried."

He alleged that "10 months before the December 2008 election, the results were predetermined in Delhi" and accused a top army official and a DGFI officer of engineering the Awami League's landslide.

Hasina and her ministers failed to protect officers and allowed the Pikhana massacre to continue, he said, adding that the hostility stemmed from "Hasina's father's reliance on the Rakkhi Bahini over the army".

Hasina then turned to judiciary, Mahmudur claimed, citing Khaleda Zia's eviction from cantonment house — which Hasina later admitted was a political decision — and the abolition of the caretaker government system.

Although most amici curiae (neutral experts invited to advise the court) and several Appellate Division judges supported retaining the caretaker system, four justices ruled otherwise and were later rewarded as chief justices, he alleged.

He said the 2013 Shahbagh protests were staged to create a "public enemy concept" targeting Islamic parties, comparing the strategy to Hitler's demonisation of communists and Jews. "The Ganajagan Mancha functioned as the second parliament," he said, alleging civil servants were pressured to endorse executions while Hasina declared she was "always at Shahbagh in spirit".

"This paved the way for retrospective legal changes that turned Abdul

Quader Mollah's life term into a death sentence — a historic injustice."

He alleged on May 5, 2013, security forces carried out a mass killing of Hefazat-e-Islam members at Shapla Chattar, naming top officials of police, Rab and BGB as responsible. They were later promoted and no trial was held.

He recalled the 2012 "Skype scandal", which exposed alleged collusion between the tribunal chairman, a Belgium-based Bangladeshi, and prosecutors in drafting verdicts.

He accused Hasina of staging three "farical" elections: in 2014, when 153 MPs were elected uncontested; in 2018, when ballots were stuffed the night before; and in 2024, mocked as the "me and my dummy's votes" election.

Mahmudur recounted how he was detained, tortured and mentally abused in Rab's "Ayna Ghar", Cantonment Police Station and DB custody, where he was kept on remand for 39 days. He said he witnessed severe torture of Islami Chhatra Shibir president Delwar Hossain in DB custody in 2013.

He further accused the regime of staging militant dramas to impress foreign powers, citing the 2016 Kalyanpur operation where "poor villagers were framed as militants and killed in fake encounters."

Mahmudur named six former chief justices, three appellate judges, 10 lawyers including two ex-law ministers, 12 senior police officials including five former IGPs, three election commissions (except Mahbub Talukdar's), 16 political leaders and 13 senior army and DGFI officials, including four former army chiefs, as aiding Hasina's consolidation of power.

He alleged that India played a decisive role in Hasina's rise, citing New Delhi's pressure before the 2014 polls, when a top diplomat pushed the Jatiya Party to contest. Even after the "fake elections" of 2018 and 2024, India allegedly lobbied in Washington and Europe to support Hasina.

Mahmudur's testimony will be cross examined by the state appointed defense counsel today.

Admin reshuffle

FROM PAGE 12

connection with the darbar sharif attack. He faces charges of arson, grievous injury, looting, murder, and exhumation and burning of corpses, said Sharif Al Rajib, additional SP of Rajbari.

So far, a total of 24 people have

been arrested in two cases over the attack — one filed over the killing of a follower of Nurul in clashes, and the other over attacking police, according to Sharif. "No one is being detained without verification. Therefore, there is no reason for those not involved to be worried," he said.

Idols vandalised in Kushtia temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

Miscreants vandalised two idols at the Shwarupdah Palpara Sri Sri Rakkha Kali Temple in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia on Sunday night and stole a security camera and its memory card.

Mominul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said the incident might have taken place between 8:00pm and 8:30pm on Sunday night.

The OC also said no one has been arrested in this connection yet and no complaints have been filed either. "However, we are conducting a thorough investigation," he added.

Badal Kumar Dey, former secretary of the temple committee, said, "For the past three years, we have been organising Durga Puja here. This incident ahead of Durga Puja has left us in a state of fear." He said miscreants took away the temple's security camera and its memory card.

Abu Hasnat Mohammad Arafin, deputy commissioner of Kushtia, visited the spot yesterday morning and said legal action will be taken following a proper investigation.

Asked about the current security measures at the temple, the DC said new cameras have been installed. Besides, Ansar members remain deployed round the clock. "The situation is now normal," he added.

Secretary of the temple committee, Sreebhash Kumar Dey, said they had held a meeting with the Kushtia superintendent of police over the incident.



BAKSHIGANJ UPAZILA

Buffalo milk yogurt: A taste of heritage

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

In Jamalpur's Bakshiganj upazila, a traditional cottage industry has been thriving for a century – buffalo milk yogurt.

A bowl of buffalo milk yogurt, rich, creamy and chemical-free, is not just a delicacy but a taste of heritage carried forward by local farmers for generations, especially among the Ghosh community.

At the centre of this tradition lies Naem Mia's Haat in Sadar union, where buffalo milk yogurt has been sold for decades.

Farmers said while raw buffalo milk does not fetch a good price in the market, turning it into yogurt ensures value addition, better earnings and greater popularity. As such, yogurt-making has remained their primary source of livelihood for decades.

Unlike cow's milk, which requires boiling for long and the addition of a starter culture, buffalo milk sets naturally due to its higher fat content and density, making the process easier.

Once collected, the milk is cooled under a fan or in a refrigerator before being poured into clay pots sterilised

by fire. Within three days, the milk ferments naturally and turns into yogurt without artificial additives, extra heat or chemical processes, retaining its natural flavour and purity.

Once prepared, the yogurt reaches markets regularly throughout the year. At Naem Mia's Haat, it is sold twice a week – on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The yogurt is also sold in other markets across Bakshiganj upazila. Each kilogramme usually sells for Tk 150-160, but during Eid and other festivals prices rise sharply to Tk 260-300 per kg as demand soars.

Rustam Ali, a buffalo herder from Merur Char, said the vast grasslands along the riverbanks make buffalo rearing easy and profitable.

"By selling buffalo milk yogurt, I can support my family well. This trade has changed my life," he said.

Kalim Uddin, another herder from Bogarchar union, echoed him.

"Buffalo milk yogurt is our regional heritage through generations, and its quality is exceptional. We are working on branding it to reach wider markets," said Bakshiganj UNO Shah Zahurul Hossain.

Jamaat, other Islamist parties to take to streets

FROM PAGE 1

Their demands also include banning the activities of Jatiya Party and the 14-party alliance, introducing proportional representation in both houses of parliament, ensuring a level playing field to guarantee free and fair polls and bringing to justice those responsible for the killings and corruption under the previous government.

While announcing the protest programme through a press conference at its Paltan central office, IAB leaders said they are announcing simultaneous protest activities across the country.

Jamaat leaders, however, said that although they have announced a similar programme, it will be observed separately.

While announcing the movement at its central office at the capital's Moghbazar, Jamaat Naye-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said the party has been urging the authorities to take necessary steps to ensure a free, fair, neutral and intimidation-free acceptable election.

But it is yet to see any effective steps.

Subsequently, there is no alternative to a mass movement to secure those demands, he said, adding that it has not yet been decided how many parties will participate or whether there will be any simultaneous movement at all.

"Since the demands are the same and those who agree on PR are announcing programmes from their respective platforms, they cannot be called simultaneous movements yet. No such decision has been made."

Jamaat has been holding discussions with all parties who support PR, Taher said.

"We are placing small demands verbally before the government. If the government neither takes any decision on this issue nor invites discussions, then gradually more programmes will be announced."

When asked whether announcing simultaneous movements by the like-minded political parties could lead to an electoral alliance among them, Taher said, "The

question of an electoral alliance is a matter of time. Discussions are ongoing on whether parties that uphold the spirit of July can reach an understanding and contest the election together."

When asked whether street movements over their demands might delay the election in February, he said: "There are still five months left before the election. Within this period, it is possible to meet the demands, give legal basis to the July Charter, and, if necessary, hold a referendum. All of this can be done within the timeframe."

In reply to a question on why the government is not accepting Jamaat's demands, Taher said, "The government itself can best explain its thinking. There may also be pressure from some political parties so that they do not accept."

While announcing its programme, IAB Ameer Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim said that the country's Islamist political parties are close to forging an alliance.

Ahead of the upcoming national election,

"patriotic forces" are nearing an understanding so that all their votes go into one ballot box, he said.

While announcing its programme through a press conference from its central office at the capital's Paltan, Khelafat Majlis Secretary General Ahmed Abdul Quader said that if the government does not take clear steps to meet their demands, tougher programmes will be announced later.

Meanwhile, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the threats for a stronger movement are part of a plan to harm the nation by creating a disastrous situation.

"An Islamist party has said in a press conference that it will launch a vigorous movement if its demand for PR is not met. This, we believe, is a well-planned master plan that will benefit no one."

Over the past 16-17 years, the BNP and many other political parties, including all Islamist political parties, have fought for democracy, but they did not raise the issue of PR at that time, he said.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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নম্বরঃ ৪০.০০.০০০০.০১৯.১১.০০৫.২৫-২২০

তারিখঃ ৩০ ভাদ্র ১৪৩২
১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫

শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন শ্রম আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনাল ও ১০টি শ্রম আদালতের ১৩-২০ গ্রেডের বিভিন্ন ক্যাটাগরির নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদসমূহে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট আদালতসমূহের অধিক্ষেত্রের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্র. নং	দপ্তর	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা
০১	শ্রম আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনাল, ১ম শ্রম আদালত ঢাকা, ৩য় শ্রম আদালত ঢাকা, ১ম শ্রম আদালত চট্টগ্রাম, ২য় শ্রম আদালত চট্টগ্রাম, শ্রম আদালত বরিশাল, শ্রম আদালত, রংপুর, শ্রম আদালত, কুমিল্লা, শ্রম আদালত ময়মনসিংহ, শ্রম আদালত নারায়নগঞ্জ ও শ্রম আদালত খুলনা।	সীটলিপিকার কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, গ্রেড-১৩, বেতনস্কেল: ১১০০০-২৬৯৫০/- হিসাবরক্ষক কাম ক্যাশিয়ার, গ্রেড-১৫, বেতনস্কেল: ৯৭০০-২৩৪৯০/- বেঞ্চ সহকারী গ্রেড-১৫, বেতনস্কেল: ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক, গ্রেড-১৬, বেতনস্কেল: ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- প্রসেস সার্ভার, গ্রেড-১৯, বেতনস্কেল-৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- জমাদার, গ্রেড-১৯, বেতনস্কেল: ৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- অফিস সহায়ক, গ্রেড-২০, বেতনস্কেল: ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী গ্রেড-২০, বেতনস্কেল: ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী, গ্রেড-২০, বেতনস্কেল: ৮২৫০-২০০১০/-	০৬টি ০৬টি ০৫টি ০৮টি ০৪টি ০১টি ১৬টি ০৩টি ০২টি

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- ইতিপূর্বে যারা শ্রঃআঃট্রাঃ/২০২০/৩৭৬, তারিখঃ ০৮-০৬-২০২০ সংখ্যক স্মারকমূলে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে শ্রম আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনাল, ঢাকার বিভিন্ন পদে আবেদন করেছেন তাদের পুনরায় আবেদনের প্রয়োজন নেই।
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জি.এস.

তারিখ: ৩১ ভাদ্র, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

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ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী পদের বেতন স্কেল	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অন্যান্য অতিরিক্ত
১.	ব্যক্তিগত কর্মকর্তা	০৭ (সাত) টি	টাঃ ১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০/- (গ্রেড-১০)	বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক স্নাতক ডিগ্রীধারী অথবা সমমান পরীক্ষার পাসসহ প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজী ও বাংলায় যথাক্রমে ৩০ ও ২৫ শব্দের টাইপের গতি এবং ইংরেজী ও বাংলায় সীলিপিত্তে প্রতি মিনিটে ৮০ ও ৫০ শব্দের গতি থাকতে হবে এবং কম্পিউটার প্রিন্টিং/স্ক্যানিং হতে হবে এবং বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক বীকৃত যে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে কম্পিউটার অপারেটিং সনদপত্র প্রাপ্ত হতে হবে।
২.	ফরাস	০১ (এক) টি	টাঃ ৮,২৫০-২০,০১০/- (গ্রেড-২০)	ন্যূনতম ৮-ম শ্রেণী পাস অথবা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন।
৩.	মালি	০৩ (তিন) টি	টাঃ ৮,২৫০-২০,০১০/- (গ্রেড-২০)	ন্যূনতম ৮-ম শ্রেণী পাস অথবা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন।

পদার্থকী-

০১। ০১/০৯/২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ১৮-৩২ হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

০২। সরকারি, আধা সরকারি ও মাদ্রাসাভিত্তিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের সম্মতি/অনুমতি আবেদন করতে হবে এবং এ সংক্রান্ত অনুমতিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ৪০ বছর পর্যন্ত বিধিযোজ্য।

০৩। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সফলকর নিয়মাবলী ও পদার্থকী:

ক. পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ ইচ্ছা কর্তৃক <http://supremecourt.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও দাখিল করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:

(i) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাধানের সময় তারিখ ও সময় ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ খ্রি. সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।

(ii) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাধানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ খ্রি. বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকা।

উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (ষাটঘণ্টা) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে টেলিটক এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর ছবি (সর্বমোট ৩০০x৩০০ Pixel) এবং স্বাক্ষর (সর্বমোট ৩০০x১০০ Pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন।

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে উল্লিখিত তথ্যই নিজেদের পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূর্ণপত্র সফল ভাবে সঠিকভাবে সম্পূর্ণ প্রার্থী নিজেদের তথ্যাদি নিশ্চিত করবেন।

ঘ. SMS Online-এ পূর্ণপত্র আবেদনপত্রে একটি রসিদ প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সফলকর যে কোন প্রয়োজন সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

৬. প্রার্থী আবেদনপত্র ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং Signature Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সফল হলে কম্পিউটারে ফরমের Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র Submit সম্পন্ন করা প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরসহ একটি Applicant's Copy পাবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিজেদের পদার্থকীতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-Paid Mobile নম্বর হতে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS এর মাধ্যমে ব্যক্তিগত কর্মকর্তা পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বারন ২০০/-টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বারন ২০০/-টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ২২০/- (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা, ফরাস ও মালি পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বারন ৫০/-টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বারন ৬০/-টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাটাতার) টাকা অনর্থক ৭২ (ষাটঘণ্টা) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। সকল পদে অস্থায়ী নারিকদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বারন ৫০/-টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বারন ৬০/-টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাটাতার) টাকা। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ যে, Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সফল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে জমা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।

[SMS পঠানোর পূর্বে টেলিটক নম্বরের Balance চেক করে নিশ্চিত হোন] প্রথম SMS: HCD<User ID Send 16222, Example: HCD ABCDEF PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222, Example: HCD YES 12345678]

৮. সফলকর SMS Send হলে Teletalk বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড কর্তৃক SMS এর মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীর মোবাইল নম্বরে প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষার ফি জমাধানের Confirmation জানিয়ে প্রার্থীকে User ID এবং Password প্রদান করা হবে। User ID এবং Password সফলকর হয়ে সফলকর হবে।

৯. SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/ক্ষেত্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রবেশপত্র Download পূর্বক রসিদ Print করে নিবেন। প্রার্থীকে প্রবেশ পত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সময় এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

১০. Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সফলকর যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত মোবাইল ফোন সার্বজনিক সরাসরি যোগাযোগ, SMS পত্র এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাধ্যনীয়।

১১. ৩য় টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোনে থেকে প্রার্থীর নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদার্থকী অনুসরণ করে নিশ্চিত হোন User ID, Serial এবং PIN পূর্ণকর করতে পারবেন:

i. User ID জমা থাকলে: HCD<Space>Help<Space>User ID & Send to 16222, Example: HCD Help User ABCDEF & Send to 16222.

ii. Pin Number জমা থাকলে: HCD<Space>Help<Space>Pin<Space>Pin No & Send to 16222, Example:HCD Help PIN12345678 & Send to 16222

১২. Admit Card এ উল্লিখিত রোল/রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বরের পরীক্ষার আসন বিব্যান সুপ্রীম কোর্টের ওয়েবসাইটে www.supremecourt.gov.bd এ পণ্ডা করা যাবে।

১৩. নিম্নের ধরনের:

(ক) প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষার নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীকে প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে বহিষ্কার করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

(খ) মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত (ক)মিক নং ১-৫)পদার্থকীতে যথাযথ মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিষ্ঠান সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

১। প্রার্থীর সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র (প্রত্যেক ক্ষেত্রে অতিরিক্ত সনদপত্রসহ)

২। কোর্টের সম্মতি মূল কাগজাদি।

৩। প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভা-এর বাসিন্দা সে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র।

৪। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।

৫। Online-এ পূর্ণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের কপি(Applicant's Copy)

৬। পরীক্ষা সফলকর যাবতীয় তথ্য বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্টের ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

৭। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা সফলকর হলে কোন বিধানে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত হ্রাসকৃত হলে গণ্য হবে।

৮। লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

আবেদনক্রমে

(এ.এইচ.এম.তোয়াহা) ১৫.০৭.২৫

সচিব (সাধারণ ও সংস্থাপন)
বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট
হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ, ঢাকা।

ফোন: ০২-২২৩৩৩৬৩২৬

The duet of MAN AND MACHINE

AI in the workplace is a partnership, not a takeover: Harvard research says



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

This changes everything, especially for your career. The old career ladder, that steady climb from one rung to the next, has been dismantled. In its place stands a sprawling jungle gym. The report tells us that every role is up for revision, promising a “nonlinear evolution of roles”.

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Let's have a chat about the elephant in every room, on every Zoom call, and in every strategic plan: artificial intelligence. If your feelings about it range between excitement and unease, you're in very good company. According to the latest global research from Harvard Business Impact, this isn't just a technological shift; it's a fundamental reshaping of how we work, learn, and lead.

The central finding from the 2025 Global Leadership Development Study by Harvard Business Impact is both a revelation and a call to action. After surveying over 1,100 L&D professionals and functional leaders across more than 14 countries, a powerful new mandate emerged for learning and development. The business world is no longer asking for incremental improvements; it is demanding learning that is fast, fluid, and fiercely future-focused.

This research reveals that the most forward-thinking organisations have moved

beyond simply implementing AI tools. They are engaged in a far more ambitious project: architecting what the study terms the “collective intelligence of humans and machines.” It's no longer a ‘humans versus machines’ narrative. Instead, companies want to focus on crafting a powerful partnership where each worker - machine, human, or otherwise - does what it does best.

This changes everything, especially for your career. The old career ladder, that steady climb from one rung to the next, has been dismantled. In its place stands a sprawling jungle gym. The report tells us that every role is up for revision, promising a “nonlinear evolution of roles”. This means your next move might not be up, but across, diagonally, or even into a role that doesn't yet exist. The pressure is on for all of us to be more fluid, to anticipate the skills we'll need before the gap even appears.

So, how do you not just navigate but thrive in this new landscape? The research points the way.

First, embrace a mindset of constant,

curious change. The study found that a significant 40% of organisations are putting more emphasis than ever on building a “change-seeking” culture. This goes beyond just being ready for change when it comes from above; it's about each of us being alert to opportunities, constantly identifying and embracing new ways of working. It's about being the person who asks, “What if?” instead of the one who says, “We've always done it this way.”

Secondly, recognise that your humanity is your greatest professional asset. In a world of algorithms, your human skills are becoming more precious. The research highlights a sharp increase in the value placed on leaders who demonstrate emotional and social intelligence, manage workplace polarisation, and synthesise complex information. These are capabilities where humans, for now and should be until forever, hold a distinct edge. While AI can generate data, it cannot sit with a team member who is struggling, build genuine trust, or navigate the nuanced politics of a workplace. Your ability to connect, empathise, and inspire is your superpower.

Of course, this doesn't mean you should ignore your technical skills. Quite the opposite, in fact! The velocity of learning has become a critical metric. The study reveals a staggering finding: the half life of a skill has plummeted from 26 years to less than 5. This means we must all become relentless learners, focusing on “speed to skill”. The good news is that AI itself is being harnessed to help, providing personalised coaching and instant access to organisational knowledge, making learning more integrated into the flow of our work than ever before.

The key takeaway is that the future of work is not a solo race. It's a dance of partnership. AI will handle the scale, the speed, and the data crunching. Our role is to provide the vision, the ethical judgement, the creativity, and the human connection. It's about using AI to amplify our own potential, not replace it.

Your career is no longer a path you follow, but a garden you cultivate. Tend to your technical skills, but nourish your human capabilities. Be change-seeking, not change-resistant. And remember, the goal isn't to outpace the machines, but to learn the steps to dance with them. That is how you build a truly future-proof career.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

United International University (UIU)

Lecturer, Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Deadline: September 22

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's and Master's (thesis) degree in Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering/Biochemistry, with a minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4.0
- Minimum experience: N/A



act:onaid

ActionAid Bangladesh

Development Finance Specialist

Deadline: September 17

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's in economics, Business, Finance, or other relevant fields from reputed academic institutions
- Minimum experience: 4-5 years



UNESCO Bangladesh

Programme Office, Communication and Information

Deadline: September 23

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in Mass Communication, Journalism, Public Relations, or any other related field
- Minimum experience: 5 years

Square Textiles PLC.

Technical Manager, Fabric R&D

Deadline: September 25

Eligibility:

- Graduation from any reputed national or international university/institution, with prior experience in a reputed fabric manufacturing company
- Minimum experience: 5-8 years



FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.




Top AI executive Robby Walker to leave Apple: report

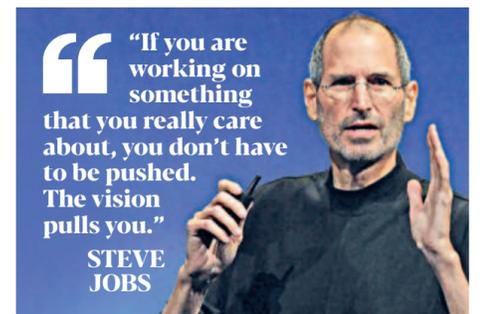
NEXT STEP DESK

Robby Walker, one of Apple's most senior artificial intelligence (AI) executives, is preparing to leave the company next month, according to a recent report by Bloomberg News.

Walker, who has worked at Apple since 2013, has been senior director of the company's Answers, Information, and Knowledge team since April 2025. He previously oversaw Siri before responsibility for the voice assistant shifted to Apple software chief Craig Federighi earlier this year.

His exit comes at a time when Apple is facing questions over its approach to AI. The company has been criticised for being slow to introduce its Apple Intelligence suite, including a ChatGPT integration, while a major upgrade to Siri has been delayed until 2026.

The departure of Walker adds to a string of senior AI exits from Apple. In July, Bloomberg reported that Meta had hired Ruoming Pang, formerly Apple's top executive responsible for AI models, along with researchers Mark Lee and Tom Gunter, to join its Superintelligence Labs team.



“If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.”

STEVE JOBS

Elon Musk's xAI lays off 500 employees: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, has laid off at least 500 employees from its data annotation team, according to a recent report by Business Insider. The workers, who help train the company's Grok chatbot, were notified of the decision by email on Friday.

The data annotation team is xAI's largest workforce and is responsible for teaching Grok to interpret and categorise raw data. As per the report, affected employees were told they would be paid until the end of their contract or November 30, but their access to company systems was revoked immediately.

In response to the report, xAI posted on X that it is still actively hiring across multiple domains and plans to expand its specialist AI tutor team by “10X”. The layoffs follow the recent departure of xAI's chief financial officer, Mike Liberatore, who left the company in July after only a few months in the role.

AI - the new colleague on your desk

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

The sudden rise of artificial intelligence in workplaces has sparked both enthusiasm and unease. From language models to workflow automation, AI tools are increasingly integrated into everyday work, promising efficiency and insight. Yet adoption remains uneven, in part because misconceptions abound. Some fear AI will replace human judgment, while others use it superficially, missing its potential to truly enhance productivity. The question is no longer whether to use AI, but how to make it work for you without letting it overstep, and the answer lies in understanding both the capabilities and limitations of these tools and integrating them thoughtfully into workflows.

In order to understand this better, I caught up with professionals across different industries, and realised that there is a common theme: AI is at its best when treated as a thought partner, not a substitute for human judgment. It is less about letting machines run the meeting and more about clearing enough mental space so the meeting is worth having in the first place. “As a consultant, I find AI particularly valuable for brainstorming ideas, initial problem-solving, proofreading, and enhancing the quality of my written outputs,” says Sadid Murshed, Associate at Boston Consulting Group. “We use a variety of AI tools, ranging from publicly available platforms like ChatGPT to proprietary software such as Deckster, which specifically aids in creating and refining presentation slides. However, I firmly believe AI should serve

primarily as a supportive thought partner and not for generating client deliverables from scratch.”

For all the grand predictions, the most common uses of AI in the workplace are surprisingly practical. People use it to summarise meetings, structure emails, draft presentation outlines, or help teams think visually when time is short and AI excels in areas where structure, language, and patterns intersect. “It helps

Microsoft Copilot or ChatGPT.” Platforms like HireScore or Taira allow HR teams to sift through hundreds of profiles against job descriptions in minutes, a process that once consumed entire afternoons. Nonetheless, career roadmaps, succession planning, and stakeholder conversations still demand human nuance.

One thread connecting all these conversations is the shift from replacement to augmentation. The

With AI, the time spent behind making slides is replaced by time spent thinking. There is no shame if you use AI to prepare something because what matters is that you still have to think about the analysis and the right prompt. Tools like ChatGPT can draft reports, generate email templates, or offer brainstorming prompts. Automation platforms like Zapier or Microsoft Power Automate streamline repetitive workflows, moving data between apps or scheduling tasks automatically. The strength of AI lies not in replacing expertise, but in augmenting it, thereby giving professionals more time to focus on strategy, creativity, and judgment.

ChatGPT will not make your decisions for you, nor should it. But it can help you make better decisions faster, and perhaps with less friction. The skeptics, often with good reason, warn of overreliance. And yet, the people already integrating AI with care are not naive about these concerns. They are, if anything, more conscious of them. And that, ultimately, might be the real skill of this new era: not prompt engineering in isolation, but editorial control over your own workflow.

Knowing which corners can be cut and which must remain hand-carved. Knowing that even as these tools get better, faster, and eerily more persuasive, your judgment takes the point. As this tide of AI-driven assistance spreads, what seems more likely is a recalibration. The work that is rote becomes lighter. The work that is creative becomes faster. And the work that is strategic? It stands out even more.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

save time on something that is not very strategic to begin with,” explains Ashraf Shabab, Talent Partner at Unilever Bangladesh Limited. “I use it to redraft meeting minutes or build on the base of presentation decks; basically, tasks that we can now handle much faster using

strongest users do not hand over their work to AI; they hand it their rough drafts, half-formed ideas, or background clutter and reclaim their thinking time. Ishmam Chowdhury, COO at Shikho, says, “We do regular management meetings where we discuss action points for each department.

Star

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, ASHWIN 1, 1432 BS

SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
 Asia Cup T20
 Afghanistan vs Bangladesh
 Live from 8:30 pm
SONY SPORTS 1, 2, AND 5
 Champions League
 Athletic Bilbao vs Arsenal

Live from 10:45 pm
 Juventus vs Dortmund
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)
 Tottenham vs Villarreal
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)
 Real Madrid vs Marseille
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)

Politics fails to mask muted Dubai duel

EKUSH TAPADER FROM ABU DHABI

On Sunday in Dubai, India and Pakistan faced off in the much-anticipated Asia Cup group-stage clash, a fixture long celebrated as cricket's most intense rivalry. Yet once again, the pitch told a familiar story: India dominated from start to finish, and that the fire of the rivalry is being kept alive largely through politics.

Events like the Pahalgam attack, ongoing border tensions, and the cultivation of aggressive nationalism have driven the nations further apart. On the field, this manifests in unsporting gestures: Indian players refused the customary post-match handshake, while Pakistan boycotted the press conference.

In a pre-match discussion on Cricbuzz, when the host remarked, 'India now have only the easiest match left in their group,' commentator Harsha Bhogle interjected jokingly: 'Easier than this one (the match against Pakistan)?'

Given how routinely Pakistan crumble against India, Bhogle's jibe landed perfectly, and it is hard to argue when someone labels these encounters "easy" for India.

The last real thriller between the two came in Melbourne in 2022, with Virat Kohli's classic T20 World Cup finish. Another memorable contest was last year's low-scoring T20 World Cup nail-biter, narrowly lost by Pakistan. Outside these rare moments, the matches have been overwhelmingly one-sided.

The head-to-head record in multi-nation tournaments underlines the gulf. In 14 T20s, Pakistan have won just three times – the same number across their last 20 ODI and T20 encounters combined. In ODIs, they are yet to win a World Cup game against India.

After Sunday's seven-wicket defeat, one Pakistani fan lamented: "They don't even know how to play modern cricket. Whether you play with Babar Azam or these Salmans, nothing will change. Pakistan cricket doesn't have DNA anymore."

Ex-captain Shoaib Malik echoed the sentiment: "I'm not surprised at all. This match showed where our cricket stands. It's not a bad day; it's a lack of skill. We were once great at hockey, now we're at the bottom."



Afghanistan hold the edge in T20I head-to-heads against Bangladesh, winning seven of the 12 encounters. Bangladesh have won the other five. The Afghans won convincingly in their last Asia Cup T20 clash against the Tigers, played in Sharjah in 2022.

Bangladesh skipper Litton Das is just 27 runs shy of surpassing Shakib Al Hasan (2,551) as the country's all-time leading run-scorer in T20Is.

Litton is also the top scorer in Bangladesh-Afghanistan contests, amassing 227 runs in 10 matches at a strike rate of 109.66, with two half-centuries.

Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi ranks second with 220 runs at a strike-rate of 118.27, and along with Shakib Al Hasan.

Rashid Khan is the leading wicket-taker in these fixtures, claiming 22 scalps at an economy rate of 5.52 and an average of 10.54 in 11 matches.



Hopes hinge on Afghan hurdle

EKUSH TAPADER FROM ABU DHABI

Bangladesh's last T20 clash with Afghanistan in Kingston during last year's World Cup in the USA remains unforgettable – a game that handed the Tigers two defeats: one on the scoreboard and another in mindset.

Back then, Bangladesh needed a big win to boost their net run rate and stay in contention for the semifinals. Yet they never fully seized the opportunity, playing just to win and ending up losing. The defeat rattled the team's confidence, while Rashid Khan and teammates made history by advancing to the last four.

The stage is different now, but the challenge is similar. In this Asia Cup,

Bangladesh must beat Afghanistan to keep their Super Four hopes alive – then wait for a loss from Afghanistan against Sri Lanka.

Coming into the tournament, Liton Das and his side looked confident, showing signs of stability. Yet after a heavy defeat to Sri Lanka, the atmosphere has turned tense.

Afghanistan, meanwhile, have played one match so far but showed intent in a convincing win over Hong Kong. The UAE pitches are familiar territory, giving Rashid's team a clear advantage.

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott acknowledged Bangladesh's potential: "My sense is that Bangladesh have real match-winning players. We will have to

put up a good challenge."

He also recalled their T20 World Cup triumph in St Vincent: "Qualifying for the semifinal gave us great confidence. That was a historic, tight game." Trott added that Bangladesh will face added pressure in this do-or-die scenario.

It was the batting collapse against Sri Lanka that put Bangladesh in a tough spot today. Bangladesh spin coach Mushtaq Ahmed highlighted the mental side of recovery: "I think little doubts occur. When you have that kind of failure early on... you have to tell your batsmen that those things happen, but you have to move on very fast, very quickly. So, our duty as coaches is to let them know not to go into a shell, not to lose their

confidence."

Bangladesh must regroup quickly, according to Mushtaq. "From a coaching point of view, we have to believe that we can qualify."

"It's difficult, of course, when you rely on 'ifs and buts,' but you have to concentrate on the next coming match, concentrate and win that match first. Then, when you are mentally strong and have belief, it can happen."

Saturday's loss exposed the fine margins in Bangladesh's approach – skill alone is not enough if cautious mindset persists. Against an experienced Afghan side, the Tigers face a stern test to keep their campaign alive.



"Cricket is going the same way... Against big sides, we have no chance in any format."

There is a prevalent joke that Pakistan cricket, which has been a carousel of chaos for a while now, starts the morning under one board chairman and ends the evening under another. Coaches rotate constantly, captaincy swaps abound; even players struggle to track leadership.

"Our cricket has been stagnant for years. People come to run it for four months, then leave, and someone else comes in. It keeps going like this," Malik added.

In such disorder, it is impossible to match the standards India, England, or Australia have set. Once, the West Indies were dominant too; now occasional wins are newsworthy themselves.

Even Indian fans are growing weary of one-sided contests. Unais Thottiyil Yusuf, a taxi driver from Kerala, put it bluntly: "What's the point of watching the Asia Cup? There's only one team, and no competition."

In Dubai, many seats remained empty, reportedly due to high ticket prices. The one-sided nature of the opening clash could likely follow through to the Super Four rematch. While Indian fans will still flock to watch their stars, Pakistani supporters' confidence in their team has undoubtedly eroded.

The two teams may meet up to two more times in this edition, but if the performance gap continues, even political colouring may not sustain the all-too-familiar pre-match buzz in future tournaments.

Bangladesh U-19s find positives in rain-marred UK tour

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Bangladesh Under-19 team's just-concluded tour of the United Kingdom was heavily marred by inclement weather, with only two of the six scheduled YODIs producing a result. Still the team's management is glad that a few individuals made their mark in the limited opportunities that were on offer.

Earlier this month, the Young Tigers travelled to the UK for a one-off YODI against Ireland U-19 side followed by a five-match series against their English counterparts.

Against Ireland, Bangladesh U-19 reached 209.7 in 37 overs before rain abruptly ended the game in Loughborough.

In the series opener against England, Rizan Hossain's brilliant hundred, aided by left-arm spinner Samiun Basir Ratul's four-wicket haul, helped the tourists earn a massive 87 run win.

The hosts won the rain-curtailed second match by four wickets in DLS method after English opener Isaac Mohammed, nephew of English all-rounder Moeen Ali, struck a match-winning hundred in Loughborough.

The third and fourth match in Bristol and Kent respectively ended in a no result as in both games the first innings couldn't be finished due to rain while the fifth YODI was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

In between the constant rain interruptions, youngsters Rizan and Ratul impressed, with the former

making 159 runs in three outings against England, which included a hundred and a half-century, and the latter finishing the series as the joint highest wicket-taker with eight wickets in three innings.

"I think Rizan and Ratul have been really consistent for us and we can think of fast-tracking these two cricketers," U-19 team selector Ehsanul Hoque told The Daily Star on Monday.

"The England side was a difficult opposition and playing against them that too on their soil was more challenging... I think our players got a good taste of playing in that condition despite all the rain," he added.

Meanwhile, head coach Naveed Nawaz feels that his charges learnt a lot from this tour.

"It was a great experience. Unfortunately, rain spoilt most of the matches but I am sure our boys learnt a lot from this," the Sri Lankan said.

"Experience of conditions will help players learn to navigate and to know what England U-19 looks like to do strategic comparisons since we might play them in the World Cup as well," he said, adding that he feels there are still few places up for grabbing for the World Cup bound-flight.

The U-19 team is scheduled to return home today. They will next play a five-match YODI series against Afghanistan at home next month, which will be their last bilateral series before the Asia Cup, slated to begin in December.



Pathum Nissanka struck a fluent 44-ball 68, laced with six fours and two sixes, while Wanindu Hasaranga's unbeaten nine-ball 20 sealed the deal as Sri Lanka survived a scare to beat Hong Kong by four wickets in their Asia Cup Group B clash in Dubai yesterday. Chasing 150, Sri Lanka looked well set at 119-2 in 15 overs, thanks to a 57-run stand between Nissanka and Kusal Perera, but slipped to 127-6 before Hasaranga's late flourish took the game away from Hong Kong, who let themselves down with six dropped catches.

PHOTO: AFP

Real aim for consistency as Champions League returns

AGENCIES

The Champions League is back on Tuesday, and with it the promise of more upsets, drama and high-stakes nights under Europe's brightest lights.

After Paris Saint-Germain's historic 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan in May, the tournament that introduced a radical new format last season is set for its second run.

UEFA's revamped 36-team league phase, replacing the traditional eight groups, injected unpredictability into the competition. Gone were the days when Europe's elite could coast through early rounds; instead, last season giants like Real Madrid and Manchester City found themselves fighting for survival until the final fixtures.

Even so, PSG's eventual triumph showed that powerhouses still hold the edge – though the shake-up gave mid-tier clubs a better shot at progressing.

Now the chase begins again, and attention quickly turns to whether anyone can stop PSG from defending their crown. No team has retained the trophy since Real Madrid, who famously won three straight titles between 2016 and 2018.

Madrid themselves enter this season with renewed ambition. The 15-time European champions open their campaign at home to Marseille on Tuesday (Wednesday, 1:00 am, Bangladesh time), hoping that former midfield maestro Xabi Alonso can guide them back to continental dominance.



Last season was a sobering one for Los Blancos. Carlo Ancelotti's side were thrashed 5-1 on aggregate by Arsenal in the quarterfinals, exposing flaws in both tactics and squad balance. Despite boasting a "fantastic four" attack of Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Jude Bellingham, Madrid's defence too often crumbled. Six defeats in the competition left them empty-handed while Barcelona celebrated a domestic treble.

Alonso has quickly imposed order since his arrival in the summer, alongside €170 million worth of new signings. Madrid have started La Liga with four wins from four, keeping two clean sheets and showing resilience, notably in Saturday's 2-1 victory over Real Sociedad when they played more than an hour with 10 men.

"The players made a huge effort and dug deep for the benefit of the team," Alonso said after that win, stressing the collective focus that seemed absent last year.

The Basque coach has already shown a willingness to rotate and adapt, benching Vinicius in one game and substituting him early in another. With eight matches in the Champions League league phase, rotation will be key.

For Madrid, consistency is the target, with Mbappe's sharp form – four goals in four La Liga games – offering encouragement. If Alonso's pragmatic edge matches his squad's attacking brilliance, Europe's most decorated club could once again set its sights on the throne.



Mondo Duplantis broke the pole vault world record for the 14th time with a jump of 6.30 metres as he secured a third straight world title on Monday. The gold medal was already secure for the American-born Swede when he had the bar raised a centimetre higher than the record height of 6.29m he managed in Budapest last month. He failed by the narrowest of margins at his first two attempts but, roared on by a captivated crowd at the National Stadium, slid over on the third with the bar giving a slight wobble before settling.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
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Admin reshuffle, fresh arrest follow Rajbari violence

UNO, OC transferred; 24 held in 2 cases so far

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Administrative reshuffles and arrests continue in the wake of the attack on the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, also known as "Nural Pagla", in Goalanda, Rajbari on September 5.

Ten days after the incident, the public administration ministry transferred Goalanda Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Nahidur Rahman to the Export Promotion Bureau under the commerce ministry as a deputy director yesterday.

Commenting on his transfer, Nahidur told reporters, "This is a routine administrative reshuffle in government service. There is nothing else involved. I will perform my duties diligently at my new posting."

Earlier, on September 12, Abdullah Al Mamun, inspector (investigation) of Baliakandi Police Station, replaced Md Rakibul Islam as Goalanda Ghat Police Station's officer-in-charge (OC). Rakibul was reassigned to the Crime Branch at the office of the district's superintendent of police.

Meanwhile, a team of Detective Branch officers arrested Nazrul Islam, 33, from Nagar Kanda, Faridpur on Sunday in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



Police fire water cannons at members of the Bangladesh Non-Government Primary School General Teachers' Unity Council near the High Court's Kadam Fountain yesterday, as they try to break through barricades during a protest demanding nationalisation of non-government primary schools.

PHOTO: STAR

Murder suspect dies in custody

Rab says he hanged himself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A suspect in a murder case died in the custody of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Sylhet yesterday morning, around 12 hours after his arrest.

The deceased, Tanvir Chowdhury, 26, a resident of Sadar upazila in Gazipur, was the prime accused in his wife's murder in Naogaon on September 11.

Rab-9 Commanding Officer Wing Commander Tajminur Rahman Chowdhury said that Tanvir died by suicide around 8:30am at the battalion headquarters in Sylhet city. "He tied a blanket to the ventilator grille of the cell and hanged himself," he said.

Tanvir was arrested on Saturday night in a joint operation by Rab-9 Sylhet and Rab-5 Rajshahi in Jaintapur upazila's Chailakhal area in Sylhet. He was brought to the Sylhet Rab headquarters around 8:45pm, according to the commanding officer.

The Rab CO said the suspect was given breakfast in the morning, and he appeared normal before the incident.

"After his arrest, we were busy handing over another accused in the Sada Pathor looting case to the police. Since we had 24 hours to produce Tanvir before court, he was kept in the cell to commence the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

'Foreign power backed Hasina's fascist regime'

Mahmudur Rahman tells ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, with foreign backing, established a "fascist regime" in Bangladesh by weakening the army, undermining the judiciary and suppressing political opposition.

Testifying as a prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case against Hasina and two others, Mahmudur introduced himself as a journalist, writer and researcher. He said he had observed the rise and fall of "one of the worst rulers in Bangladesh's history", culminating in last year's uprising.



He argued that Hasina's regime was sustained by collaborators in the army, DGFI, judiciary, police, Election Commission and media. "The fascist rule was established through meticulous planning, with direct involvement of certain Bangladeshi politicians and a foreign power."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Protests in Nepal against interim govt

Key group protests appointment of ministers, demands govt must reflect Gen Z demographic

AGENCIES

Nepal's new interim prime minister unveiled her first ministers yesterday, as the Himalayan nation seeks to restore order after deadly youth-led anti-corruption protests that ousted the previous government.

However, the selection of ministers sparked the first protest against the three-day-old interim government by Gen Z protesters who played a key role in ousting the previous government.

Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Hami Nepal (We are Nepal) group, which led the movement, staged a protest outside the Nepal Prime Minister's residence in Baluwater late Sunday night, demanding the resignation of Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, the 73-year-old former chief justice, according to several Indian media outlets.

According to Indian media, the protest follows public dissatisfaction after Karki appointed three key ministers without reportedly consulting Hami Nepal.

However, the ceremony went ahead yesterday.

Om Prakash Aryal, an advocate known for his cases tackling



Fallen Gen Z protesters declared martyrs

Major parties signal readiness for polls if 'fair conditions' ensured

corruption, governance and human rights, takes the critical home minister post, as well as law, justice and parliamentary affairs.

Kulman Ghising, the former director of the Nepal Electricity Authority - who is widely credited with ending the country's long-standing load-shedding problem - has the energy, infrastructure, transport and urban development portfolios.

Rameshwar Khanal, a former

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Man hacked to death in Madaripur

Trader killed in Narsingdi

STAR REPORT

A man was hacked to death in Shibchar Bazar in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila around 9:00pm on Sunday.

The victim, Rakib Madbor, 25, from Charshy-mail village under Shiruail union, had recently been released on bail in a murder case, said Md Rakibul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shibchar Police Station.

Critically injured, Rakib was rushed to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex and later referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He died on the way.

A 19-second video clip of the incident went viral on social media, showing two attackers hacking him with sharp weapons as onlookers stood by. Police said the assailants have been identified through the video and CCTV footage.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

US vows 'unwavering support' for Israel

Says Hamas must be 'eliminated'; Muslim leaders gather at Doha for emergency summit

AFP, Jerusalem

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday said that Washington was steadfast in its support for its ally Israel's pursuit of the Gaza war and called for the eradication of Hamas.

"The people of Gaza deserve a better future, but that better future cannot begin until Hamas is eliminated," Rubio told reporters at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

"You can count on our unwavering support," he said.

Netanyahu said Rubio's visit was a "clear message" the United States stood with Israel and praised President Donald Trump for his backing, calling him the "greatest friend that Israel has ever had".

Rubio criticised plans by Western nations to recognise a Palestinian state, saying they "emboldened" Hamas. "They're largely symbolic... the only impact they actually have is it makes Hamas feel more emboldened," he said.

Rubio had said he would discuss with Netanyahu Israeli plans to seize Gaza City, the territory's largest urban centre, as well as the government's talk of annexing parts of the occupied West Bank in hopes of precluding a Palestinian state.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Rubio criticises Western nations' move to recognise Palestinian state

Netanyahu says Trump 'greatest friend' Israel has ever had

Qatar emir says Israel attack aimed to derail Gaza talks

Two die of anthrax-like symptoms in Rangpur

Over 100 infected; IEDCR collects samples

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two people have died in Pargacha upazila of Rangpur in the past month with symptoms resembling anthrax, while over a hundred others have received treatment for similar infections.

A team from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research (IEDCR) began fieldwork on September 13. Blood samples are being collected from affected individuals, with results expected in the coming days.

Pargacha Upazila Health Officer Muhammad Tanvir Hasnat Robin said the deaths and infections show signs consistent with anthrax, but it can be confirmed after lab tests.

The deceased are Abdur Razzak, 60, a farmer from Maita village, and Komola

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Debris and smoke spread from Al-Ghefari tower as Israeli air strikes hit the high-rise building in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Arakan Army involved in yaba trade: BGB

80% of yaba enter via sea routes; Rohingya key traffickers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Arakan Army is involved in the trade of contraband yaba pills, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said yesterday in a statement.

"Rohingyas are the main traffickers of yaba. They move the drugs very fast, which makes it difficult to catch them. Some unscrupulous people in our country, driven by their own interests, are bringing yaba from Myanmar's Arakan Army into Bangladesh," Ramu Sector Commander Col Mohiduddin Ahmed told journalists at a press conference at a Cox's Bazar hotel.

The briefing highlighted BGB's recent successes in drug and arms recovery and outlined new measures to strengthen border security.

In a written statement, Col Mohiduddin said drug smuggling through coastal areas has now become the biggest challenge.

"Because of strict surveillance along the Ukhiya-Teknaf border, traffickers are becoming active on sea routes. It's estimated that nearly 80 percent of drugs enter Bangladesh through the coasts of Maheshkhali, Banshkhali, Kutubdia, Anwara, and Kuakata. From these routes, drugs are not only spreading inside Bangladesh but also being smuggled to other countries, which is a grave threat to our youth and economy."

He also displayed photographs of radar images

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