



A man carries the body of a child killed by Israeli bombardment on al-Bureij, outside al-Awda Hospital in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

What does recognising a Palestinian state mean?

AGENCIES

With Britain, Australia, and Canada's recognition, the prospect of a Palestinian state received a symbolic boost.

And, later this week, if United Nations member states vote in favour of Palestinians, it will be seen as a diplomatic and political milestone that could increase international pressure on Israel.

Palestine currently holds the status of a "non-member observer state" at the UN, a designation granted in 2012. Recognition by the UN General Assembly could build momentum for Palestine to seek full

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Britain, Australia, Canada recognise Palestinian state

Strongly back two-state solution amid Gaza carnage

AGENCIES

Britain, Australia and Canada yesterday recognised a Palestinian state in a coordinated, historic shift in decades of Western foreign policy, triggering swift anger from Israel.

Portugal was also set to recognise Palestinian statehood later yesterday, with other countries, including France, due to follow suit today at the annual UN General Assembly opening in New York.

Israel has come under huge international pressure over its war in Gaza, which has sparked a dire humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory.

Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the

- Netanyahu says move endangers Israel's existence
- Israeli ministers advocate for annexing West Bank
- More Western nations set to follow suit

statehood moves and vowed, "It will not happen. No Palestinian state will be established west of the Jordan River."

He slammed the move as "absurd" and said it would "endanger" Israel's existence, later vowing to expand Jewish

settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Netanyahu spoke after UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Britain was formally recognising the State of Palestine "to revive the hope of peace for the Palestinians and Israelis, and a two-state solution".

The UK and Canada became the first members of the Group of Seven advanced economies to take the step, with Australia following suit.

Three-quarters of UN members now recognise Palestinian statehood, with at least 144 of the 193 member countries having taken the step, according to an AFP tally.

Canada "offers our partnership in building the promise of a

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Dengue infection rate 81% higher than last year

Country logs record single-day deaths, cases this year

HELEMUL ALAM and TUNIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country has seen a sharp year-on-year surge in dengue, with cases up 81 percent and deaths 43 percent, raising concern over the worsening outbreak.

Unlike previous years, most cases have been reported from outside the capital.

Amid the escalating crisis, the health directorate yesterday logged the highest single-day death toll and cases this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 12 dengue deaths were reported yesterday. Nine occurred between 8:00am Saturday and 8:00am Sunday, while three more from the preceding 24 hours were added as they had not been included in the earlier tally.

Yesterday, 740 new cases were recorded. Previously, the highest single-day death toll was six, and daily infections had not crossed 700.

In September alone, 57 people died – the highest of any month this year. The death tolls in August and July were 39 and 41.

The death toll was 39 in August and 41 in July.

- 179 dead, 41,831 infected so far this year
- Barishal bears heaviest caseload (12,170)
- Barguna tops districts with 6,631 cases, 11 deaths
- DSCC sees 85 deaths, 6,456 infections
- Secondary infections, delayed admission driving fatalities



Since January, 179 people have died from dengue, 43 percent more than last year. Meanwhile, 41,831 cases have been recorded, an 81 percent year-on-year increase.

By September 21 last year, dengue had claimed 125 lives and infected 23,108 people, DGHS data show.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Bangladesh still locked out of key labour markets

MD ABBAS

Labour migration from Bangladesh to some major overseas markets has remained stalled for years, leaving tens of thousands of aspiring migrant workers stranded.

Countries including the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Oman and Bahrain have either shut or heavily restricted entry for Bangladeshi workers, with no clear timeline for reopening.

Despite repeated assurances and high-level engagements, including during the past 14 months of the interim government, Bangladesh has made little headway in having those markets reopened.

Experts and industry insiders say fraud in the migration process, over recruitment, commission for visa, and syndicate control have crippled the system.

They have warned that unless urgent measures are taken, Bangladesh may lose its foothold in the global labour market to competitors like the Philippines and Nepal and put steady remittance inflow into uncertainty.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

87% support election in February

Survey of 10,413 voters finds 56% unaware of PR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 94 percent of respondents in a survey said they are interested in casting votes if the 13th national election is held next year.

About 87 percent supported holding the election in February while nearly 70 percent expressed confidence that the interim government could conduct a fair election.

However, around 56 percent said they have no idea about the proportional representation (PR) system in parliament's upper house, found the survey

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Smoke rises from burning objects as demonstrators shout towards police officers during a protest denouncing what they say is massive corruption linked to flood control projects in Manila, Philippines, yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Try AL for crimes against humanity

Nahid says after ICT hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday demanded that the Awami League be put on trial for crimes against humanity.

He said the International Crimes Tribunal has the scope to try the party.

Nahid was speaking to reporters after his cross-examination at ICT-1 in a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

"In this case, Sheikh Hasina is an individual accused. But this is not merely an organised crime by an individual – it is a political crime. The Awami League as a party should be brought under trial. The tribunal has that scope, and we will apply for it," he said.

Nahid, a key coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, argued that Hasina, as party leader, acted against her own people to secure absolute power, and the people ultimately resisted and overthrew her. "This is an organised crime of the Awami League. The party should be tried without delay."

Responding to a query, the NCP leader, who is the 47th prosecution witness in the case, said if the AL could be brought to justice and banned, then all those who were its "fascist accomplices" could also be brought to justice.

He added that his abduction and torture were not just attacks on him personally but on the movement and the nation. "This crime was against the people. That is why I extended my support to the tribunal and testified."

He also called for swift trials in cases of enforced disappearances as well.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam, briefing journalists later, said evidence presented in court already implicates the AL, its associate bodies, and the 14-party alliance.

"The law allows such scopes. If direct complaints are filed, it becomes easier for the investigation agency to proceed. But even without that, existing evidence shows the involvement of groups like Jubo League, Chhatra League, Swechhchasebak League,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



10th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, **Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi)**, the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members



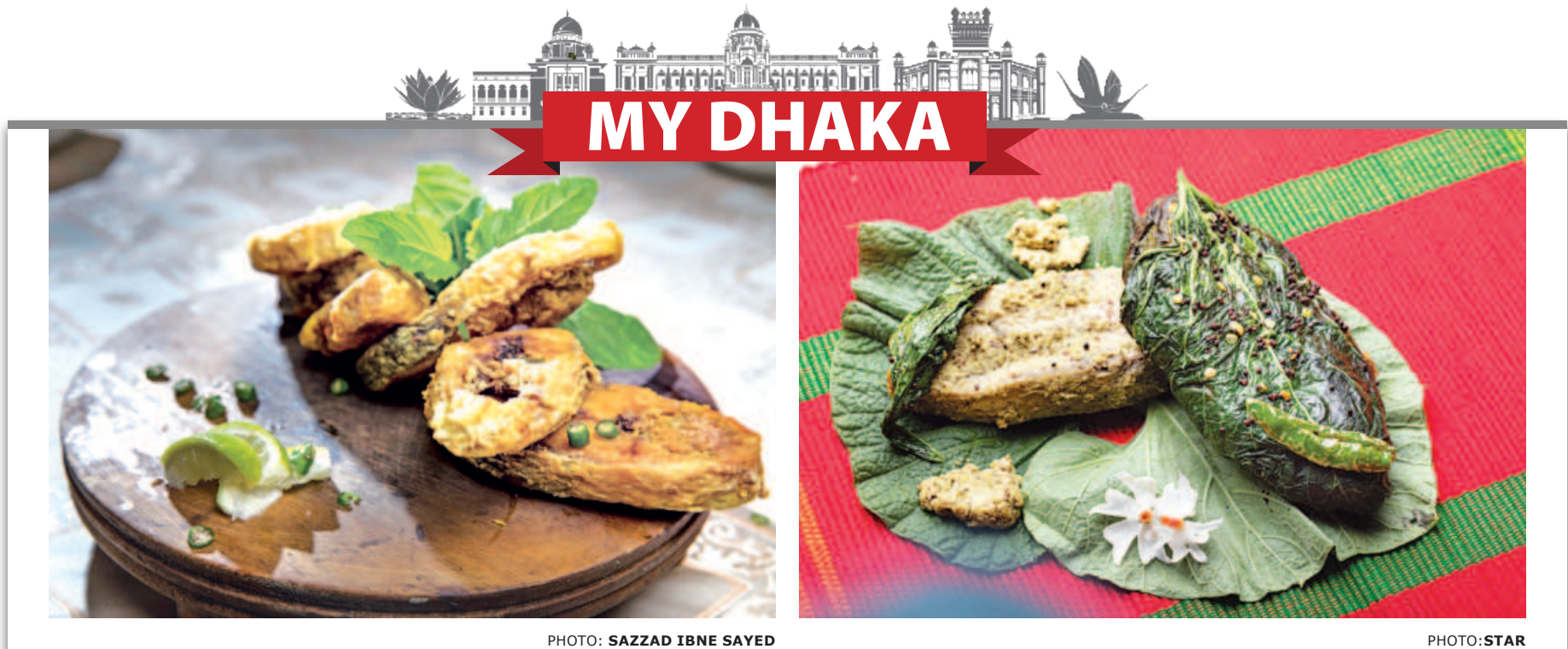


PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

PHOTO: STAR

Vanishing hilsa and price we're paying

RBR

It was my friend's birthday, and I forgot to wish him. As penance, I treated him to a hilsa dinner.

The lightest of untoasted shona moong lentil soup, with loads of julienne ginger and cumin tempered in ghee, sides of aubergine and pointed gourd fritters, potato mash seasoned with roasted dry red chilli and mustard oil, and piping hot Kataribhog steamed rice.

Of course, the highlight of the menu was the lightly fried hilsa steaks in mustard oil, served with onions and dry chilli deep-fried in ilish oil, and slices of Kagoji lebu.

What a grand, and expensive, way of saying sorry. Hilsa this season can cost you an arm and a leg, but for a dear friend, it is worth the missing limbs.

For a Bangalee, hilsa is festival food. It is a special dish prepared for loved ones, and soul food too. A simple fish fry can lift your spirits when you are

low. But why is hilsa so elusive this year, and why does it cost a fortune?

"In the previous hilsa season, we saw a supply of 10,000 tonnes, whereas this year the supply so far is around only 2,000 tonnes," says Muhammad Bachu Miah, a seasoned fishmonger who has been in business for 30 years. He procures the fish from New Market and sells to regular clients. Bachu says he normally earns a profit of Tk 7-8 lakh from hilsa sales each season, but this year the figure is around Tk 2 lakh.

Hilsa season continues till Kartik in the Bangla calendar, but this year storms and heavy rains during the full moon of Bhadra lowered water flow in

the rivers, disrupting fish migration. This adverse weather, coupled with overfishing of young hilsa, has hit the catch badly, he explains.

Shahana Huda Ronjona, owner of catering service Bistro on the Go, says seasonal sellers who once hawked hilsa pairs or quartets are no longer seen. "I used to buy from my fishmonger Chan Miah and from random sellers for Tk 1,700 per kg. Last week, I paid Tk 4,000 for a one and a half-kilo hilsa. Customers who order hilsa polao, hilsa in mustard sauce, or steaks wrapped in banana leaves are now very few," she says.

She charges Tk 750 for hilsa polao and Tk 500 for other dishes.



Bangladesh still locked out of key labour markets

FROM PAGE 1
UAE RESTRICTIONS
The UAE, Bangladesh's second-largest labour market after Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, has remained largely closed since 2013.

Unofficial estimates suggest 1-1.2 million Bangladeshis currently work there.

Although migration picked up after 2021, with 101,000 workers going in 2022 and 98,000 in 2023, the number dropped to 47,000 last year, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The UAE quietly curbed visit and work visas for Bangladeshis in July 2024 after some migrants demonstrated in solidarity with the quota reform movement back home.

BM Jamal Hossain, then consul general in Dubai, confirmed that visa applications had been restricted since July 22, 2024.

During the World Governments Summit in Dubai earlier this year, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus urged UAE ministers to lift the ban, but no progress is visible.

The uncertainty has left aspiring migrants like Ziaul Haq (pseudonym) of Barguna in limbo. "I've been waiting for 13 months after submitting my passport for the visa. Because of the restrictions after the protests, my visa is still not processed," he said.

Adding to the confusion, a website called UAE Visa Online claimed on September 17 that Bangladeshis, along with citizens of eight other countries, would not be allowed to apply for visit or work visas in 2026, citing security concerns, geopolitical issues, and possible COVID-19 spread.

Ambassador Tareq Ahmed at the Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and Chief Adviser's Envoy for International Affairs Lutefy Siddiqi did not respond to repeated calls and text messages for comments.

Tareq dismissed the report while

talking to local reporters. He said the embassy received no such official notice from the UAE government, according to media reports.

However, an official at Bangladesh's Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star, "The fact that no visit or work visas have been issued in the past year proves that the ban is still in place."

MALAYSIA: ONLY PROMISES
After another crucial destination, Malaysia, had reopened its market in 2021, nearly 4.5 lakh workers migrated between August 2022 and April 2024. However, over 18,000 workers were stranded after missing the departure deadline.

Several visits and meetings, including Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's Dhaka trip in October 2024, produced promises but no breakthrough.

In May this year, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Asif Nazrul visited Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian officials assured him of prioritising Bangladesh's issue, but no tangible progress followed.

Later that month, Dhaka hosted the third Joint Working Group meeting with Malaysia, focused on safe migration. However, concrete results are yet to come.

Anisul Islam of Manikganj, one of the 18,000 stranded, said he had paid Tk 5.3 lakh to agencies and brokers to secure a job in Malaysia.

"If the government refunds only Tk 79,900 as the official fee, I will be ruined. We've been hearing promises for months, but how long are we supposed to wait?" he said.

SHRINKING MARKET
Over the past decade, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Brunei, and Malaysia have closed their doors to Bangladeshi workers at various times.

In August 2018, a Bangladeshi national in Bahrain murdered an

imam, following which the oil-rich country shut its labour market to Bangladeshi workers and also deported a significant number of Bangladeshis.

Oman closed its labour market for Bangladeshi workers in September 2024 due to an oversupply of workers and visa issues.

The Maldives also suspended visas last year citing irregularities.

"Instead of expanding, our labour market is shrinking day by day," said Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Initiatives Programme.

He blamed fraud, visa trading, and over-recruitment, adding that Bangladesh should have built a comprehensive, digitalised recruitment system.

Shariful cautioned that overdependence on Saudi Arabia, now the dominant employer, could deepen economic risks. "Without urgent reforms and breakthroughs, remittance inflows may erode further."

"Unless bold steps are taken, we will keep losing opportunities to others," he said.

He stressed that stronger diplomacy, transparent recruitment, and action against syndicates are crucial. "Real progress will come only when costs are reduced, medical care ensured, embassies support workers in distress, and returnees get reintegration support," he said.

Fakhrul Islam, former joint secretary of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), echoed the concern. "The Middle East is our largest market, yet the UAE, Bahrain, and Oman remain closed. Malaysia was one of our biggest, but even after a year, it is still shut," he said.

He urged the government to use Chief Adviser Yunus's global stature more actively in diplomatic efforts. "If he engages directly, there is a chance to reopen some of these markets," Fakhrul said.

87% support holding polls in February

FROM PAGE 1
titled "People's Thoughts on the Election".

Conducted by consultancy firm Innovision Consulting, the second round (first phase) of the survey was carried out from September 2 to 15.

Based on interviews with 10,413 citizens eligible to vote across Bangladesh, the survey explored public perceptions on the government's performance, election timing, law and order, and electoral reform.

Rubaiyat Sarwar, managing director of Innovision Consulting, presented the findings at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

It is part of a broader initiative called People's Perceptions on Election Survey, conducted in collaboration with Voice for Reform and the Bangladesh Research Analysis & Information Network (BRAIN).

According to the findings, over 77.5 percent think they will be able to vote safely and without fear, while 56 percent expressed concerns over law and order, saying extortion has increased in the past six months.

The survey also shows that younger generations are more aware and positive about the PR system compared to older generations. But on the issue of neutrality of police and administration during the election, Gen Z respondents were less

optimistic than the elderly.

About 78.7 percent of respondents evaluated the interim government's activities positively.

Still, more educated people were less satisfied than less-educated groups, pointing to a rise in extortion. Educated respondents were also more aware and supportive of the PR system.

University students, compared to the general public, showed less interest in voting and more disagreement about election timing. They also reported concerns about growing extortion.

The survey further found that religious minority communities are less confident about the interim government's ability to conduct a neutral election.

Speaking at the event as the chief guest, the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the findings of the survey showed the February election timeframe has received a "clear and thumping yes" from citizens.

It is also an indication of public trust in the interim government's ability to hold a fair election, he said. "This will be one of the best elections in our history. People across the country are eager to vote, and no one will be able to question the legitimacy of this election if 95 percent of voters expect it to be fair."

Alam criticised the rise of YouTube and online platforms as the main source of information.

He alleged that some senior journalists spread a "barrage of misinformation" through these platforms while seeking protection under freedom of expression.

"Law and order problems exist in some places, and we are not denying that. But the way television and social media portray the country as if it is collapsing is largely a matter of perception," he said.

He also said the interim government continues to enjoy strong public support, with nearly 80 percent of citizens satisfied with its performance.

Political analyst Saimum Parvez called on all parties to move away from violence and blame-based politics. They should focus on presenting clear, data-backed policies on issues like environment, health, agriculture, and employment, he said.

He supported further discussion on using the PR system in the upper house, but opposed introducing it in the lower house, saying it would weaken the connection between lawmakers and local constituencies.

Supreme Court lawyer Rashna Imam, Bdjobs.com CEO AKM Fahim Mashroor, and BRAIN Executive Director Shafiqur Rahman, among others, also spoke at the event.

Dengue infection rate 81% higher than last year

FROM PAGE 1
Intermittent rain and a lack of mosquito control drives are major factors behind the sharp rise in dengue cases, said Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

The numbers may continue to rise for a few more weeks until the prevailing situation changes, she added.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar warned that the outbreak's peak, which usually falls between July and September, has been delayed by heavy rain and is now expected in October.

He suggested a community-driven mosquito control initiative, including the distribution of Insect Growth Regulator tablets and public involvement, as municipal measures alone are inadequate.

Delayed hospital admission is a leading factor behind the increasing death toll, said HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

"We don't have proper sero-surveillance, so we cannot confirm the exact reasons. But if the Den-2 serotype remains dominant, severity and fatalities will remain high."

Sero-surveillance provides estimates of antibody levels against infectious

diseases and is considered the gold standard for measuring population immunity.

The dengue virus exists in four serotypes: Den-1, Den-2, Den-3, and Den-4.

Last year, 70 percent of dengue cases were linked to the Den-2 strain, Nazmul said.

This year, most patients are suffering from secondary dengue infections, which are graver and carry a higher risk of death.

Nazmul recommended early admission for high-risk groups such as the elderly, pregnant women, and people with comorbidities.

He also warned about the dangers of cross-infection from different serotypes, which can worsen outcomes if treatment is delayed.

For those in home care, he advised consuming plenty of fluids such as oral saline, coconut water, rice starch, soups, and homemade fruit juices.

He stressed that the 48 hours after recovery from fever is the most critical period, requiring close monitoring.

Across the country, Barishal Division continues to bear the highest dengue caseload, with 12,170 cases recorded until yesterday and 27 deaths so far.

Of the 12 deaths recorded across the

country yesterday, five were reported from Barishal, five from Dhaka, and one each from Mymensingh and Chattogram divisions.

Barguna recorded 6,631 cases, the highest of any district. Recently, the southern district reported several deaths, taking its toll to 11, DGHS data show.

Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation has recorded 85 deaths and 6,456 cases to date.

Officials said deaths at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and several other hospitals contributed significantly to the high numbers in the area.

Dhaka North City Corporation has reported 22 deaths and 4,470 infections so far, according to DGHS data.

Many of the patients who died from dengue in Dhaka were from outside the capital, increasing the city's death toll compared to other divisions.

After Dhaka and Barishal, Chattogram Division too has seen a sharp rise in deaths and cases over the last two months.

As of July, it had recorded 12 deaths and 3,013 infections, which have risen to 23 deaths and 6,412 infections until yesterday.

'I got shot trying to save Abu Sayed'

Witness recounts harrowing scene at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, collapsed on the ground after being struck by police bullets, Md Siam Ahsan Ayan, 18, rushed to his rescue and was himself hit by gunfire.

Siam, then a student of RCCI Public School and College in Rangpur, recounted the harrowing scene while testifying before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in the Abu Sayed murder case filed in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 uprising.

He told the tribunal that Sayed stood with his arms outstretched when police first fired shots around 2:17pm during a protest in front of BRUR Gate-1 on July 16. Soon afterwards he fell on the road.

"As I was trying to take Sayed away, he again lost his balance and slipped from my hands. At that time, he was bleeding profusely," Siam testified.

He showed the court the marks of his injuries, describing how he too had been shot while trying to save Sayed.



In video evidence, he identified himself as the person seen holding Sayed.

Siam, the sixth witness, alleged that police fired on instructions from then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, then road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader, and then IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun and others.

He said after being injured by police gunfire, Sayed was taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. "At that time, I was at the park intersection. When we learned of Abu Sayed's death, we were outraged, and this news further intensified our movement," he told the tribunal.

Concluding his testimony, Siam demanded trial of and death penalty for those responsible. The hearing will continue today.

The ICT-2 has framed charges against former BRUR vice-chancellor Md Hasibur Rashid, former Rangpur Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Moniruzzaman and 28 others on charges of murder, attempted murder, abetment and complicity in crimes against humanity.

Try AL for crimes against humanity

FROM PAGE 1
and the 14-party alliance."

Tajul added that while no formal decision had been made, the prosecution might act if families or victims submit complaints against organisations. "The law also allows the investigation agency to initiate inquiries on its own if credible information is available."

During cross-examination, Nahid dismissed the claim of state defence counsel Amir Hossain, representing Hasina and Kamal, that the movement was influenced by "domestic and foreign forces".

The lawyer argued they proposed Prof Muhammad Yunus as the head of an interim government since the movement was driven by the "domestic and foreign forces". Nahid said, "It is not true."

Amir also argued that Hasina had not ordered the use of helicopters or lethal weapons, and that state forces had sought to protect lives and property. Nahid rejected the claim outright.

The lawyer further said no crimes against humanity were committed during July-August 2024. Nahid said, "It is untrue."

After Nahid's cross-examination was completed, Ali Ahsan Jonaed, founder-convenor of newly formed United Peoples Bangladesh (UP Bangladesh), testified before the ICT-1 as the 48th witness.

Jonaed, a former Dhaka University student, recounted his involvement in the 2013, 2018, and 2024 quota reform movements, as well as his role in the July uprising. He described repeated attacks

on students by police and Chhatra League activists.

He said that hours before the army chief announced Hasina's resignation on August 5, protesters in Jatrabari were targeted by sniper fire. "I saw at least 15 protesters taken to hospitals with bullet wounds to their heads," he testified.

Jonaed claimed that more than 100 protesters were killed and hundreds wounded in the Jatrabari-Chattogram Road area, with 134 buried as unclaimed bodies in Rayer Bazar graveyard, during the uprising.

He demanded justice not only for Hasina and Kamal, but also for the Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League, police, and other forces involved in the killings.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said deployment of law enforcement agencies will begin from September 24 to ensure peaceful celebration of Durga Puja.



He was briefing reporters at the Secretariat following the 13th meeting on law and order, which discussed preparations for the upcoming national election, Durga Puja celebrations, and overall security situation.

Jahangir said puja committees have already agreed to keep seven guards at each mandap, while police, Rab, border guards, and Ansars will patrol ahead of the festival starting from September 28.

The women and children affairs ministry would deploy around 80,000 women volunteers to assist security efforts, he said.

Many mandaps now have video surveillance, helping to identify perpetrators quickly, he said.

He dismissed claims that 29 districts were at risk, saying, "This year puja will be celebrated peacefully across the country..."

Suspend highway project at Chunati wildlife sanctuary**BELA serves legal notice**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) yesterday served a legal notice on the government, asking it to immediately suspend all activities of the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway improvement (Phase-II) project at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary in order to properly protect its forests, wildlife, and biodiversity.

Advocate Zakia Sultana sent the legal notice on behalf of BELA to the officials concerned, saying that it is imperative to take acceptable alternative measures – including flyovers, overpasses, and underpasses – by seeking expert opinions and assessing the environmental impact impartially.

In the legal notice, BELA requested the officials to formulate a time-bound action plan for conservation and management of the sanctuary. It also said no new development projects should be undertaken in the sanctuary, and corrective measures should be taken after examining the project impact.



Police face resistance from locals during an eviction drive at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna's Mujgunni area yesterday. Inset, the law enforcers in action during a clash with the residents.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS**

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucsu election is finally set to take place on September 25. In the run-up to the polls, the RU campus is abuzz with anticipation as candidates put forward their pledges. The Daily Star spoke with two such aspirants – VP candidate Nur Uddin Abir and GS candidate Salauddin Ammar – to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

Will work to ensure students' rights**Says VP candidate Nur Uddin Abir**

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Sheikh Nur Uddin Abir, vice-president candidate of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal - backed "Oikya boddho Notun Projonmo" panel in the upcoming Rucsu elections, has pledged to work for ensuring students' rights so they are not subjected to deprivation or exploitation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abir said the Rucsu elections being held after 35 years is a historic opportunity

for Rajshahi University students to finally elect their representatives in a festive environment.

"Students demanded Rucsu polls many times in the past, but now finally it is happening. We are now reaching out to voters, and they are welcoming us with enthusiasm," he said.

Abir, who has been active in campus politics since his admission in 2018, said, "From the beginning, I worked for students' rights. I

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

**Quick response team for students****Vows GS candidate Salauddin Ammar**

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Salauddin Ammar, who is contesting for the general secretary post in the upcoming Rucsu elections from the "Adhipottobirodhi Oikya" panel, has pledged to form a quick response team on the campus to address students' problems.

Ammar is former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination (SAD). "From the very beginning of my campus life, I have

always been involved in movements and struggles for students' rights, speaking out and fighting against injustice. I am running in this election because I want to work for the students."

"When it comes to students' rights, I have never made the slightest compromise. If the students choose me as their representative, I will certainly do whatever is necessary for their rights," he told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

**BASTUHARA COLONY****Eviction drive turns violent as locals clash with cops**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Several people were injured in a clash between police and locals during an eviction drive at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna city's Mujgunni area yesterday.

According to locals, the eviction was scheduled to begin at 9:00am to hand over possession of plots to their rightful owners. However, resistance from nearly 200 families currently residing on the two-acre colony land delayed the drive.

The situation escalated around 10:00am when police baton-charged residents attempting to block the eviction. In retaliation, the protesters threw brickbats, forcing law enforcers to retreat temporarily. Police later fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, prompting residents to flee.

During the clash, agitated locals vandalised a bulldozer brought for the drive.

Police said the eviction was carried out on the instructions of a magistrate but was suspended after the violence. "We are following court orders. But the drive has been halted temporarily due to the situation," said Mir Atahar Ali, officer-in-charge of Khalishpur Police Station. "Six police members were injured," he added.

The land in question has been at the centre of disputes for decades. In 1987, the government's housing authority sold the plots in Mujgunni through a lottery to 42 allottees. Despite purchasing the plots, the owners are yet to receive possession, said officials. On the other hand, nearly 200 low-income families, many identifying as displaced, have been living in the Bastuhara Colony for years. They argue that any eviction without rehabilitation would render them homeless.

"We have nowhere else to go. The government must ensure rehabilitation before eviction," said Nazrin Begum, one of the residents.

Another local Nazmul Karim said several of the wounded were taken to KMCH for treatment.

Public admin senior secy transferred

STAR REPORT

Senior Secretary Mokhles Ur Rahman has been transferred from the Ministry of Public Administration and appointed as a member of the Planning Commission.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Mokhles Ur Rahman, an officer of BCS administration cadre from batch-82, was appointed senior secretary of the ministry in August 2024 following the fall of the Awami League government.

While speaking to The Daily Star, he said, "The government has done what it deemed best. In line with that decision, I have already joined my new workplace." Meanwhile, an additional secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration Abu Shahin M Ashaduzzaman has been given the charge (present duty) of the ministry's secretary.

**Mokhles Ur Rahman****Students to get new textbooks in January****Says finance adviser**

STAR REPORT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said students will get new textbooks in January, even though the purchase proposal was withdrawn for further scrutiny.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat after a meeting of the Advisory Council's committee on public purchase, Salehuddin said some printing orders had already been issued, but approvals for books for several classes were held back.

"We want to verify the quality of books printed earlier – the paper used, and whether some firms are monopolising multiple contracts," he said. "That is why today's purchase proposal was withdrawn. The list will be reviewed and brought back, possibly next week."

"Reports of malpractice surface from time to time. We want to ensure no such firms are awarded work this year," he said.

While work orders were issued in November last year, the government is taking steps to finalise them in September this time so that books are delivered on January 1, he said.

Ctg, Naogaon, Narsingdi get new DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed new deputy commissioners (DCs) in three districts – Chattogram, Naogaon and Narsingdi.

Mohammad Abdul Awal, currently serving as DC of Naogaon, has been made the new DC of Chattogram, replacing Farida Khanom.

Monira Haque, deputy secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, has been appointed as the new DC of Naogaon.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Anwar Hossain, deputy secretary of the Health Education and Family Welfare Division, will serve as the new DC of Narsingdi, replacing Mohammad Rashed Hossain Chowdhury.

A notification confirming the appointments was issued yesterday, signed by Aminul Islam, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration.



Political leaders accompanying Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the United Nations General Assembly await at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport VIP lounge in Dhaka before their flight to New York early today.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CHIEF ADVISER GOB

Forty held with drugs, weapons in Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested 40 people with explosives, narcotics, and locally made weapons during an overnight raid in Geneva Camp under Mohammadpur Police Station in Dhaka.

The drive began at 4:00pm on Saturday and continued until 3:30am yesterday, with the support of 120 members of Tejgaon Division police, according to a press statement issued yesterday.

From their possession, police recovered eight crude bombs, two petrol bombs, six samurai swords, five helmets, three knives, 11 stolen mobile phones, and 500 grams of heroin, it added.

Police said the raid was part of regular operations to maintain law and order in the capital.

Legal proceedings are underway against the arrestees at Mohammadpur Police Station, the statement added.

Magnitude 4 quake jolts Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An earthquake registering magnitude four on the Richter scale jolted Sylhet and its adjoining areas around 12:20pm yesterday.

The epicentre of the quake was in Chatak upazila of Sunamganj district, as reported by Bangladesh Meteorological Department. However, no casualties or damage have been reported so far.

OFFICE TO-LET

House-12/A, Unit-E-2 Road-8 Gulshan-1, 2500 sft. 4 bedroom Apartment. Other floors occupied by Local & foreign office & office cum residence. 01911-360 990

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JV signed between Vav Productions and Brave Horse Ventures

Dhaka, 19 September 2025 - Malaysia's Vav Productions Sdn. Bhd. and Bangladesh's Brave Horse Ventures Ltd. have signed a joint venture to collaborate in animation, creative content, and global market expansion. The ceremony was held at The Westin Dhaka, attended by the Malaysian High Commissioner, H.E. Mohd Suhada Bin Othman, along with representatives from both countries. They aim to showcase regional culture worldwide and explore new markets.

OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY



3rd Made in Pakistan EXHIBITION

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

23-27 September, 2025

International Convention City Bashundhara ICCB Dhaka, Bangladesh

11:00 AM TO 10:00 PM

Contact & Information:

Cell: 92 314 526 8888 kbarlas@pakworldexpo.com

www.paei.org.pk/ www.pakworldexpo.com

UNHCR

The UN Refugee Agency

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD-UNHCR RFP 1662	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF UPGRADATION AND RETROFICATION OF MINI-GRIDS IN KUTUPALONG AND NAYAPARA REGISTERED CAMPS, COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.
UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/276565>
ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Please confirm your participation for BGD-UNHCR RFP 1662 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in **Cloud ERP Supplier portal**. Please indicate whether:

- You are interested in participating in this RFP, or
- You are not interested in participating.

Sending your confirmation above will enable to receive automatic email notifications from UNHCR with information on any changes related to this negotiation.
Site Visit: UNHCR will organize a site visit to Kutupalang (Ukhiya) on 14 September 2025 at 10:00 AM BST and Nayapara (Teknaf) on 15 September 2025 at 10:00 AM BST. First day site visit will organize at Kutupalang Registered camp (Ukhiya) and Second day site visit will organize at Nayapara Registered camp (Teknaf).
A maximum of two (2) representatives per company are allowed to participate. The names, email and mobile number(s) of the company's representatives must be provided at least two (2) working days in advance, by sending a message using the messaging functionality in this ERP system with the subject "BGD UNHCR RFP 1662" or by sending an email to bgdcosup@unhcr.org (Do not copy any UNHCR staff during sending email).
Pre-bid conference: UNHCR will organize an online supplier pre-bid conference on 18 September 2025 at 10:00 AM BST through Microsoft Teams.
To participate, interested bidders must express their interest using the messaging function in the C-ERP system no later than one working day before the meeting. Please include names and email addresses of your company representatives in the message.
For Meeting link please access: <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr539.htm>
Instruction to Bidders: To register as a potential supplier, please refer to link as follows: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>
Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to log in with your email address and Password. Do not create a new profile if you already registered. Kindly Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not know/remember your password or username from previous registration.
Bid submission deadline: Thursday, 16 OCTOBER 2025 – 23:59 hrs. Bangladesh time.
Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through Cloud ERP portal.



PHOTO: STAR

800 students suffer as school ground stays waterlogged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The ground of a primary and a high school in Mymensingh's Gafargoan upazila remains waterlogged for at least three months a year, depriving students of sports, assemblies and other co-curricular activities.

Kharua Borail High School and Kharua Borail Government Primary School share the same ground, which, according to teachers and students, stays submerged for days even after moderate rainfall.

During the monsoon, stagnant water covers the field for months, disrupting outdoor activities and turning it into a breeding ground for mosquitoes, exposing children to health risks.

Locals said this not only hampers education but also leaves a negative impact on young minds.

"The school field remains underwater and full of mud for several months. We cannot play or even hold assemblies," said Lima Akhter, a 10th grader.

Her classmate Mithila Akhter said the waterlogging has made school life irritating instead of enjoyable.

About 800 children study in the two schools and are directly affected,

said Bina Debnath, headteacher of Kharua Borail High School.

The poor condition of the playground hampers both their physical and mental development, she said, adding that the field once had a proud sporting history as its

were informed several times but no effective action has been taken yet.

Md Mofakharul Islam, upazila secondary education officer, said a project has been taken up to fill a portion of the field with earth this season.



girls' team played in the finals of the inter-district school football competition in 2017 and 2018.

Md Anisur Rahman, retired headteacher of Kharua Borail Government Primary School, said the local administration and education department officials

He said the problem began after the earlier drainage system was blocked by a section of locals.

NM Abdullah Al Mamun, upazila nirbahi officer in Gafargoan, said they were aware of the problem and necessary steps would be taken soon.

One held for vandalising idols in Jamalpur temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police yesterday arrested a man in connection with the vandalism of seven idols at a temple in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila.

The incident took place late on Saturday night at Taryapara temple in the municipality.

The arrestee was Habibur Rahman, 35, of Shimlapalli village, said Sarishabari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rashedul Hasan.

According to police and temple authorities, idols had been crafted for the upcoming Durga Puja at the temple. After the artisans left on Saturday night, a man entered the temple and smashed the heads and other parts of the idols.

The following morning, members of the temple committee discovered the damage and informed police, said Goesh Chandra Barman, president of the temple committee.

Law enforcers later reviewed CCTV footage and arrested Habibur.

Graft cases against Hasina, Tulip

Four more witnesses testify

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four more prosecution witnesses yesterday testified in three graft cases filed against 23 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and niece British MP Tulip Siddiq.

The witnesses are Mohammad Forhaduzzaman, Sheikh Shamsheer Ali, Himel Chandra Das, and Akter Jahan.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 in Dhaka recorded their statements from 11:16am to 12:26pm, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam. Earlier, 11 witnesses had given their statements in the same three cases.

The anti-graft body lodged six cases with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 between January 12 and 14 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

The Anti Corruption Commission alleged that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots -- each measuring 10 kathas -- in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the Purbachal New Town project for herself, her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy; Rehana and her son Radwan; and her daughter Azmina.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়

কর অঞ্চল-৩, ঢাকা

২য় ১২ তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন (৪র্থ তলা) সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।

সরকারি অফিস ভাড়া আবশ্যিক

কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-৩, ঢাকার অধিনস্থ ৬টি সার্কেল অফিসের জন্য সেগুনবাগিচা, কাকরাইল, বিজয়নগর, পুরানা পল্টন ও রমনা প্রধান সড়কের পার্শ্বে অবস্থিত কম-বেশী ১৬,৮০০ বর্গফুট এবং পর্যাপ্ত গ্যারেজসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত সুবিধাদি সম্বলিত অফিস স্পেস প্রয়োজন:

সুবিধাসমূহ:-

১। গাড়ী রাখার সুপরিসর পার্কিং সুবিধা।

২। সার্বক্ষণিক নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা।

৩। সার্বক্ষণিক বিদ্যুৎ (জেনারেটর ব্যবস্থা)।

৭। এছাড়া অন্যান্য সকল নাগরিক সুবিধা।

৪। সার্বক্ষণিক পানির ব্যবস্থা

৫। অগ্নিনির্বাপন ব্যবস্থা (জরুরি বর্ধিগমন সুবিধা)।

৬। সার্বক্ষণিক লিফট সুবিধা।

এমতাবস্থায়, প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলপত্রের ফটোকপিসহ উপর্যুক্ত সুবিধাদি সম্বলিত অফিস ভাড়া প্রদানের প্রস্তাব আগামী ২৯/০৯/২০২৫ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-৩, ঢাকা ২য় ১২ তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন (৪র্থ তলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা এর নিকট দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মোঃ ওয়াসিউল ইসলাম

সহকারী কর কমিশনার

সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)

কর অঞ্চল-৩, ঢাকা।

ফোন: ০২৮৩৯২২২০

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer

Dholpur, Dhaka.

www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

Ref. No. 46.207.000.09.23.15.2025

Date: 21/09/2025

Corrigendum-1

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Zone-8 Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which was available at e-GP website from 03/11/2024 at 22:00 P.M. This is notify for all concern that the e-tender Notice Which was circulated vide this office Memo No: 46.207.000.09.23.14.2025 Date: 04/09/2025 Due to unavoidable circumstances the following tender selling and closing date has been shifted as below:

SL No.	Package No.	Name of works	As in Notice		Amendments (1 st)	
			Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	Tender ID-1146516 egp/dscc/z-08/25-26/p-01	Repair & maintenance of office of zone 8 along with roads infrastructure of ward no. 66,67, 68, 69 through term contractor in FY 2025-26	22-Sep-2025 13:00	22-Sep-2025 15:00	30-Sep-2025 15:00	30-Sep-2025 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

ডিসিসিসি/পিআরডি/৭০/২০২৫-২৬

GD-2053

(Md. Mahab Hossain)
Executive Engineer
Zone-08
Dhaka South City Corporation.
e-mail: dsccxen08@gmail.com

Trump’s deal on Bagram ‘not possible’ Says Afghan govt

AFP, Kabul

An Afghan government defence official yesterday said that a deal over Bagram air base was “not possible”, after US President Donald Trump said he wanted the former US base back.

Bagram, the largest air base in Afghanistan located north of the capital Kabul, was the centre of US operations in their 20 year-war against the Taliban.

Trump threatened unspecified punishment against Afghanistan if it was not returned.

“If Afghanistan doesn’t give Bagram Airbase back to those that built it, the United States of America, BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN!!!” the 79-year-old leader wrote on his



Protesters clash with riot police during an anti-government demonstration in Lima yesterday. The protest, organised by a youth collective called “Generation Z”, is part of growing social unrest in Peru against organised crime, corruption in public office, and a recent pension reform.

PHOTO: AFP



Truth Social platform.

On Sunday, Fasihuddin Fitrat, chief of staff of Afghanistan’s ministry of defence, said “some people” want to take back the base through a “political deal”.

“Recently, some people have said that they have entered negotiations with Afghanistan for taking back Bagram air base,” he said in comments broadcast by local media.

“A deal over even an inch of Afghanistan’s soil is not possible. We don’t need it.”

Later, in an official statement, the Afghan government warned that “Afghanistan’s independence and territorial integrity are of the utmost importance”.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the loss of the base, noting its proximity to China. However, on Thursday, during a state visit to Britain, he publicly raised the idea of the United States retaking control of it for the first time.

US and Nato troops chaotically pulled out of Bagram in July 2021.

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli forces blew up more residential buildings in Gaza City yesterday, killing dozens of Palestinians and prompting many others to flee, Gazan health authorities said, as Israel’s tanks pushed further into the densely populated city.

Nearly two years into the war, Israel describes Gaza City as the last bastion of Hamas, and the military has been demolishing housing blocks it says were being used by the militant group since launching its ground assault in the city this month.

A pregnant woman and her two children were among 55 people killed yesterday, Al-Jazeera reported, quoting medics. At least 37 of the victims were in Gaza City, sources said.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the deaths, issuing a statement saying its forces had killed “numerous” militants.

Relatives sifted through the rubble of one of the apartment buildings that was hit in Gaza City, trying to salvage their belongings.

“The mother, the boy, the girl, and the baby in her womb - we found them all gone,” said Mosallam Al-Hadad, the dead woman’s father-



in-law, saying his son had been seriously injured in the strike.

Israel said on Saturday its forces had expanded their operations in the Gaza City area over the past few days, killing 30 militants and locating weapons.

Yesterday, witnesses said Israeli tanks were advancing towards the west through Tel Al-Hawa, a southeastern suburb.

The Israeli military estimates that more than 450,000 people have left the city since the start of September. Hamas disputes this, saying just under 300,000 have left and that about 900,000 people remain.

In southern Israel, air raid sirens sounded when Gaza militants fired two rockets across the border, one of which was intercepted and the other fell in an open field, the military said. No casualties were reported.

The offensive has alarmed families of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza. Twenty of those 48 captives are thought to still be alive.

Thousands rallied on Saturday night outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s official residence in Jerusalem, calling on him to make a deal that will end the war and bring the hostages home.



Members of the Community and Civil Councils hold rifles during a military training on weaponry at Fort Tiuna in Caracas on Saturday. Venezuela has started military training for civilians as US President Donald Trump threatened it with “incalculable” consequences if it refuses to take back migrants.

PHOTO: AFP

Turning the agency into an instrument that goes after his enemies, whether they’re guilty or not... is the path to a dictatorship. That’s what dictatorships do.

CHUCK SCHUMER
US Senate minority leader on Trump’s call for the Justice Department to take action against his enemies

বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ড

১৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

website: basb.gov.bd

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অবসরপ্রাপ্ত সদস্যদের বিনামূল্যে চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে অস্ত্র সংস্থার ব্যবস্থাপনায় দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে অবস্থিত মেডিকেল ডিসপেনসারির জন্য ত্রৈমাসিক সম্মেলি আর্ট ২০২৬, জুন ২০২৬, সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৬ এবং ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ এর জন্য ঐক্য সামগ্রী ক্রয়াদেশের জর করা হবে। ক্রয়কৃত ঐক্যসমূহ সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃক নিম্ন ব্যবস্থাপনায় সদর দপ্তর বিএনপি, ১৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০ এ পৌঁছে দিতে হবে। হাসানাবাদ জিএমপি (GMP) এবং এমএইচআরএ/ইউডি/টিজিএ/এফডিএ (MHRA /EU/ TGA/FDA) সদরদপ্তর প্রাপ্ত যানবাহন ঐক্য প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে। ঐক্য সামগ্রীর বিস্তারিত বিবরণ /তথ্য দরপত্রের সিডিউল এ উল্লেখ করা থাকবে।

২। আগামী ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (০৮৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদানপূর্বক দরপত্রের সিডিউল আর অফিস হতে সশ্রুহ করা যাবে। উক্ত সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক আগামী ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১০০০ ঘটিকা মধ্যে অত্র অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ডোঃ শরিফুল ইসলাম
কর্পেল
অতিরিক্ত মহাপরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ড (বিএএসবি)
১৬০, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/৩৫৭

GD-2051

আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল কলেজ

প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

যানবাহন নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল কলেজ, প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস এর ০২ (দুই) টি স্টাফকার ৪ সিটের টয়োটা করোলা সিডানকার আগামী ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ১১০০ ঘটিকার প্রকাশ্য নিলামে সর্বোচ্চ দর দাতার নিকট নগদ অর্থের বিনিময়ে বিক্রয় করা হবে। আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হইতে ১৪ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রতি কার্যদিনে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এই কলেজের এমটি পার্ক সরঞ্জামে যানবাহন পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন। এই বিখ্যে বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিজ্ঞাপনটি আর্মি ওয়েবসাইটে (www.army.mil.bd) পাওয়া যাইবে।

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/৩৪৯

মেজর (এমটিও)
আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল কলেজ
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

GD-2048

Iran halts cooperation with IAEA

AFP, Tehran

Iran’s top security body said that action by Britain, France and Germany to reimpose UN sanctions will “effectively suspend” its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog.

“Despite the foreign ministry’s cooperation with the (International Atomic Energy) Agency and the presentation of plans to resolve the issue, the actions of European countries will effectively suspend the path of cooperation with the agency,” the Supreme National Security Council said in a televised statement.

The announcement comes after the Security Council voted on Friday to reimpose frozen UN sanctions, saying Iran was not complying.

The vote means that the sanctions, which were suspended in return for curbs on Iran’s nuclear activities set out in the 2015 deal, will take renewed effect on September 28 unless Iran can persuade the council to relent in the next week.

Stop using foreign products Modi urges Indians

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a public address yesterday asked citizens to stop using foreign-made products and instead use local ones, pushing for a self-reliant campaign when trade ties with the United States have soured.

After US President Donald Trump imposed a 50% tariff on imported Indian goods, Modi has been urging use of “Swadeshi”, or made-in-India goods. His supporters have started campaigns to boycott American brands including McDonald’s MCD.N, Pepsi PEP.O and Apple AAPL.O, which are hugely popular in India.

“A lot of products we use daily are foreign made, we just don’t know ... we will have to get rid of them,” Modi said in an address to the nation ahead of Monday’s implementation of widespread consumer tax cuts.

“We should buy products that are made in India,” he added, without naming any country.

India’s population of 1.4 billion is a major market for American consumer goods, often purchased from U.S. online retailer Amazon.com AMZN.O. Over the years, the reach of U.S. brands has expanded deep into smaller towns.

Modi also asked shopkeepers to focus on retailing made-in-India products, arguing that this will boost the country’s economic growth.

In recent weeks, many companies have increased the promotion of local goods.

India’s Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to visit Washington soon for trade talks, a trip that would take place amid efforts to ease strained bilateral ties.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি

POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.০০০.৬২৪.১৬.০০০৮.২২.১৪৮ তারিখঃ ২১/০৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের গ্রিড সার্কেল, ঢাকা (উত্তর) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works
1153857	Cleaning and Cutting of Grass, Jungle and Shrubs at Aminbazar 400/230/132kV Grid Sub Station under Grid Circle Dhaka (North) for the fiscal year 2025-26.
1153861	Yearly Maintenance of 400kV Bay Equipment & Line Bay at Aminbazar 400/230/132kV Grid Substation under Grid Circle, Dhaka (North), Power Grid Bangladesh PLC

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

শ্রীর মোতাহার হোসেন
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গ্রিড সার্কেল, ঢাকা (উত্তর)

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড

সীমিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সি	মন্তব্য/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড
৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বায়ক	পরিচালক আইটি ও যোগাযোগ, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড
৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বায়কের ঠিকানা	আইটি ও যোগাযোগ পরিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
৫।	দরপত্রের বিষয়বস্তু	১৬ লাইন সিলিন্ডার স্ল্যাপসমূহ
৬।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	৪৪.০৮.২৬৮০.০০৫.১৭.০০১.২৫.১৮২ তারিখ ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫।
৭।	ক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (Limited Tendering Method)
৮।	ফাউন্ডেশন	বাগেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস
৯।	বিশদ তথ্যাদি	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
১০।	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নং	জিআর আইটি (কম)-০৪
১১।	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম	সিলিন্ডার স্ল্যাপস
১২।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশনার তারিখ	২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫
১৩।	দরপত্র প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ	০৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৫
১৪।	দরপত্র তফসীল জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২০০ ঘটিকা
১৫।	দরপত্র তফসীল মোদার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২০০ ঘটিকা
১৬।	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
১৭।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ঠিকানা (অন্যান্য)	সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
১৮।	দরপত্রের তফসীল জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
১৯।	দরপত্র মোদার ঠিকানা	সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
২০।	প্রিভিজি মিটিংয়ের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজ্য নয়
২১।	দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র দলিল মোতাবেক
২২।	পত্রের সফিক্তি বর্ণনা	১৬ লাইন সিলিন্ডার স্ল্যাপসমূহ
২৩।	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (টাকা)	৭৫০/০০ (টাকা সাতশত পঞ্চাশ মাত্র) (অফেরত যোগ্য)
২৪।	লট নং	নিরাপত্তা জামানত
২৫।	কার্য সমাধা	হ্রদ
২৬।	কার্য সমাধা	সদর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, ১২ সগ্নাহ (মুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের পর হতে)
২৭।	কার্য সমাধা	আইটি ও যোগাযোগ পরিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও
২৮।	কার্য সমাধা	প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭

দরপত্র আহ্বায়কের বিশদ বিবরণ

২৪।	আহ্বায়কের নাম	পরিচালক আইটি ও যোগাযোগ, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
২৫।	আহ্বায়কের পদবী	এলাকা, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
২৬।	আহ্বায়কের ঠিকানা	ফোন নং : ০১৭৬৮-৪৪০১১৩
২৭।	দুরাপাদনী	ফ্যাক্স : ০২-৪১০২৫৬০১
২৮।	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী :	

ক। বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড কর্তৃক কোন কার্য দর্শনে ব্যতিতক যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

খ। মুদ্রাজনিত ক্রটি অথবা অন্য কোন কারণে যদি কোন দরপত্রের সন্দেশের সৃষ্টি হয়, সন্দেশে দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন ২০০৮ প্রযোজ্য হবে।

গ। নির্দিষ্ট কার্যাবলত দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়, জমা ও যোগ্য নির্ধারিত তারিখে সন্দেশ বা হলে তৎপরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ঘ। বিল দাখিলের সময়ে NBR কর্তৃক ধার্যকৃত হারে VAT এবং IT কর্তন করা হবে।

ঙ। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সশিহন সহকারে কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.coastguard.gov.bd) হতে ডাউনলোডকৃত TDS গ্রহণযোগ্য।

GD-2047

পরিচালক আইটি ও যোগাযোগ পরিদপ্তর
পক্ষে মহাপরিচালক

Police must be de-politicised, pro-people

An independent police commission is the only answer

We are in total agreement with the participants at *The Daily Star's* roundtable on police reforms that the police can never be again abused for political gains. The speakers at the event, including lawyers, politicians, academics and the current and former police officials, were forthright in their criticisms and recommendations for a pro-people force. But the key takeaway from the discussions is that an independent commission is crucial for true reforms to take place.

Given the proper mandate and resources, an independent commission would help free the police from political manipulation, allow them to carry out their duties by strictly adhering to the law. It would improve accountability by making sure that police misconduct is fairly investigated without external interference. It would establish professional standards for promotions and make the police a people-friendly force. It would also strengthen public trust by ensuring that human rights are protected in all interactions and that citizens' complaints are addressed.

As discussed at the roundtable, although the Police Reform Commission made some important recommendations, none of them were even discussed in the National Consensus Commission's series of talks with political parties. According to an NCC member, although all political parties agreed to have an independent police commission during the talks, the home ministry opposed the idea. This is disappointing and puzzling. Furthermore, earlier this month, the interim government announced the establishment of two commissions for the police: the Independent Investigation Services, headed by the law adviser, and the Internal Complaints Commission, headed by the home adviser. Essentially, both the commissions will be controlled by the government. How this will truly make the police force free of political influence can be called to question.

However, we are heartened by the candidness with which representatives of some main political parties spoke about the need to de-politicise the police force. During the past regime, we saw how the government used the police force to persecute opposition activists and ordinary citizens. The cold-blooded killing of protesters by police and other forces during the mass uprising last year was the grossest example of manipulation. Politicisation has also led to corruption pervading the forces. Extortion, torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance and custodial death over the decades have given the police force a frightening image. The flurry of false or flimsy cases and increase in mob violence in recent times has also resulted in public trust in the police drop to an all-time low. Meanwhile, police morale and efficiency have also nosedived.

Police reform can only be truly meaningful and effective through a body that is completely unbiased and professional. Only an independent police commission can ensure that. Hence, the government must ensure that the commission remains free of any and all outside influence—political or otherwise.

Ensure security during Durga Puja

Govt must give special attention to 29 districts flagged vulnerable

Drawing on a decade of media and rights-group documentation, a civic platform named Sampriti Jatra has identified 29 districts as vulnerable to potential communal unrest and targeted violence during the upcoming Durga Puja festivities. Among them, five districts—Dhaka, Rangpur, Jashore, Chandpur and Noakhali—have been categorised as high-risk, while 24 others have been marked moderately vulnerable. These findings should serve as a wake-up call for the authorities, who must gear up to ensure maximum security across the country during the puja festivities.

Sampriti Jatra's findings also highlight a disturbing new trend: religious sites beyond Hindu temples are increasingly under threat. According to media reports, nearly 80 attacks on shrines and dargahs took place within the first six months of the interim government alone, while police records cite 44 attacks on 40 shrines between August 2024 and January 2025. Although discrepancies may exist between official data and the ground reality, the trajectory remains concerning.

Speakers at the platform's press conference, including researchers and cultural activists, expressed frustration over the government's inability to curb extremist attacks and mob violence. They alleged that such incidents were getting normalised through silence, delayed intervention, lack of proper investigation, and absence of justice. This echoes the experience of past years, when no effective trial or redress followed incidents of communal violence. Without visible accountability, perpetrators are emboldened, and minority communities are left to live in fear.

This year, preparations are underway to organise Durga Puja in more than 33,000 mandaps and temples across the country—up from over 31,000 last year, including 258 sites in Dhaka. The interim government has allocated Tk 5 crore in grants for this year's celebrations, but the funds—ranging from Tk 5,000 to Tk 15,000 per mandap—cannot, by themselves, ensure security. It is imperative that the authorities treat Sampriti Jatra's findings with due importance and hash out a plan that includes preventive deployment, community engagement, and rapid-response mechanisms. Police and local administrations must coordinate with puja committees to secure mandaps, processions, and vulnerable neighbourhoods, particularly those 29 districts. In addition, the government must demonstrate that communal violence will no longer be met with impunity. Only sound, preventive actions can ensure a smooth, peaceful celebration of Durga Puja.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

The Iran-Iraq War begins

On this day in 1980, the Iran-Iraq War began when Iraqi armed forces invaded western Iran along the countries' joint border. The fighting continued until 1988, and a formal peace agreement was signed in 1990.



Without songs, the soul is a desert



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at *The Daily Star*.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

A refrain from a well-known old film song loops in my head: *"Baba bole gelo/ Ar kono din gaan koro na/ Keno bole gelo/ Shey kotha ti bole gelo na/ Gaan jodi prithibi te nai thakto/ 'sa re ga ma pa dha ni sa' ki kore hoto!"*

Written by Amjad Hossain, composed by Alauddin Ali and sung by Shamima Yasmin Diba, this catchy tune from *Jonmo Theke Jolchhi* once seemed silly to me as a child, fuel for parody and inside jokes in the family. Only now do I understand its quiet heartbreak.

The song grieves the imagined loss of music, asking: if singing is forbidden, why have so many songs been written about the children we have lost? It insists that songs are not just entertainment but a vehicle for mourning, protest, inspiration, and memory. The message of that film song is that music is vital to human expression and resistance; without it, the world loses something fundamental. Without music, the soul becomes a desert.

I remember the overwhelming emotion when thousands sang

To argue that music causes moral decay is not only baseless—it's dangerous. Music comforts us in sorrow, amplifies our joy, inspires empathy, and ignites protest. It makes us more human. To claim that it threatens our values is to deny the very foundation of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

"Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora" during the protests in July-August last year. I think of the brave voices of the Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha in 1971, the young artistes singing in the refugee camps and on the battlefronts to lift spirits and



VISUAL: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

unify a nation. Their work, captured in *Muktir Gaan*, a documentary by Catherine and Tareq Masud based on footage captured by American filmmaker Lear Levin, remains a testament to music's power in the fight against oppression.

There are other songs we grew up with that still echo in our minds. Sabina Yasmin singing: *"Shob kota janala khule dao na/ Ami gaibo, gaibo bijoyeri gaan/ Ora ashbe/ Chupi chupi..."* The thunderous notes from a fiery chorus of *"Purbo digontey surjo uthechhe..."*

Growing up in the 70s and 80s Dhaka, singing the national anthem in school assemblies, taking part in dance dramas, going to music class to learn our "sa re ga ma"—all these were routine for most Bangalee middle-class families. At the same time, Muslim children had Arabic teachers who taught the teachings of the Quran, prayers, and the basics of Islam. Music and religion were never in conflict. They coexisted. They have

and replaced with religious teacher appointments to "foster morality and values."

But what would Bangladesh be without Lalon Shah, Abbasuddin Ahmed, Shah Abdul Karim? Without Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Geeti, or those unforgettable *adhunik* (modern) numbers that are still sung and heard with nostalgia? Without voices like Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Runa Laila, Farida Parveen, Ajit Roy, Feroza Begum, Abdul Jabbar, Abdul Alim, or Sanjida Khatun? Without the strings strummed by Ustad Allauddin Khan, Ustad Barin Mazumder, or Ustad Khadem Hossain Khan?

What if young people never heard the music of Souls, Miles, Joler Gaan, Chirkutt, Shunno, Nagar Baul, Artcell, Warfaze, or Aurthohin? What if there had been no Azam Khan, Lucky Akhand, Ayub Bachchu, or James?

Can we even imagine such a Bangladesh, devoid of its rich musical heritage?

One group has declared that

been no objection to this, nor have there been rallies to ban religious education.

So why this outcry over music teachers?

The irony is that the most beautiful religious expressions, such as the recitation of scripture, hamd, naath, qawwali, and even waaz mehfils, come through melody. Music has long been a part of religious life in this region.

To argue that music causes moral decay is not only baseless—it's dangerous. Music comforts us in sorrow, amplifies our joy, inspires empathy, and ignites protest. It makes us more human. To claim that it threatens our values is to deny the very foundation of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

Pitting religion against music is misleading and divisive. To say music undermines morality is a deliberate attempt to erase the syncretic traditions that define us. This is not just an attack on music; it is an attack on who we are as Bangladeshis.

WORLD CAR FREE DAY

Cities for people... or cars?



Debra Efroymsen
is executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and an active member of the Carfree Cities Alliance.

DEBRA EFROYMSON

Imagine that you were a car, not a person. How different would life be for you in Dhaka? Your housing would be assured. You would be given priority outdoors, able to move around and idle where you choose. If you happened to run someone over, there would likely be no punishment for you or your driver; it would be framed as an "unfortunate accident." Rather than suffering from traffic and pollution, you would be helping to cause it.

This might seem a ridiculous proposition, but when we take a step back and look at how we organise our cities, the question does reasonably arise: are we designing urban space for people or for cars? Cars get affordable housing, which is in short supply for human beings. Cars are sold in car *haats* organised on playgrounds, and parked there as well, while there are not nearly enough such fields for people. Cars sleep comfortably in parking lots; if children try to play near them, they are warned away due to fear of damage to the vehicles. We complain about congestion and pollution, yet continue to welcome ever-increasing

numbers of cars on our streets. We mourn those killed on the roads, yet seem unable to understand that a vehicle weighing a tonne or more, when travelling over 30 kilometres an hour, will occasionally cause fatalities, regardless of what we do to prevent them.

Every year on September 22, cities around the world celebrate World Car Free Day. In Europe, they celebrate European Mobility Week from September 16 to September 22. It is a good opportunity to reflect on life in our cities and how we can improve it. As an optimist, I am convinced we could do much better—if we ever decided to value people more than cars, and to understand just how much we give up for the sake of our cars.

I have given a TEDx talk on this topic, where I mention a few examples of what we sacrifice for the sake of our cars: time spent earning money to buy cars, then wasted in congestion caused by our cars; children robbed of their childhood, unable to walk or cycle to school or to play outdoors; the

more than one million people killed each year in road crashes (and tens of millions more injured), the trillions of dollars of subsidies to fossil fuels—when we should be weaning ourselves off of them instead of subsidising them.

I also talk about some of the positive global trends, such as the cities that are

We complain about congestion and pollution, yet continue to welcome ever-increasing numbers of cars on our streets. We mourn those killed on the roads, yet seem unable to understand that a vehicle weighing a tonne or more, when travelling over 30 kilometres an hour, will occasionally cause fatalities, regardless of what we do to prevent them.

reining in cars in different ways. This includes regular car-free events, the biggest being Bogotá's Ciclovía, which liberates 120 km of roads from cars for several hours each Sunday and holiday; cities that actually reward rather than punish those on foot and bicycle; and

the many European cities that have made much of their downtowns free of motorised vehicles. Barcelona's superblocs, which greatly restrict car use and convert intersections into plazas, are a hot topic of conversation for those wishing to create urban areas that are quieter, cooler, and less polluted.

Admittedly, the more time I spend tracking US politics, the less faith I have in basic human intelligence; nevertheless, I would like to believe that at some point there will be a mass awakening from the madness that we have inflicted on ourselves in the name of the comfort and convenience of automobile. That someday we will realise that the price of our cars—in terms of time, money, space, human and animal life, and the climate crisis—is just too high, especially given that we could make our cities vastly more liveable if we dramatically reduced or eliminated the use of cars. It won't be easy—but neither is it easy to survive in our existing cities, as Dhaka residents can easily attest.

In any case, if idealism and hope are a crime, I'd rather be guilty of them than to accept that our existing polluted, congested, anti-social cities are the best we can do. And I hope that others will join me in these reflections (and watch my TEDx talk!) as we celebrate World Car Free Day and all the possibilities that could become reality if we were to dramatically reduce cars in our cities.

The missing morality in modern climate policy



Mizan R Khan
is technical lead at LDC Universities Consortium
on Climate Change (LUCC).

MIZAN R KHAN

We know that the core element of implementing the Paris Agreement (PA) is the provision and mobilisation of climate finance (CF). The provision refers to the public CF that developed countries “shall” provide to developing countries for addressing climate change (PA Article 9.1). There are clear stipulations under articles 4.3 and 4.4 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which also obligate the developed countries to provide new, additional, adequate and predictable CF. The mobilisation of CF involves attracting and leveraging additional finance from a variety of sources, including public and private, bilateral, and multilateral (PA Article 9.3).

But the rich countries are providing a measly amount of public climate finance, which is inadequate by orders of magnitude compared to the growing needs from increasingly devastating climate change impacts. Even this little international public CF is drying up because of changing geopolitics, continued wars, and a re-emphasis on military security. This is starkly evident from drastic cuts in foreign aid and public CF, which are expected to be even less by over a third this year. How can the climate crisis be addressed then?

Actually, we have been witnessing a de-emphasis of public responsibility in the post-Paris years and a re-emphasis on financing by the private sector. But the latter is not a party to the climate regime. So, they have no direct legal obligation to support developing countries. Besides, the private sector



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

contributes less than three percent of global adaptation finance, because of its largely public goods nature, where the benefits from investments are often neither exclusive nor immediate.

We know money is amoral, and investors always seek hefty profits. Although renewable energy is cheaper than fossil fuels, returns are still lower compared to those of fossil fuel plants. So, investments in renewables are not scaling at the pace needed. Since 2022, foreign private creditors have extracted much more in debt servicing just from public borrowers in developing countries than in

new financing.

Unlike the previous decade, which witnessed a proliferation of climate funds, this decade is witnessing countless initiatives by investors, bankers, corporations, alliances, partnerships, and clubs of global financiers. But the ground reality is far from the minimum level of CF mobilisation. Some research shows that leveraging just one dollar of private CF required almost four dollars of

argues that the international financial system is awash with liquidity, but money does not flow where it is needed most. Can there be a social movement, raised in partnership with responsible and progressive investors, of motivating the private sector with a value-based approach of *enlightened* profit-making? The rationale is that the climate crisis is a real, existential threat to the whole of humanity, both rich and poor. So, if the world economies go down the drain due to increasingly frequent extreme climate events, how can the corporations continue making profits? Will their own balance sheets not go red? Are they not part of society? They can make profits only if societies and economies continue developing.

The earlier focus on economic rationality, i.e. scaling of public and private finance and de-scaling of investments in dirty assets, removal of subsidies and application of the polluter-pays-principle through carbon pricing is not working yet. So, a value-based ethical approach to doing business, as argued by Adam Smith, the father of modern economics, can ensure the smooth functioning of the “invisible hand” of the market, without government intervention. Smith, in his seminal works *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) and *Wealth of Nations* (1776), argued that markets would function effectively only if the economic agents behaved morally in their transactions. The climate regime is founded upon this neoliberal market system, and country parties are supposed to promote it through their climate actions.

But the moral element is missing very much in the functioning of the system, which continues widening inequality and injustice within and between nations. We have a system that sustains the central paradox of the climate crisis—that the nano-emitters, as the least contributor to the problem, pay the highest price! It is worth mentioning that during the Covid pandemic, the number of billionaires increased globally, thanks to windfall profits from rising prices

of energy and food. Research establishes a clear correlation between enrichment of the global rich and impoverishment of the poor.

The rich pay taxes much less than middle-class citizens across the world, bending rules and stashing trillions in tax havens. Against this, Oxfam, in support of groups like Patriotic Millionaires, argues that even a two percent annual tax for millionaires and five percent for billionaires could generate \$2.52 trillion a year for supporting climate actions in the developing countries. Brazil, as the former chair of the G20 group of major economies, supported the imposition of such a tax, and we expect it will push this idea forward in the upcoming COP30 to be held in Belem in early November.

So, in partnership with the progressive part of the global corporate community, let us raise a value-based ethical movement to motivate the private investors with a sense of social and corporate responsibility, so that they agree to invest a fraction of their profits in mitigation and adaptation, particularly across developing countries. This will certainly serve both short-term and long-term missions of the corporate sector in making money.

Finally, such a value-based movement could be substantiated by what the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes: a proactive, market-shaping strategy that, instead of relying on market-led initiatives, must lead to direct investments that align with clean development and green transitions across the world. This will certainly require huge capacity building, particularly in the low-income and least developed countries, for devising robust regulatory mechanisms and effective coordination across fiscal, economic, trade and financial policies and instruments. Let us hope that the rough waters in the negotiations can be steered clear this time, with the passionate advocacy of lofty norms and values highlighted in several letters by the COP30 presidency.

Int’l pressure for Palestine’s freedom must be raised



Yousef SY Ramadan
is the ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh.

YOUSUF SY RAMADAN

Once again, the White House has extended the lifeline to the settler occupation state by using the veto at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to drop a draft resolution demanding an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. The 14 other members of UNSC supported the draft resolution, tabled on September 18. Only Washington decided that Palestinians could be allowed to remain without a roof or borders, and that the massacres could be covered under the pretext of the right to “self-defence” and in the so-called religious vision of “the land of Israel,” embodying the idea of the global Zionist movement: “a land without a people for a people without a land.”

The US veto is not a passing diplomatic measure or a surprise, but an explicit declaration that the United States is a historic partner in the aggression against the Palestinian people and the crimes related to them. It not only provided Israel with weapons, even the prohibited ones, and secured the political cover for the crime of the 21st century, but also used its authority

in the Security Council to protect Israel from any international accountability. Thus, Washington, for the millionth time, does not bear the status of an “alleged mediator” but an original party in the continuation of crimes.

The US administration insists that any ceasefire must be linked to the release of “hostages” and ensuring the “security” of Israel, the state that practises terrorism, while it does not believe that the lives of more than two million Palestinians under siege, subjected to starvation and killing, deserve security first and all the conditions associated with international law and human rights. It does not seem to believe that the Palestinian people deserve the enforcement of UN resolutions and the conditions of freedom, dignity, security, and national independence. This equation reveals the essence of American policy that Israel’s security is above international law and above the principle of peoples’ right to life and self-determination, and strengthening its advanced role in serving the colonial project of the entire region.



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Deputy United States Special Envoy to the Middle East Morgan Ortugas casts a veto as members of the UN Security Council vote on a draft resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, at UN headquarters in New York City, US on September 18, 2025.

At the moment of the vote, the US was isolated while faced with almost complete consensus among the members of the UNSC. This isolation reflects not just a diplomatic division, but also the decline of Washington’s “moral” position that it has claimed over the

years. The world has come to see that the US veto is used as a weapon to green light and even partner in the Gaza genocide and the settlement occupation, as well as sustaining the reality of rolling annexation and apartheid in the rest of the Palestinian territories. The

world also sees that the international system has been abducted to serve the interests of a superpower and its racist settler ally, Israel, although both are living in multifaceted crises. This calls for the continuation and escalation of the international pressure represented by the global *intifada* for the freedom of Palestine, and building and strengthening political alliances with the countries of the Global East and South.

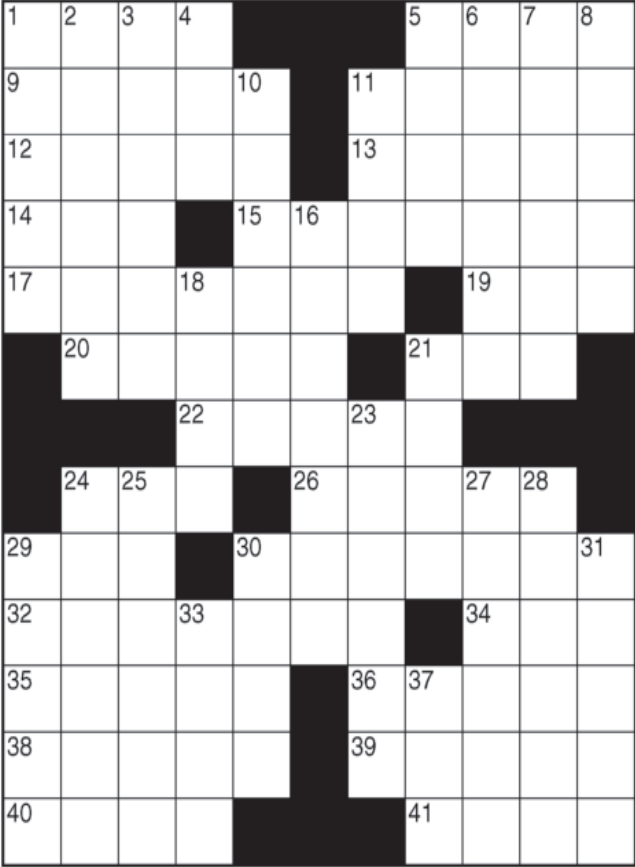
The US veto puts an end to any illusion that Washington may be a mediator in a peace process. It cannot shrug off the responsibility of being a party to the aggression leading to ethnic cleansing and displacement of Palestinians, using its force to perpetuate the occupation. It covers the project of displacement, starvation and destruction in Gaza and all other areas of the Occupied Palestinian State, which the countries of the world are increasingly recognising today, as well as the need to embody this recognition by taking boycott, accountability and sanctions measures leading to the immediate cessation of the genocide and ending the occupation first. This requires the Arab and Muslim peoples to reconsider their relations in a way that precedes the results and decisions of the summit held in Doha a few days ago, which did not rise to the need to consider what is happening; This is not just about the rights of Palestine, but also the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries as well. This requires peoples to put pressure on their governments to adopt independent policies that elevate their dignity first and form solidarity with Palestine.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Pitt of film
5 Finger feature
9 Jacket part
11 Music’s Lena
12 Mexican marinade
13 Musical set in Argentina
14 Pester
15 Folded
17 Gave away an intruder, maybe
19 Print measures
20 Perennial battlers
21 Little laborer
22 Preminger and Klemperer
24 Fellow
26 Like draft beer

- 29 Plopped down
30 Made
32 Like some corn
34 Mine yield
35 San Antonio sight
36 Full range
38 Myrrh, for one
39 Beethoven’s “Für -”
40 Took in
41 Bakery worker
DOWN
1 Mel of many voices
2 Air traffic aids
3 Orbit point
4 Cotillion girl
5 Bright star
6 Out of bed

- 7 Focused
8 Main roles
10 Pendant with a picture
11 Listen to
16 Make good as new
18 Nerve impulse relay
21 Nick and Nora’s dog
23 Anxious
24 Scrooge visitor
25 Not anxious
27 Like some clocks
28 Read
29 Alarm
30 “Let’s go!”
31 Hamper
33 Surrounded by
37 Will Smith biopic



SATURDAY’S ANSWERS

W	E	A	P	O	N		T	A	S	K	
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‘Khub Kachheri Keu’ blends tradition with arranged marriage’s quirky charm

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

I had decided I would watch *Khub Kachheri Keu* the moment I stumbled upon its trailer. Something about it felt familiar, almost binding, as if the story had already etched itself into a memory I carried. When I finally pressed play, I realised why. The film transported me to a very specific moment in my life – about fifteen months ago, when I married the love of my life.

The short starts quietly, with a seemingly ordinary exchange of Mimi chocolates. But that simple gesture was enough to disarm me. Rakin, played by F S Nayeem, remembers that

his fiancée had mentioned that she likes these often-unattainable chocolate bars. He goes out of his way to get them for her. There is something disarmingly honest in the way director Arafat Mohsin Nidhi and writer Raba Khan present these little exchanges – gestures so mundane they almost go unnoticed in real life, until you realise they are the building blocks of intimacy.

Sunerah Binte Kamal, in her role, doesn't seem like she is acting at all. Her brand of childlike innocence feels lived-in, familiar, and utterly charming. F S Nayeem plays the proverbial “straight man” with just the right balance of restraint and warmth. Their back-and-forth is easy, believable, and filled with the sort of subtle electricity that never screams for attention but lingers long after the scene cuts.

It is perhaps no coincidence that the film feels so achingly real. The director and writer, both recently married, clearly draw from the well of their own lives. Raba Khan

is one of Bangladesh's pioneering content creators, rising to fame in her teens. Arafat Mohsin, even though a renowned music director, is a lot more grounded in real life – and I suspect that the dynamics are similar among the two. Their lived experience, perhaps, lends the story an authenticity you don't often see in short films. “Khub Kachheri Keu” isn't polished to the point of sterility – it is textured with little hesitations and imperfections – the kind that make relationships feel lived, not staged.

By the time the credits rolled, I was smiling again, thinking of my own journey. “Khub Kachheri Keu” succeeds not because it tries too hard to impress, but because it reminds us that love often lives in the smallest of moments.

In its quiet way, the film assures us that these little things are enough.

The author is the Entertainment Editor at The Daily Star.

‘Nakshikathar Jamin’ to release on OTT



After earning accolades at international festivals, Akram Khan's *Nakshikathar Jamin* was released in theaters nationwide on December 27 last year. The film is now set to be released on iScreen at the end of this month.

Based on acclaimed writer Hasan Azizul Haque's story *Bidhobader Kotha*, the film portrays the harrowing days of the 1971 Liberation War.

At its core, the film tells the story of two sisters, Rahela and Saleha, portrayed by Jaya Ahsan and Fariha Shams Sheuti. The cast also includes Iresh Zaker, Rawnak Hasan, Dibya Joyti, Shounmya Joyti, and others.

The film has already won the Best Film award at the Bengaluru International Film Festival in India and was nominated for the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Mulya Amulya’

Anuswar's third production, *Mulya Amulya*, is an adaptation of Arthur Miller's *The Price*.

The play offers a gripping exploration of family, values, and the cost of profit. Directed by Mohammad Bari, it features powerful performances by Mohammad Bari, Saif Suman, SR Sompod, and a talented ensemble. The production promises a thought-provoking theatrical experience that raises urgent contemporary questions.

Date: Wednesday| September 24, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm to 9 pm

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA



Poet Rezauddin Ahmed Stalin has been appointed director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy for a one-year term, according to a government gazette issued yesterday. An Academy official confirmed the appointment, effective from the date of his joining, on the condition that he severs ties with other organisations.

Poet Rezauddin Stalin appointed Director General of Shilpakala Academy



The appointment was confirmed through a notification issued yesterday, undersigned by Abu Saleh Md Mahfuzul Alam, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Born in 1962 in Jhenaidah, Stalin published his first poem at eight and later earned his degree from Dhaka University. He built a career in journalism and

cultural activism, served as deputy director of the Nazrul Institute, and received the Bangla Academy Literary Award in 2006.

His appointment marks the Academy's fourth leadership change in just over a year, following the resignations of Liaquat Ali Lucky, Syed Jamil Ahmed, and acting DG Wares Hossain.

NEWS

What does recognising a Palestinian state

FROM PAGE 1
UN membership, though that requires approval by the Security Council, where the United States has consistently used its veto on Palestine-related motions.

With the British and French recognition, Palestine will soon enjoy the support of four of the UN Security Council's five permanent members. France is expected to recognise it later in the week.

China and Russia both recognised Palestine in 1988.

This will leave the US, Israel's strongest ally by far, in a minority of one.

Recognition could also strengthen Palestine's position in international institutions, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), by bolstering its claims to statehood and legitimacy in pursuing cases related to occupation and war crimes. In addition, countries

that recognise Palestine may establish or upgrade diplomatic missions and increase aid or political backing.

However, realities on the ground may not change.

Palestine is a state that does and does not exist.

It has a large degree of international recognition, diplomatic missions abroad and teams that compete in sporting competitions, including the Olympics.

But due to the Palestinians' long-running dispute with Israel, it has no internationally agreed boundaries, no capital and no army.

However, the symbolism of such recognition is strong. Britain bears a special burden of responsibility to support the two-state solution. It goes back to 1917, when Britain signed the Balfour Declaration that envisioned the “establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”.

The territory previously known as Palestine, which Britain ruled through a League of Nations mandate from 1922 to 1948, has long been regarded as unfinished international business.

Israel came into being in 1948, but efforts to create a parallel state of Palestine have foundered.

World leaders have always supported a two-state solution. The phrase refers to the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, broadly along the lines that existed prior to the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, with East Jerusalem – occupied by Israel since that war – as its capital.

Israel's colonisation of large parts of the West Bank, illegal under international law, has turned the concept into a largely empty slogan.

Palestine is currently recognised by around 75 percent of the UN's 193 member states.

Court orders confiscation of \$81m

FROM PAGE 12
in laundering the stolen funds.

Later in a press release, the CID said the Bangladesh government will now formally request the Philippines to return the money, following guidelines from the UNTOC convention and the FATF.

On February 4, 2016, \$101 million was stolen from BB's reserves at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Of this, \$20 million was recovered from Sri Lanka within days. The other \$81 million was sent to four accounts at RCBC in Manila, which quickly went to different casino accounts in Manila.

According to the CID, of the \$81 million that went to the Philippines through RCBC, \$68,000 was returned to BB on February 16, 2016.

A Reuters report on July 21, 2016,

stated that \$18 million had already been recovered from the Philippines. In September 2016, a Philippine court ordered the return of another \$15 million to BB, which had been confiscated by the country's central bank from a casino operator. According to a Daily Star report, BB received these funds on November 11 of that year.

In total, BB recovered more than \$33 million of stolen money from the Philippines and another \$20 million from Sri Lanka, according to reports. So the total unrecovered amount is nearly \$48 million.

When asked why Bangladesh is still claiming \$81 million from the Philippines, Jasim Uddin Khan, special police superintendent of CID, told The Daily Star, “Our investigation finds RCBC, as

an institution, was involved in laundering \$81 million from us. We only recovered \$68,000 from them. The rest of the money was recovered from other sources.”

On March 15, 2016, M Zubayer Bin Huda, then deputy director (accounts and budgeting) of the central bank, filed a case under the Money Laundering Prevention Act at Motijheel Police Station against unidentified individuals. The CID was assigned to investigate the case, and the submission of the reserve heist probe report has been delayed multiple times.

The CID was scheduled to submit the investigation report on August 26, but failed to do so. Dhaka Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Jakir Hossain's court has since set September 29 as the next submission date.

ACC traces Javed’s assets

FROM PAGE 12
seized from there. In the documents, we found information about the former minister's assets in India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia,” he said.

Rukmila is also absconding. Earlier, the anti-graft body had got information about his assets in the US, UK, Dubai, and Singapore.

Akhatarul said, “The volume of the seized materials is huge, and it will require significant time for a full review. Once complete, the findings will be submitted to the ACC headquarters for further action.

“Preliminary reviews indicate

evidence of house ownership, rental income, maintenance expenses, and illegal transfer of funds overseas.”

On Wednesday night, ACC officials arrested two Aramit Group officials, Abdul Aziz and Utpal Pal. They were taken into custody with the permission of the court on Thursday and interrogated. Acting on their information, ACC officials raided the house of Ilias.

Aziz is the assistant general manager of Aramit Group and Utpal Pal is working as AGM (accounts).

Akhatarul said the documents were taken to a house in Shikalbaha area from the Aramit Group's industrial

facility in Kalurghat on September 16, adding that the documents were finally seized from the house of Ilias in the presence of the acting union parishad chairman, police, and other witnesses.

Meanwhile, a Chattogram court yesterday ordered the issuance of Interpol red notices against former land minister Javed and his wife Rukmila.

Acting Judge Md Abdur Rahman of the Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court passed the order following a petition filed by the ACC.

Confirming the order, ACC lawyer Mokarram Hossain told The Daily Star, “Now the ACC will act accordingly”.

Protest erupts in Philippines over graft

FROM PAGE 12
projects has been mounting in the Southeast Asian country since President Ferdinand Marcos put them centre stage in a July state of the nation address that followed weeks of deadly flooding.

Marcos said early last week he did not blame people for protesting “one bit”.

Sunday in the capital began without violence with a morning demonstration at a park that drew nearly 50,000 people, according to city estimates.

Thousands more joined an afternoon rally at the capital's EDSA thoroughfare, ground zero for the 1986 movement that ousted Marcos's dictator father.

“It's very rare for me to go to rallies, but this situation was bad enough that I was really urged to say ‘this is enough’,” Mitzi Bajet, a 30-year-old designer told AFP at the EDSA protest.

Teddy Casino, 56, chairman of left-wing alliance Bagong Alyansang

Makabayan, said his group was demanding not only the return of stolen funds, but also prison time for those involved.

“Corruption requires people to go to the streets and express their outrage in the hope of pressuring government to actually do their jobs,” he said.

Some of those at the clashes could be seen holding aloft the pirate flag seen at recent Indonesian protests sparked by low wages, unemployment and anger over lavish lawmaker perks that left at least 10 dead.

The Department of Finance has estimated the Philippine economy lost up to 118.5 billion pesos (\$2 billion) from 2023 to 2025 due to corruption in flood control projects.

Greenpeace has suggested the number is actually closer to \$18 billion.

Earlier this month, the owners of a construction firm accused nearly 30 House members and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

officials of taking cash payments.

The scandal has already sparked leadership changes in both houses of Congress, with House speaker Martin Romualdez, a cousin of Marcos, tendering his resignation earlier this week as an investigation got underway.

On Sunday, multiple politicians were among those taking part in the EDSA protest, an event supported by the powerful Catholic Church that drew numerous families.

“This is not partisan,” said 58-year-old Manuel Dela Cerna, who said he had attended the People Power protests at EDSA four decades earlier.

“They are draining the people's money while citizens suffer from floods, their homes being swept away, while officials ride private planes, live in mansions,” he said.

The Philippines has a long history of scandals involving public funds, in which high-ranking politicians found guilty of corruption have typically escaped serious jail time.

Britain, Australia, Canada recognise Palestinian state

FROM PAGE 1
peaceful future”, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney wrote on X.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the move “recognises the legitimate and long held aspirations of the people of Palestine to a state of their own”.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas hailed the recognitions as “an important and necessary step toward achieving a just and lasting peace”.

Starmer wrote to Abbas to confirm Britain's decision, noting that London had backed a Jewish homeland in 1917 while also pledging to protect the rights of non-Jewish communities.

It is a watershed moment for Palestinians and their ambitions for statehood, with the most powerful Western nations having long argued it should only come as part of a negotiated peace deal with Israel.

Although a largely symbolic move, it puts those countries at odds with the United States and Israel.

US President Donald Trump, after talks with Starmer, last week said that

“one of our few disagreements” was over Palestinian statehood.

A growing number of longtime Israeli allies have shifted their long-held positions as Israel has intensified its Gaza offensive, which began almost two years ago. The Gaza Strip has suffered vast destruction, with a growing international outcry over the besieged coastal territory's spiralling death toll and a UN-declared famine.

Following yesterday's recognitions announced simultaneously in the three capitals, Israeli Security Minister Ben-Gvir said he would propose that the cabinet apply sovereignty in the West Bank. That would represent the de facto annexation of land seized in the 1967 war.

Ben-Gvir also said the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the West Bank, should be dismantled.

Culture and Sports Minister Miki Zohar echoed the threat, describing the recognition of Palestinian statehood as “a meaningless declaration reeking of antisemitism and hatred of Israel”.

“The only proper response to this foolish statement is the application of Israeli sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley,” he said in a post on X, using biblical terms to refer to the West Bank.

The UK government has come under increasing public pressure to act, with thousands of people rallying every month on the streets. A poll released by YouGov on Friday showed two-thirds of British people aged 18-25 supported Palestinian statehood.

Starmer yesterday said that Britain was acting “in the face of the growing horror in the Middle East”.

He renewed calls for a ceasefire and again demanded Hamas release its remaining hostages.

Many obstacles remain before statehood, including who would run the territory.

The UK's foreign ministry said there was a coordinated effort to draw up a framework for peace to “address governance, security, humanitarian access” as well as building a two-state solution.

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১	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ	পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়
২	সহকারী	পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আখারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
৩	নিলামকারীর নাম	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
৪	বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র	২২.০২.০০০০.০০৮.৯৯.০৪৪.২২-৩৩২ তারিখ ২১/০৯/২০২৪খ্রীঃ
৫	উন্মুক্ত নিলামের বিষয়	পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক মোবাইল ফোন ও এক্সেসপয়েন্ট অফিসের জলকূপ পরিদর্শন, প্রাচীর দানা ও পরিদর্শন তৈরির কাঁচামাল ইত্যাদি উন্মুক্ত নিলামে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে গ্রহণের বিজ্ঞিত বিক্রয়
৬	নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারে যোগ্যতা	নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীর পরিদর্শন/বর্গ্য প্রাচীর পুনঃনির্মাণ এর অনুমতি হাদানামা পরিবেশগত হাটুপের থাকতে হবে
৭	নিলামের বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিবরণ	নিলাম দপ্তর সিডিউলের বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী
৮	সিডিউলের মূল্য	১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অকম্পেনসেযোগ্য)
৯	নিলাম দপ্তর প্রদানমত	নিলাম দপ্তর প্রদানমত হিসেবে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা (সেফটাক্স) যে কোনো কর্মসিদি ব্যাংক থেকে ব্যাংক ড্রাইফট/চেক-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে আনয়ন বায়ন কর্তৃক, পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ এর অনুমতি দপ্তরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে
১০	নিলামকৃত হাদানামা বুকে গেটার সহস্বত্মা	কার্যক্রম প্রদানের ০১ (এক) মাসের মধ্যে
১১	নিলাম দপ্তর সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	হিরাবরগড়া, হিরাব শাখা (৯৯ জং), পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আখারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ এর নিম্নে উল্লিখিত স্থানে নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করতে করা হবে
১২	নিলাম দপ্তর বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১২ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ, বিকাল ৫.০০টা
১৩	নিলাম দপ্তর গ্রহণের স্থান	সেনা শাখা (কেন দাং-১১০), পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
১৪	নিলাম দপ্তর গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ, দুপুর ১২.০০টা
১৫	নিলাম দপ্তর যোগার স্থান	৬৯ কলার সফেনন কক্ষ, পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
১৬	নিলাম দপ্তর যোগার তারিখ ও সময়	১০ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ, দুপুর ১২.০০টা
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	ক) নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীর হাদানামা ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিদপ্তরের প্রমাণক, জাতি নিবন্ধন সাক্ষাৎকারের তথ্যসিদ্ধি কপি, পরিবেশগত হাটুপের হাদানামা নথ্যপত্রের কপি এবং সিডিউলের আনয়ন শর্ত অনুযায়ী চাহির কাগজপত্র অবশ্যই দপ্তরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। খ) সিডিউলের কোনো বিষয়ে অস্পষ্টতা থাকলে তা বুঝার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে আলোচনা করা যাবে। নিলামে উল্লিখিত হাদানামা বিজ্ঞিত প্রদানের দিন হবে ১২ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ পল্লি অফিস চলাকালীন পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। গ) নির্বাহিত গ্রহণযোগ্য সর্বোচ্চ মূল্যমাত্রকে নিম্ন ধরতে পরিদর্শন, পরিদর্শন রোল ও পরিদর্শন শপিং বাধ্য/ফ্র্যাঞ্চাইজি স্ট্রেট জেট জেট ইত্যাদি গ্রহণ দিলে এবং পরিদর্শন তৈরির কাঁচামাল, প্রাচীর দানা গ্রহণ দিলে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের প্রতিনিধিত্ব উল্লিখিতভাবে বুকে দাখিল করে হবে। ঘ) কার্যসূচী প্রদানমতের টাকা ব্যয়যোগ্য করা হবে। নিলামকৃত হাদানামা পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর দপ্তর নির্মাণ করতে হবে। ঙ) কোনো কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে সকল অফার যে কোনো নিলাম দপ্তর গ্রহণ বা ব্যতিক্রম/সুচো নিলাম প্রতিরূপ ব্যতিক্রম করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিলাম দপ্তর খেলার তারিখ সত্তরবার্ষিকী হুটি থাকলে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে একই সময়ে যোগা হবে।

মোঃ আব্দুল্লাহ আল মাসউদ

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

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SANDWIP’S FORGOTTEN WARS

When the Dutch, Portuguese, Mughals, and Arakanese fought over a tiny island

RILA MUKHERJEE

We now arrive at the final chapter in Sandwip’s story — the concluding instalment of the three-part series on the island’s forgotten history, published in the In Focus section of The Daily Star.

Arakan attacked the Portuguese at Dianga in 1607, and Manuel de Matos, ruler of Sandwip, went across to render help, leaving Pero Gomes in charge. Matos died in the siege of Dianga.

Muslim Port: 1607–09

Gomes was a hopeless administrator, unpopular both at Sandwip and in Goa and Lisbon. He was so incompetent that Lisbon suggested Viceroy Dom Francisco d’Almeida directly administer Sandwip from Goa. In this messy situation, Gomes’ employee Fateh Khan seized Sandwip and declared himself ruler with a mission.

His flag proclaimed: *‘Fateh Khan, by the grace of God, Lord of Sandwip, shedder of Christian blood and destroyer of the Portuguese nation’*. He had the 30 Portuguese traders of Sandwip, their families, and native-born Christians killed. Along with his army of ‘Moors’ and Pathans, he created a fleet of 40 boats, which he maintained with Sandwip’s revenues.

Fateh Khan’s fleet circled the area looking for the survivors of the Dianga massacre. They were found on Dakhin Shahbazpur island (present-day Bhola). The survivors had become pirates, led by Sebastião Gonçalves y Tibau and his *jalia* commander, Sebastião Pinto.

As Fateh Khan’s 40 ships and 800 men were about to attack, Gonçalves counterattacked with his force of ten ships and 80 Portuguese men. The battle raged on until morning, when it became clear that Fateh Khan lay dead and his entire force had either been killed or taken prisoner. Without sanction from Goa or Lisbon, Gonçalves and his freebooters seized Sandwip in 1609.

In this troubled situation, Min Razagyi of Arakan offered Sandwip to the Dutch, but they refused. Lisbon stayed aloof and did not support Filipe de Brito de Nicote’s offer to take over Sandwip, thinking the island had been given to the Dutch. This was made clear in the letter of February 20, 1610 from Portugal’s king to viceroy Ruy Lourenço de Tavora.

There was no Mughal presence. Although Man Singh had made Dhaka his base in 1602 in order to further Mughal advance in southeast Bengal, and it became the provincial capital in 1608, the Mughals had no policy towards the informal Portuguese empire in the Bay of Bengal. They did not interfere in the matters of 1607 and 1609. Their sole goal was to resist Arakanese expansion from a central point, but here too Mughal policy was erratic.

In 1615 a Dutch-Arakan force beat Gonçalves at Mrauk U. In 1617 Min Razagyi’s son and successor, Min Khamaung, attacked Sandwip and defeated Gonçalves once and for all. Busy confronting the delta’s rulers—the *baro bhuinyas*—the Mughals did not feature in these campaigns. They stepped into the picture only after 1617 when Min Khamaung defeated Gonçalves. By then, two of the *baro bhuinya*, Kedar Rai and Pratapaditya, had abandoned all claims to Sandwip. The Mughals gave the island to Min Khamaung as *jagir*; from then on it remained in Arakan’s possession, with nominal suzerainty to the Mughals.

A Pirate Port: 1609–11

When Min Razagyi attacked in 1607 some of the Portuguese escaped by boat. One such was Sebastião Gonçalves y Tibau, a salt merchant who had arrived at Dianga through the Meghna River just before the attack.

Gonçalves defeated Fateh Khan’s forces in 1609 in alliance with Pratapaditya of Bakla, who held a string of ports in the delta. Gonçalves’ forces initially consisted of ten ships and 80 Portuguese. By March 1609, he had a contingent of men and 200 horses from Bakla, and possessed his own 40+ *jalias*, some oared *navios*, and 400 Portuguese. Upon taking Sandwip, he promised the people that he would not hurt them or seize their property if they brought the remaining Muslims to him. When the locals returned with some 1000 captives, they were beheaded.

Gonçalves and his band of survivors became pirates, attacking the Arakanese, robbing in Arakanese waters, and selling the booty in the ports of their ally Pratapaditya. But instead of giving Pratapaditya half of Sandwip’s revenues as promised, Gonçalves seized the strategically located Dakhin Shahbazpur island which belonged to Pratapaditya.

His army now had over 1000 Portuguese, 2000 indigenous troops, and a 200-man cavalry. His navy was just as large: it had 20 oared *navios* with metal-plated bows armed with big *falcões*; 70 war *jalias*, not including the 250 *jalias* and barges used by merchants; and three big, oared *galeotas*, each with two 25-pound guns, each mounted with *falcões*. There is no doubt that

army, but were routed. Gonçalves and de Brito consulted together (surprisingly!) and moved Anaporam to Sandwip with his family, fortune, and elephants. He lived there as an exile until his death soon after, ‘not without suspicion of poison’.

Min Razagyi now faced a new threat on his north-western border, a greater threat than de Brito posed in Syriam. He could no longer depend upon his governors for absolute loyalty, and Tripura was emerging as a hostile neighbour.

Expansion: 1611–17

Sandwip kept challenging Arakanese royal authority. After raiding the coast (image 1) and destroying coastal fortifications, Gonçalves blocked the entire coast, including Chittagong. The renewed coastal blockade prompted Min Razagyi’s younger son, Min Mangri, who had been appointed the new *myd-za* of Chittagong in 1609–10, to ally with Gonçalves and rebel against royal authority in 1612.

By this time, the Mughals had advanced to nearby Bhulua. In 1611, Min Razagyi and Gonçalves jointly mounted a campaign against them. But Gonçalves seized the Arakanese naval contingent, killed the commanders, and sold the crew into slavery at nearby ports; while on land, without naval support, Min Razagyi was soundly defeated. Gonçalves’ forces became even



Image 1: Arakan coast, around 1603.

of Rachim his subject, but by no means he is able to doe it: because the King of Pegu, hath no power or armie by sea. And this King of Rachim may arme two hundreth Galleyes or Fusts by Sea, and by Lande he hath certaine sluses with the which when the king of Pegu pretendeth any harne towards him, hee may at his pleasure drowne a great part of his Countrey’.

Scholar Maurice Collis wrote: *‘Geographically speaking, the situation of Mrauk-U is peculiar. It lies sixty miles from the coast, but the largest ocean-going ships of that period could reach it through a network of deep creeks by which it is surrounded. This gave it the advantages of a port, without the attending risk of surprise by an enemy fleet. A large rice growing area immediately enveloped it’.*

Gonçalves’ blockade limited Arakan’s access to maritime revenues and affected the upstream Arakan–Ava trade. Maritime commerce, and supplies of firearms and mercenaries, stopped until 1617, when Gonçalves was defeated at Sandwip. But Mrauk U was still left in command of agricultural and demographic resources with which to dominate the littoral until maritime trade resumed. Any decline in commercial resources could also be offset by a resumption of raids into neighbouring kingdoms, which provided a direct source of goods and treasures available for redistribution by the king. Later kings intensified raids on Bengal and Lower Burma for booty and captives to be used domestically or sold as slaves elsewhere.

To offset Portuguese hegemony, Arakan courted the Dutch, and in the 1620s they established a permanent factory at Mrauk U. To meet the Dutch need for labour and food to feed their slave labourers, the court developed an interconnected rice-and-slave trade for the next half-century. At least into the 1630s, Arakan effected some degree of success in bringing back Muslim traders and other Asian commerce. Fray Sebastião Manrique noted the presence in Mrauk U of traders from around the Bay, from *‘Bengala, Masulipatam, Tenasserim, Martaban, Aceh, and Jakarta’*.

Evaluating Gonçalves

Gonçalves escaped after the battle of 1617. According to a dispatch the Count of Redondo sent to Lisbon, he died later that year at Hugli.

As a pirate king, Gonçalves’ policy was to force all ship captains in the area to submit to his control and compel all merchant shipping to come to Sandwip. In this, his scheme was very similar to that of de Brito. Gonçalves seems to have succeeded, for in one Portuguese royal document he is said t o

have *‘subjected all the coast of Bengala [including Arakan] and with ‘these fortresses he controls the commerce from those parts’.*

However, Gonçalves’ notion of Portuguese expansion in the Bay was very different from that of de Brito. His plans did not include wider Portuguese control over the Bay as de Brito had envisaged. Unlike de Brito, Gonçalves never co-operated with Goa except in the case of the joint Sandwip-Goa campaign attacking Mrauk U in 1615. He always ignored the viceroy’s plans and became involved in wars with mainland rulers. He usually went against de Brito, who tried to bring him under the Estado’s jurisdiction. But local issues triumphed over imperial concerns when he allied with de Brito in the Anaporam matter of 1609.

The Portuguese Crown’s plans for the Bay failed with Syriam’s loss in 1613 and Sandwip’s loss in 1617. Plans were revived between 1629–43 when Manrique dreamt of revitalising, with Arakan’s help, the informal Bay empire.

A central aim of this project was to drive out the Mughals with Arakan’s help; unfortunately for him, this plan never saw the light of day. The career of Sandwip highlights how, due to lacklustre policy-making in Lisbon and Goa, Portugal missed the chance to put its Bay empire on an official footing. Portuguese organisation was stripped of its political autonomy, and the commercial activities and independent overall command structure which the Portuguese had previously enjoyed were gone.

A Slave Port

After 1617, the area was calm. Chittagong became the only commercial port due to its proximity to the rich Meghna trade, but Min Khamaung ended its traditional autonomy. Its semi-independent status and proximity to Dianga’s Portuguese settlement had allowed Anaporam and Min Mangri to revolt. Now ruled by a viceroy close to the royal family instead of a governor as earlier, Chittagong was brought under royal control.

Sandwip became a slave port, shipping captives down the Coromandel coast and into Goa for sale and trans-shipment into Europe. It also became a nodal point for the slave trade through Arakan into Southeast Asia. The Portuguese were no longer a factor. Only two powers remained: the Mughals and the Arakanese. Using the Portuguese who had been captured on Sandwip in 1617, and its own Arakanese slavers, Arakan raided Lower Bengal as far as Orissa for slaves and booty over the next few decades (image 3).

Min Khamaung resettled the Portuguese near Chittagong, not

as traders involved in the entrepôt trade, but as servicemen to raid Lower Bengal. As royal servicemen, their role as competitors to Muslim traders was now largely reduced. They were either forced into Arakan’s military or commanded to operate their *jalias* (galleasses, an oared war boat in Bengal and Arakan) under royal supervision. This service-group was called *harmad* (a corruption of ‘armada’), and the ‘headman’ of their group was *capithomor* (*capitão*mor).

No longer free, the servicemen were placed under the supervision of Chittagong’s viceroy, to whom they gave half of their booty. The Mrauk U court gave the *capithos* (*capitães*) *bilatas* (revenue-producing lands), from whose income they maintained their individual crews on their own lands. But they drew their income largely from their relationship with Chittagong’s viceroy. The practice of forcibly keeping Portuguese women and children in Arakanese territory helped to ensure loyalty, or at least dependence on Arakan.

A 17th-Century Decline?

Should we assess Sandwip’s career against the 17th-century resource crunch and commercial decay along the Bay of Bengal that the historian Anthony Reid wrote about? As resources declined, fringe areas in most kingdoms sought to break away. The flux from Portuguese expansion actually helped accelerate the process of state formation within some areas. But it remains unclear whether it was commercial vitality or decline that aided the emergence of state forms in southeast Bengal. Sripur declined in the face of Mughal onslaughts; Sandwip rose with Portuguese activity and fell when the informal empire declined.

Pratapaditya’s kingdom of Chandecan, with its string of delta ports, flourished at this time. By controlling the port of Chandradwip (Bakla) after an alliance with Kandarpnanarain Rai, Chandecan’s eastern borders approached Sandwip. This enabled it to dabble in Sandwip’s affairs. In alliance with Arakan, Pratapaditya attacked the Portuguese in 1603 (beheading Carvalho), but then supported Gonçalves against both the Mughals and Kedar Rai in 1609. Once again, local issues won out over larger concerns. This expansive kingdom ended when Pratapaditya was defeated by the Mughals.

Epilogue

Sandwip’s turbulence reveals the southeast’s response to imperial expansion at a time when small polities were facing legitimacy crises. Sandwip’s strange history shows how lesser ports and the ‘minor’ Portuguese settlements could play a decisive role in the fate of empires.

Unlike the Mughals, local polities took an interest in Sandwip because it was vital to the maritime economy on which they depended—an economy in which the Mughals had little interest. In the Mughal land-based vision, Sandwip was purely a strategic asset. The Portuguese, however, appreciated Sandwip’s strategic and commercial importance. But its location and physical environment were both boon and disaster.

It was a boon because it commanded the Bay, yet its politics and physical environment made it an island that was difficult to control. Sandwip’s exceptional position was attractive, but its autonomy was a disaster because its location between two expanding frontiers—deltaic Bengal and coastal Arakan—made it impossible to govern.

Rila Mukherjee is a historian and the author of India in the Indian Ocean-World (Springer 2022).



Image 3: Arakanese slavers selling slaves to the Dutch Company at Pipli, 17th century. From Walter Schouten.

marginal points on the northern Bay of Bengal could often co-opt large numbers of people into their armies.

Gonçalves’ forces introduced a new volatility into Sandwip’s politics. The attack on Pratapaditya changed the amicable relations between the local rulers and the Portuguese. But under Gonçalves, Sandwip became once again the key to southeast Bengal and a destabilising factor for Arakan.

According to Michael Charney, an occasion for intervention came in 1609, when Min Razagyi and Chittagong’s governor or *myd-za*, Anaporam, clashed. Min Razagyi demanded Anaporam’s white elephant, a symbol of luck and an emblem of royalty. Anaporam refused and Min Razagyi, having made the demand to test his loyalty, attacked him. Anaporam allied with Gonçalves, who demanded his women as hostages. With this agreement, Gonçalves and Anaporam faced the Arakan

bolder. In 1615 they, along with an official fleet from Goa, sailed up the Lemro River, attacked Arakanese and foreign vessels anchored there, and raided the capital, Mrauk U, but were ultimately routed by the Arakanese with Dutch help. It was perhaps the only time Gonçalves asked for Goa’s help. He never co-operated with the Estado da Índia’s headquarters at Goa.

The upstream capital port-city of Mrauk U was supposedly impregnable, lying on a large fluvial network with an ingenious system of canals and sluices that linked it to the sea (image 2). The Italian merchant and traveller Cesare Federici noted that it was designed with a system of sluices that could repel invasions but facilitate trade and communication. He said:

‘This King of Rachim hath his seate in the middle coast betweene Bengala and Pegu, and the greatest enemy hee hath is the King of Pegu: which King of Pegu imagineth night and day, to make this King

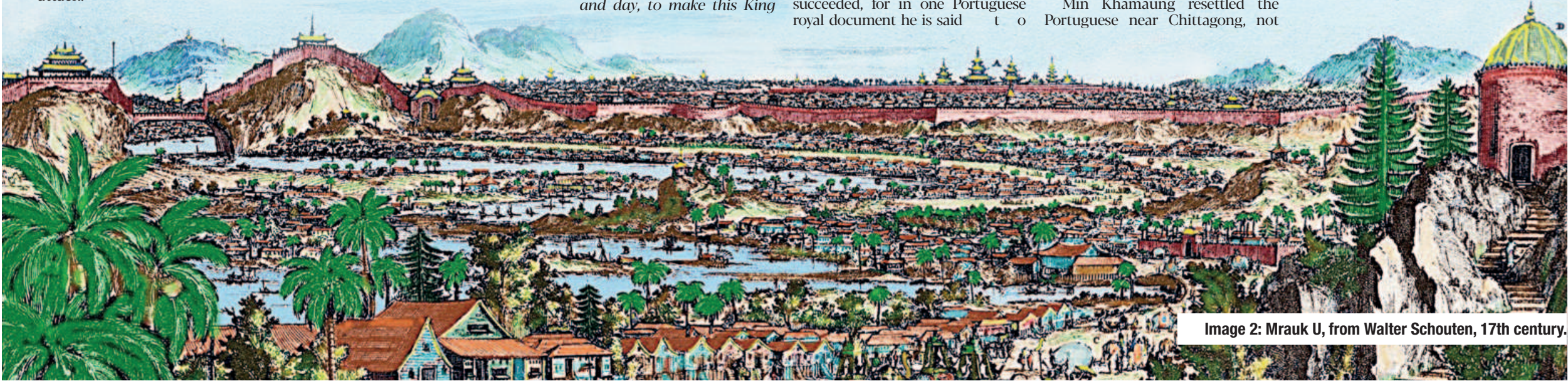


Image 2: Mrauk U, from Walter Schouten, 17th century.

The six that announced SAIF

EKUSH TAPADER from Dubai

He lifts his back foot and, with a graceful flick of the wrist, sends the ball pitched on leg stump soaring into the stands. That six off Sri Lanka pacer Nuwan Thushara by Bangladesh opener Saif Hassan in the Asia Cup Super Four opener in Dubai on Saturday has since gone viral.

How did he generate such power without much of a backlift? Observers noted that by lifting his back foot, Saif balanced on the front, channeling strength into the shot.

For many, this ability of Saif was unknown. His inclusion in the T20 squad was itself a surprise, sparking questions in several quarters. Credit goes to the selectors – they must have seen something in him.

Against Sri Lanka, chasing 169, Bangladesh lost Tanzid Tamim for just 1 in the opening over. Usually, such situations make the Tigers go into their shell. Saif, however, counterattacked, putting the pressure back on the Lankans.

From his early days, Saif was known as a technically correct batter, seemingly destined for red-ball cricket. His first international chance also came in Tests. But that journey turned sour – across six matches, he never crossed fifty, averaging just 14.45. Questions grew louder: was he ready for the highest level?

His T20I debut was nothing short of dramatic. After Bangladesh's collapse in the 2021 T20 World Cup, the team went through sweeping changes. Then, team director Khaled Mahmud Sujon brought Saif into the T20 setup. The move raised eyebrows, as Saif failed to deliver. "Why Saif?" became an uncomfortable question for the selectors.

The only other three games he played were in the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. Since the senior team wasn't involved, those appearances hardly counted.



His real return came just before this Asia Cup, when he was suddenly fielded against the Netherlands. It wasn't as though he had excelled in the last Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) – he scored 306 runs in 13 matches at an average of 25.50 and a strike rate of 119.06.

His selection, however, was justified by versatility – he could bat both at the top and in the middle, while also offering off-spin. Over recent months, Saif developed himself as a T20 cricketer. In his comeback game against the Dutch, he gave a glimpse of his hitting with a 19-ball 36.

In this tournament, the full picture emerged – Saif struck four sixes against Sri Lanka, each with authority. His improved fitness was evident, and his steady head allowed clean, powerful timing.

When the Test doors shut on him, Saif could easily have drifted away. But coaches and confidants reminded him his potential wasn't limited to red-ball cricket.

Now, hope surrounds the 26-year-old. The Pakistan and Indian media are suddenly curious – "Who is Saif Hassan? How did he rise?"

With attention comes scrutiny. Opponents will study his strengths and weaknesses. New challenges lie ahead. For Saif, the task will be to adjust himself through the challenges and make the most of it, just like he did with that six.



PHOTO: AFP

From fear of elimination TO HOPES OF PLAYING FINAL

EKUSH TAPADER from Dubai

In just a week, Bangladesh have found themselves in contrasting scenarios – from fearing elimination after losing to Sri Lanka in the group stage to brightening their hopes of a fourth Asia Cup final with a win over the same side in the Super Four opener.

Journalists, who were ready to return home, are now planning to stay till the end. The worried faces of the players, once wrinkled with tension, are now lit up. One cricketer said, "Brother, we have nothing to lose now. Only things to gain." That belief seems to be working like a tonic within the team.

This turnaround began when Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan in the last group-stage match, helping the Tigers advance to the Super Four. But it wasn't just Sri Lanka's result that carried them forward. Litton Das and Co also beat Afghanistan in a gripping contest, ensuring the Afghans – widely seen as finalists-in-waiting – were eliminated early.

Before the Asia Cup, several Bangladeshi players had spoken about their dream of playing in the final. Some even dared to mention becoming champions. It was on them to prove those weren't just empty words.

Realistically, apart from India, the other four Test-playing teams in this tournament are not too far apart in strength. So, dreaming of a final wasn't far-fetched for Bangladesh.

After the win over Sri Lanka, the

"Before coming here, everyone [players] believed that we would play the final. We are one step closer to the final. Still, two matches are remaining. The next focus is only on the next match [against India]. Definitely [time to dream big], one should dream. One should dream big. But we should proceed step by step."

– Bangladesh opener Saif Hassan after win against Sri Lanka

Bangladesh's remaining Super Four games: Vs India, September 24 Vs Pakistan, September 25

players spent yesterday resting at their team hotel. In the scorching UAE heat, recovery has become their biggest focus. They now have two full days of rest before back-to-back games against India and Pakistan on September 24 and 25.

What has further lifted spirits is the timely rise of key players. Towhid Hridoy, who had been struggling for form, finally stepped up. Even when he managed runs earlier, they came at such a slow pace that they hurt the team's cause.

Despite mounting criticism, the team management kept faith in

him, even after poor batting and fielding displays in the group stage. Cornered and under pressure, Hridoy responded with a blazing 58 off 37 balls against Sri Lanka – a joy for him and a bigger relief for the management.

Alongside Hridoy, Mustafizur Rahman continues to show why he remains Bangladesh's biggest T20 weapon. Except for one off game, the "cutter-master" has quietly done his job throughout the campaign.

The conditions too have suited Bangladesh. At this time of year, UAE pitches aren't flat, with matches being played on used tracks. That has worked well for the Tigers: on gripping wickets, Mustafizur is dangerous, spinners can thrive, and batters accustomed to medium-scoring tracks can pace their innings with confidence.

The omens also appear favourable. The last time Bangladesh reached the Asia Cup final in ODIs, back in 2018, it was at the same venue and on the same date – September 28 – at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Then too, their last group-stage match was against Pakistan, and on all three occasions they reached the final, they did so by beating Sri Lanka on the way.

But the Tigers would have to do their jobs in the rest of their Super Four games. Beating a strong India will be a tough ask, but a struggling Pakistan seem within reach. Win even one of those two matches, and the door to the September 28 final opens wide.

Senior division league returns on Nov 15

SPORTS REPORTER

After being sidelined for over a year, the Senior Division Football League – Bangladesh's third-tier competition after the Bangladesh Premier League and the Bangladesh Championship League – is finally set to resume on November 15.

A total of 20 clubs will take part in a round-robin format, with 190 matches planned. The month-long transfer window will run from October 1 to 30, revised from the original dates of September 15 to October 15.

Matches will initially be held on the newly-installed artificial turf at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. However, the Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee (DMFLC) is actively seeking two additional venues to ensure smooth scheduling and timely completion of the tournament.

Despite recent enthusiasm from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for launching newer formats like futsal and eFootball, the lower-tier leagues – Senior, First, Second, and Pioneer – have been largely neglected. Under the previous Kazi Salahuddin-led BFF executive committee, these leagues were organised only twice in the last five years, denying young players valuable match experience and forcing many to abandon their football ambitions.

"A lot of football academies have sprung up across the country, but budding players are quitting due to the lack of regular competitions," said Narayanganj-based coach Nipu Das on the sidelines of DMFLC meeting yesterday. "Many non-school going players are taking up jobs, leaving only students to stay involved in the game."

A club official named Arman echoed the concern. "There's no shortage of footballers to form squads, but quality is suffering because players don't get enough competitive matches. Most clubs are willing to take part if the league is held consistently."

DMFLC chairman and BFF vice-president Ahmed Aref admitted the delay in restarting the league but reaffirmed the committee's commitment. "We took extra time because several clubs were restructuring their committees following August, 2024. There were also logistical challenges," said Aref. "Still, I told the clubs – we must move forward. We're determined to organise all lower-tier leagues under our committee without further delay."



Bangladesh players celebrate Mohammad Arif's 18th-minute opening goal during their 4-0 victory against Sri Lanka in their SAFF U-17 Group A fixture at the Racecourse Stadium in Colombo yesterday. A second win in two matches saw the boys in red and green emerge group winners to book a place in the semifinals of the seven-team competition.

PHOTO: BFF

Controversy looms as BCB councillors' list due today

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

After two deadline extensions, the draft list of councillors for the upcoming Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) election is set to be announced today.

The significance of who gets picked as councillors is immense as on October 6, these individuals would cast their votes and elect 23 board directors in three different categories who, along with two more directors nominated by the National Sports Council (NSC), will run the country's richest sports body for the next four years.

So far, current BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul and former Bangladesh skipper Tamim Iqbal have emerged as the only candidates for the BCB top post, however, none have made their candidacy official yet.

Even though it's yet to be revealed, the councillorship list has been at the centre of a brewing controversy over external influences in the polls.

Councillorship explainer

There are three categories of directors in the BCB: Category A: Regional, Category B: Dhaka Metropolis Clubs, and Category C: Others.

A total of 72 regional councillors – one each from 64 districts and seven divisions – will elect 10 Category A directors in the polls.

Category B consists of the highest number of councillors, 76, with 12 from premier division clubs, 20 from first division, 24 from second division and 20 from third division. These councillors will elect 12 board directors.

Category C will have around 42 councillors: 10 former cricketer, five former captains, five



NSC nominated, and rest from educational boards, universities and other organizations votes. Two directors will get elected from here. **Tamim says** The councillor list was supposed to be finalised on September 17, but got pushed to the 19th and then finally the 22nd by the board.

The reason for these deferrals, according to a letter sent to the ministry of youth and sports signed by BCB president Bulbul on September 18, was that some of the divisional and district sports associations didn't comply with the NSC's directive of nominating councillors from only within its ad-hoc committee.

But Tamim was not convinced by the reasoning and claimed it was proof of "tremendous amount of government influence" in the election process.

"It seems to me that a tremendous amount of interference is happening from various

parts of the government," Tamim said in a press conference called by an alliance of Bangladesh's district and divisional sports organisers, along with cricketers and club representatives, on Sunday.

"What we normally know from the BCB constitution is that those who are eligible, those related to sports, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) can give them councillorship. This has been the case for a number of years, a number of elections. But this time, I suddenly noticed something new: an ad-hoc committee was formed. The rule that it must come from the ad-hoc committee is not mentioned anywhere in our constitution," he added.

These ad-hoc committees were formed by the NSC after the fall of the previous Awami League regime. According to the BCB constitution, the regional associations will nominate councillors where former cricket players or

cricket organisers will get the priority. There is no such provision that councillors have to part of the ad-hoc committee. However, BCB in a press release sent on Sunday evening claimed that there is no scope for anyone outside of the committee to get nominated according to their analysis of the provision.

Bulbul and vice-president Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, interestingly, were added to the Dhaka Divisional and Dhaka District Sports Association's ad-hoc committees recently and got their respective councillorships from those organisations, even though they came into the current board as NSC nominated directors.

The other allegations

The Daily Star has spoken with members of several ad-hoc committees who have claimed that many BNP politicians have secured councillorship in Category A through pressurizing the DCs.

SCHEDULE OF THE BCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION 2025

Draft voters' list: September 22
Final voters' list: September 25
Nomination form distribution: September 26
Nomination submission: September 28
Nomination withdrawal and final candidates' list: October 1
Postal/ E-ballot collection: October 6
Election date and result: October 6

***The president and vice-president election will take place following the final result of the board of directors' election on the same day

"Ashraf Hossain Arman was given councillorship first [Sylhet Division]. He is a BNP leader and wasn't in the ad-hoc committee. But it has now changed. From the division, Rahat Shams, a former cricketer and local organizer, has now received the councillorship," a member of Sylhet Division ad-hoc committee, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star, adding that the DC didn't even hold any ad-hoc committee meeting before finalising the councillorship.

Although nothing is confirmed yet, as of now, Tamim, who received councillorship from Old DOHS Club, is leading a panel which includes current board director Iftekhar Rahman Mithu, Fahim Sinha, BNP leader Ishraque Hossain, organizers Rafiqul Islam Babu, Masuduzzaman, Ishtiaque Sadeque and Shanian Taneem.

"We have already prepared for the election. We are going in with a panel. We haven't heard of rival panels but have heard that many might contest in the election independently," organiser Rafiqul told The Daily Star, adding that they are fearing of government interference and conspiracy in the upcoming election.

"Honestly speaking, we are yet to finalise the full panel. We will do it on the following day after seeing the councillorship list," he added.

What next

The much debated and awaited councillorship list is set to be revealed today. With so many allegations and counter-allegations being flung around, the list of councillors could end up indicating which way the BCB election is heading.



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ACC traces Javed’s assets in five more countries

Seizes 23 sacks of documents from Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has obtained information about the assets of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, who is on the run, in five other countries, including India, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Officials said the evidence of assets was found in a large number of documents seized from the house of his wife Rukmila Jamal’s driver in the Shikalbaha area of Chattogram’s Karnaphuli upazila early yesterday.

Akhতারul Islam, public relations officer of the ACC, said, “Our team raided the house of Ilias Talukdar, the personal driver of Rukmila, after the arrest of two employees of a company owned by Javed’s family.”

“A total of 23 sacks of documents were

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Artistes perform a piece on Goddess Durga’s victory over demon king Mahishasura on the occasion of Mahalaya at the Sri Sri Radha Govinda temple in Barishal city yesterday. Mahalaya marks the beginning of Durga Puja -- the largest religious festival for the Hindu community. The day commemorates the mythical moment when Durga had descended on earth to vanquish Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

LDC GRADUATION BNP supports call for 3-yr deferment Party says after a meeting with business leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the government should push for the deferment of Bangladesh’s LDC graduation for at least three years.

He said this while talking to reporters at the BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office in Dhaka after a meeting with top trade representatives. “Business leaders gave their opinion that the interim government should send a letter to the UN about whether Bangladesh is truly ready for LDC graduation,” Khosru said.

Earlier, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and 11 other business leaders, including Tapan Chowdhury, AK Azad and Syed Nasim Manzur, met BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Khosru.

Khosru said the discussions made it clear that immediate graduation from LDC status would not benefit Bangladesh’s trade or investment. “The statistics that were given earlier about LDC graduation are questionable. At this moment, it is necessary to defer it for three years.”

BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said, “We don’t want to cancel LDC graduation; we want a three-year deferment because we are not ready yet. It was based on falsified data, and our infrastructure is still not prepared.”

He said business leaders also raised concerns over proposed labour law changes, particularly the provision allowing a trade union to be registered with applications from just 20 workers.

Business representatives hoped that the issue would be raised with the UN during the upcoming visit by the chief adviser and Fakhrul.

WB to give \$700m for 2 Rohingya projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday launched two new projects worth \$700 million to improve basic services, strengthen disaster resilience and expand human capital development for both the displaced Rohingya population and host communities in Bangladesh.

The two initiatives – the Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project (HELP) and the Inclusive Services and Opportunities Project (ISO) – each carry a commitment of \$350 million and will run until June 2028.

Together, they build on earlier WB-supported interventions that have provided over \$1 billion in financing since 2019.

“We want to see a multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach that improves the situation on the ground for both Rohingya and host communities, in the short and medium term,” said Jean Pesme, country director of the World Bank’s Bangladesh office, at the event.

All assistance to the Rohingya is in the form of grants; the projects are designed to build long term resilience in Cox’s Bazar, Bhasan Char and surrounding host areas.

“Until the conditions for safe, dignified and voluntary return are met, our focus remains on supporting



We want to see a multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach that improves the situation for both Rohingya and host communities.

Jean Pesme

WB country director

both the displaced Rohingya and host communities through a total of \$1.3 billion in financing.”

The support covers health, learning, basic services and social safety nets for both the Rohingya and host communities, he said.

HELP will focus on water and sanitation, climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and disaster preparedness. It aims to provide services and livelihoods for 645,000 people, including 329,000 women.

The ISO project seeks to expand access to health, education, social protection and gender-based violence response services.

BB HEIST CASE Court orders confiscation of \$81m from Manila bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered the confiscation of \$81 million from the Philippines’ Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in the Bangladesh Bank (BB) reserve heist case.

The Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court issued the directive under Section 17(2)(7) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) on Thursday, following an application by the CID, the agency investigating the case.

At a press conference at the CID headquarters yesterday afternoon, the agency’s chief, Additional Inspector General of Police Md Sibgat Ullah, said investigations proved that RCBC’s then-president and CEO Lorenzo Tan, Jupiter branch manager Maia Santos Deguito, and several other bank officials were directly involved

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Teachers demand justice for ‘attack’ during Saturday’s scuffle with students

Students say strike to reduce turnout in Rucsu polls on Sept 25

brought to justice.”

During a campus visit yesterday morning, officers and staff were seen demonstrating at Buddijibi Chattar. Academic departments suspended classes, offices remained locked, and only a handful of Rucsu candidates campaigned.

The strike has raised concerns about the participation of the students in the Rucsu and hall union elections, scheduled for September 25.

Irfan Tamim, independent senate member candidate, said, “If the work abstention continues, a participatory election will not be possible. Without classes and exams, most students will return home. These are the students who would have voted regardless of political affiliations. Their absence will benefit those with group-based vote banks.”

Tasin Khan, vice-president candidate of the Sorbojonin Shikkharthi Parishad panel, said, “The environment for the election at the university has already been ruined. Students come here for classes and exams, not for elections. If a complete shutdown begins tomorrow, why will they stay on campus? I would say the administration should not hold this farcical election but rather ensure a proper one.”

Speaking on the matter, Prof Amirul Islam said, “We do not wish to comment on the Rucsu election at this time. When our safety remains uncertain, assuming responsibility for the election is out of the question. Unless and until the Election Commission guarantees our security, we will not consider participating.”

Contacted, RU Pro-VC Farid Uddin Khan said, “The strike will certainly have some impact on the election. But we cannot bring manpower from outside; our teachers, officers, and employees are our only workforce. We hope they will help us conduct the election properly.”

Sun is ‘waking up’ and Nasa doesn’t know why

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The sun’s activity is escalating far beyond scientist’s predictions, Nasa has warned, resulting in more solar storms, flares and space weather events.

Solar activity typically follows an 11-year cycle, with the cycle’s strength steadily decreasing between the 1980s and 2008.

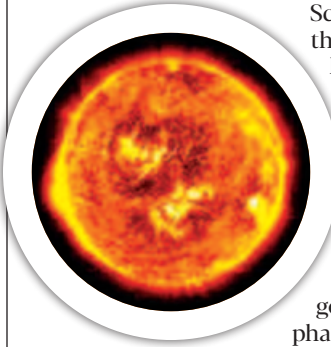
Scientists had expected this trend to continue with historically low activity for the latest cycle, however, a new study from the US space agency has shown the sun to be increasingly active since 2008.

“All signs were pointing to the sun going into a prolonged phase of low activity,” said Jamie Jasinski of Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in southern California, who led the study.

“So it was a surprise to see that trend reversed. The sun is slowly waking up.”

The findings were published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters in a study titled “The sun reversed its decades-long weakening trend in 2008”.

One of the biggest impacts of increased solar activity on Earth is disruption to communication systems, with coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and solar flares causing radio blackouts, damage to satellites, GPS errors, and even power grid failures.



India’s Abhishek Sharma (L) and Shubman Gill celebrate during their 105-run opening stand in their Asia Cup Super Four fixture against Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium yesterday. Thanks to that partnership off only 59 deliveries, India chased down Pakistan’s 171 for five in 18.5 overs with six wickets in hand.

PHOTO: AFP

Protest erupts in Philippines over graft

AFP, Manila

Thousands of Filipinos marched in Manila yesterday to vent their anger over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

But a day of largely peaceful mass protests erupted into violence as riot police deployed water cannon in clashes with scores of mostly young masked people who hurled rocks and shattered the glass of one police outpost.

Police arrested 72 people – including 20 minors – in two separate incidents that saw at least 39 officers injured and a trailer that was being used as a barricade set ablaze, according to a spokeswoman.

Major Hazel Asilo told AFP it was unclear if those arrested were “protesters or just people who are causing trouble”.

Rage over the so-called ghost infrastructure

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4