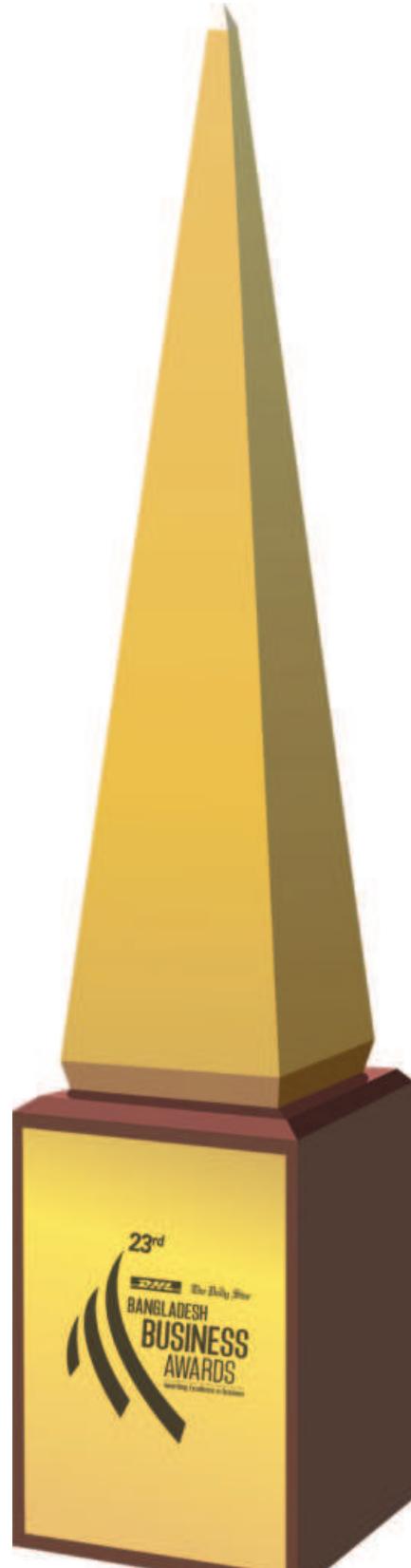




Bangladesh Business Awards was introduced in 2000 with the objective of creating an environment of excellence and competitiveness – one that would drive the members of the business community to scale greater heights of productivity, efficiency, financial discipline and modern management. Over the years, the awards shaped up into the most prestigious, credible and sought-after recognition for Bangladesh's business community. In the 23rd year of this prestigious award, we remember fondly the glorious winners from previous years.

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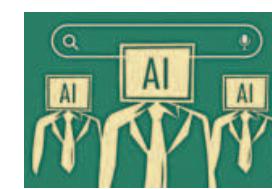
Idol artisans
struggle as
material costs
soar
P3



Just transition
is key to our
pledge to cut
emissions
P6



Why we
need a water
allocation plan
P7



How AI can
transform your
job search
P12

'Nothing works without money'

Say 75% of 8,067 families
surveyed by PPRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over one in every 12 households admitted to paying bribes or extortion money in the year between May 2024 and April 2025, according to a new survey.

The number dropped from 8.5 percent before August 2024 to 3.7 percent this April. However, the survey noted the practice remains widespread, with police, political leaders, and government offices being the main recipients.

At least 39 percent of respondents said they had to pay police officials, 33 percent paid political leaders or activists, and nearly half reported payments to government offices. Many said they paid to get faster service, avoid legal hassles, or simply because money was demanded.

The findings were presented at a webinar titled "Economic Dynamics and Mood at Household Level in Mid-2025" organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). They were based on responses from 33,207 members of 8,067 families.

Households reported a wide range of crises. Nearly 20 percent faced financial struggles, 7 percent were hit by natural disasters, and 2.3 percent reported problems with police or courts, PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman, also a former caretaker government adviser, said during the presentation.

Medical expenses were the most common financial burden, troubling two-thirds of the families. Loan repayments came next at 27 percent, followed by education

AT A GLANCE

- Over 1 in 12 households paid bribes or extortion money in past year
- 39% paid police; 33% paid political leaders or activists
- Financial crises, medical costs, and rising food prices top concerns

costs at 8 percent. Others mentioned migration costs, legal fees, charity, or bribes for jobs.

Both rural and urban households worried about high treatment costs and expensive medicine. More than half reported high health costs: rural respondents cited expensive treatment (52 percent) and medicine (50.9 percent), while urban respondents reported costly medicine (53.4 percent) and unnecessary tests (51.1 percent).

Legal troubles also weighed heavily, with over half of affected households saying they faced property conflicts and 47 percent caught up in harassment cases. Others reported arrests, detentions, or similar issues.

When asked about daily harassment in getting public services, people highlighted how little works without payment.

Nearly 75 percent said "nothing works without money", 36.4 percent pointed to complex or unnecessary rules, 22.3 percent cited unclear service paths, 21.8 percent delays in decisions, and 19.3 percent inattentive officials.

Across all income groups, rising commodity prices were the most pressing concern. Among the poorest 40 percent of households, 65.6 percent cited price hikes, 48.3 percent reported income drops, and 30 percent faced food insecurity.

For middle-income households, price hikes affected

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

JULY UPRISING Hasina's voice matches 'shoot' order audio Forensic expert tells ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday heard an audio conversation, recorded during the July uprising, purportedly between deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and then Dhaka south city mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

In the conversation, Hasina is heard telling Taposh that she had given orders to use lethal weapons, deploy helicopters, and fire directly at protesters to suppress the movement.

Testifying in the Abu Sayed murder case, Inspector Rukunuzzaman, also a CID Digital Forensic Lab officer, told the tribunal that they ran forensic tests of the recording.

"In the test, the female voice matched former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and the male voice matched Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, then mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation," Rukunuzzaman said.

Hasina is not a suspect in the case.

Contacted in the evening, state-appointed defence lawyer Md Amir Hossain declined to comment on the recording.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



As cars splash through a waterlogged street, two students lift their feet onto the rickshaw seat to stay dry, while the puller drags it through knee-high water. Heavy rains left parts of the capital submerged, putting commuters in troubled waters. The photo was taken yesterday in the New Market area of the city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Bangladesh Business Awards today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 23rd edition of the DHL The Daily Star Bangladesh Business Awards will be held today.

Global logistics service provider DHL and Bangladesh's most widely circulated English newspaper, The Daily Star, have been honouring the best of the business

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Notice

Today we have published a four-page special supplement on LDC graduation instead of our regular Star Business.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rucsu elections deferred to Oct 16 amid campus unrest

SHOHANUR RAHMAN RAFI and NUR AHSAN MRIDUL

Amid ongoing unrest at Rajshahi University, sparked by student protests and teacher strikes, the Rucsu and hall union elections were deferred once again yesterday.

The new date has been fixed for October 16, marking the third revision.

The announcement followed a nearly four-hour-long emergency meeting of the Rucsu Election Commission in the afternoon.

In a press release, the commission said the polls cannot be held in a "festive, participatory, and fair" manner under present circumstances.

With teachers, officers, and employees enforcing a complete shutdown, it said the manpower required to conduct the election could not be ensured.

The announcement has drawn mixed reactions from candidates, with Shibir-backed panel rejecting the deferral and Chhatra Dal and independents welcoming it, while left-leaning panels express concerns over repeated delays.

The elections, initially scheduled for September 15, were pushed back to September 28 and later advanced to September 25.

At a press conference, Shibir-backed panel leaders accused JCD, BNP, BNP-leaning teachers, and the Rucsu Election Commission of conspiring to defer the election.

They warned that if the October 16 date was pushed back again, responsibility would rest with those named.

Later, nearly a thousand Shibir activists from the Rucsu treasurer's office around 9:30pm and began parading around the campus.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



MY DHAKA

Empowering breast cancer patients through community support

RBR

An initiative that I am particularly passionate about is TishCAN, a humble support group dedicated to raising funds for breast cancer patients who are unable to solicit donations or raise funds on their own.

Just this mere gesture of thinking about women who are financially strapped, but cannot ask for funds to treat their cancer, is a noble thought. And being able to help any such woman in peril, in whatever small way, is a significant achievement.

"All cancer battles are difficult. Living through breast cancer myself, I am aware of the ordeal. I founded TishCAN in 2023, with the pursuit of raising awareness for cancer patients and holding hands with fellow survivors. The power of community and the strength of loved ones is so helpful; it makes all the difference in a person's life who is undergoing cancer treatment," says Nuzhat Tarannum, founder of TishCAN.

Nuzhat is courageous in facing her own battle, and in this difficult journey, she is trying to help hold the hands of fellow patients. She has created a support group with patients, survivors, healthcare professionals, and advocates for those battling cancer to adhere to a healthy lifestyle for recovery.

October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To commemorate this, TishCAN raises funds to support breast cancer patients by organising exhibitions, fundraising events, and raising community support throughout the month of September.

"TishCAN Pink Carnival - Stand with Breast Cancer Warriors" is such an awareness programme to help save lives through early detection and education. At the fundraising fair, people donate items which are then sold to raise funds.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

TishCAN's next special event will be held on September 27 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Gulshan Society Lake Park.

The event will be an awareness and wellness session featuring expert on breast cancer, survivor stories, and an energizing Zumba session.

There is a registration fee for the "Cancer Awareness & Wellness" event on Saturday at Gulshan Lake Park. It aims to be a heartwarming community event filled with pink-themed ideas, love, and support.

TishCAN, this October, plans to take another bold step and go on a wellness trip to Cox's Bazar with 17 of its support group members. The trip is generously supported by the City Group.

All proceeds from these events go towards direct support for Breast Cancer Warriors in need.

"Chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation therapy, and the side effects

of such a difficult treatment process are overwhelming. So, TishCAN is my humble effort to support cancer patients, particularly those who are not comfortable asking for financial help despite facing hardship.

"A patient may have been the sole earner of her family, or might have other financial responsibilities, but her earnings are stalled because of her health. Helping to ease that burden and provide financial relief along with mental support is what I strive for," says Nuzhat, saying it is the reason to initiate Pink October fundraising events by TishCAN.

Cancer is cruel and breast cancer, I think, is the hardest. Particularly because we, women, always want to feel beautiful inside and out.

The breast cancer struggle isn't just physical; it's a profound emotional journey, where recovery is a

complicated process involving physical, emotional, and psychological healing. Then there is the financial aspect of the treatment and recovery, which just cannot be ignored.

Breast cancer is said to be highly treatable, especially if diagnosed at an early stage and with timely intervention. You can have healthy years or even decades after receiving treatment and keeping follow-up appointments.

However, there is always a dark cloud looming over, you can never be cancer-free. The possibility never fully disappears; late recurrences can occur even after years of remission.

"Give back. Spread hope. Be part of something beautiful. Together, we can turn simple things into something life-changing for others and yourself," is Nuzhat's only wish on her way to recovery.

JULY UPRISING CASE

'I found my brother's body among 5 others' Sister recounts harrowing hospital scene at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sister of a university student killed during last year's July uprising recounted yesterday the harrowing moment she saw her brother's bullet hit body at Suhrawardy hospital, lying among five others soaked in blood.

Testifying as the 49th prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides at the International Crimes Tribunal-1, Sabrina Afroz Sebonti, a university student herself, said her brother Mahmudur Rahman Shaikat left home after lunch on July 19, 2024, to join protests on Nurjahan Road in Mohammadpur.

At around 3:45 pm, police shot him dead.

Sebonti said she rushed to the hospital after learning of Shaikat's death from her father, who had gone to their village home in Sandip. At the hospital, I found my brother's body among five others. His head was wrapped in a thick, bloody bandage. Each of the bodies bore bullet wounds either to the head, chest, or abdomen.

She further said as more wounded protesters were brought in, the floor got smeared with blood. "I even saw someone washing away the pool of blood coming from my brother's head with a bucket of water. I broke down, unable to hold back my tears."

Sebonti demanded that those responsible for her brother's death be hanged.

During cross-examination, state defence counsel Md Amir Hossain argued that Hasina and Kamal were innocent and had not issued any orders to kill protesters.

Earlier in the day, Amir cross-examined the 48th prosecution witness, Ali Ahsan Zonaed, convenor of United Peoples Bangladesh, arguing that the July uprising was a "metaculus design to overthrow a legitimate government" and that protesters themselves were conspirators.

Zonaed rejected the claim outright.

The lawyer further insisted that on July 16, 2024, no students were killed in attacks carried out by Chhatra League activists and police.

"This is not true," the witness countered again.

Amir also pointed to programmes Zonaed mentioned in his testimony and said campaigns such as changing Facebook profiles to red, "March for Justice," "Remembering Our Heroes," "March to Dhaka," the symbolic extension of July into "32 July," and the one point demand to oust the government on August 3 were "proof of a carefully plotted strategy".

Zonaed dismissed the argument as baseless. His cross examination was held yesterday, a day after his testimony was recorded on Sunday.

Late admission leading cause

FROM PAGE 1

"If the disease cannot be diagnosed in time or treatment cannot be started early, suffering and deaths increase. Public awareness is imperative here," said DGHS Director General Prof Md Abu Jafar.

"Whatever steps we take will not be fruitful if we cannot make people aware of them," he said, seeking journalists' cooperation in this regard.

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

Two more people died and 678 more were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the total death toll to 181 and caseload to 42,509.

Prof Halimur Rashid, of the DGHS Communicable Disease Control Programme, said most deaths were among patients aged 20 to 30 (19 cases), followed by those in the 0-10 and 40-50 age groups, with 16 deaths reported in each.

Of them, 53 percent were male while the rest were female.

According to a DGHS official, who preferred anonymity, those aged 20-30 make up the highest share of deaths as they are more active outdoors and less cautious during the early stages of fever.

The DGHS collected the addresses of ill dengue patients who died. Of them, Dhaka recorded the highest number with 17 deaths, followed by Barguna with 12 and Narayanganj with eight.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital saw the highest in-patient deaths with 33, followed by Kurmitola General Hospital with 14 and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with 12, said Prof Halimur.

Meanwhile, 66 patients died within 24 hours of hospital admission, 18 died within 48 hours, five within 72 hours and 25 after 72 hours, he added.

DENGUE DEATHS AGE DISTRIBUTION



condition. EDS is another severe form of dengue fever which affects multiple organs.

Prof Halimur said that the dengue fatality rate, which stands at 0.42 percent, is still lower than last year's 0.57 percent.

Citing 2024's caseload and deaths, Prof Abu Jafar said it was predicted that the number of cases would increase in September.

Replies to a question, he said the role of the Local Government Division is crucial in controlling mosquitoes and curbing dengue cases. "We're already in touch with them, but there may be some gaps in coordination."

To another question, he responded that despite a shortage of health workers, they have been mobilising additional doctors in areas that require them the most, such as Barga.

Asked whether district and upazila-level hospitals were sufficiently prepared to handle dengue cases, as many patients reportedly come to Dhaka for treatment, he claimed they were.

DGHS Director (Hospital) Abu Hussain Md Moinul Ahsan said they have already issued directives to all government hospitals to set up separate wards and medical teams dedicated to handling dengue cases and ensure better treatment, adding that the hospitals are already equipped with adequate test kits and fluids for dengue patients.

Responding to a question, he said, "We regularly update the dengue treatment protocol and train doctors and nurses accordingly."

Moinul added that they have been investigating the death of a dengue patient in a private hospital in Chattogram despite a long hospital stay, which was unusual.

Two additional director generals of DGHS, Prof Khair Ahmed Choudhury and Prof Sheikh Sayidul Haque, were present at the briefing.

Support growing for a Palestinian state

FROM PAGE 1

health authorities. In recent weeks, Israel has begun a long threatened ground assault on Gaza City with few prospects for a ceasefire.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, yesterday said that "the recognition of a Palestinian State doesn't mean much if there isn't a ceasefire".

"The recognition must be followed by a genuine commitment to a peace process in the region," Lazzarini said in an interview before a UN General Assembly meeting.

His comments came as at least 37 more Palestinians were killed yesterday in Israeli attacks across the enclave.

More than 140 world leaders will descend on New York this week for the annual United Nations General Assembly, which will be dominated by the Palestinian issue.

One world leader who will miss the gathering is Mahmud Abbas, the Palestinian president whom Washington denied a visa, along with his officials.

That earned a rebuke from the General Assembly, which will be the focus of world leaders' speeches and protest walkouts this week. The assembly voted 145 to five to exceptionally allow Abbas to speak via video link.

Experts say the recognition by

Western nations is a symbolic boost to the Palestinians. It is a diplomatic and political milestone that could increase international pressure on Israel.

However, realities on the ground may not change, they said.

Some diplomats fear Israeli reprisals over the Western push to recognise a Palestinian state.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul yesterday said "a negotiated two-state solution is the path that can allow Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security and dignity."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated on Sunday his position that there would be no Palestinian state and vowed to accelerate the creation of new settlements.

Two far right Israeli ministers, Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, went further, calling for the annexation of the West Bank.

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan yesterday chided those Israeli politicians.

"We call on the Israeli government to cease settlement construction and expansion," he said, citing the so-called El settlement project as fragmenting the West Bank. "We oppose ongoing attempts to create new facts on the ground which undermine the prospects for a two-state solution."

More details on the sanctions would be released at a later date, he said.

Meanwhile, Scottish First Minister John Swinney urged the British government to go beyond its recognition of a Palestinian state by imposing sanctions and halting arms sales to Israel.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told AFP Friday, "We should not feel intimidated by the risk of retaliation."

All eyes will be on Netanyahu when he speaks on Friday.

On the ground, the Gaza health ministry said two Gaza City hospitals have been taken out of service due to the escalation of Israel's ground offensive and damage caused by continued Israeli bombing.

The ministry said in a statement that Al-Rantissi Children's Hospital had been badly damaged in an Israeli bombardment a few days ago. At the same time, it reported Israeli attacks in the vicinity of the nearby Eye Hospital, which forced the suspension of services there, too.

Yesterday, residents said Israeli tanks had advanced deeper into the Sheikh Radwan area and Jala Street in northern Gaza City, where the two hospitals are located, while in Tel Al-Hawa in the southeast tanks had pushed deeper in the direction of the western parts of the city.

They said Israeli forces had used explosive-laden vehicles, detonated remotely, to blow up dozens of houses in the two areas.

PALESTINIAN LAND GRAB BY ISRAEL



Hasina's voice matches 'shoot' order

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star has the full recording of the conversation, and in July this year, this newspaper ran its own investigation titled, 'Shoot directly': Hasina's order and deadly aftermath', to verify the recording.

During our investigation, the audio was provided to Tech Global

Institute (TGI) -- a technology nonprofit -- for technical analysis, which showed the call recording was authentic.

According to the documents obtained by this newspaper, the call took place on the night of July 18, 2024, and the receiver's phone number is registered with the Prime

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Govt appointing members of an Islamic party as DCs, SPs: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that the interim government is appointing members of a specific Islamic political party to important positions, including deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs).

In a press briefing at the party's central office in Nayapaltan, he also claimed that officers with ties to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal during their student life have been sidelined or kept as OSDs, despite being recruited based on merit.

He said many of these officials often visit him, in tears, after being assigned to less important roles despite their earlier achievements.

Rizvi also accused Mokhles Ur Rahman, who was recently transferred from the public administration ministry to the Planning Commission, of depriving pro-BNP officials of proper positions by bringing false allegations against them and blaming them unjustly.

"Another political party's people are being appointed as DCs and SPs. I can name them one by one -- those who claim to be Islamists, their supporters, and like-minded individuals from that specific party have been placed in these roles," Rizvi claimed.

Won't accept Ducusu polls until our complaints resolved: JCD

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday said they would not accept the Ducusu election as legitimate until their submitted complaints were addressed.

Their 11 complaints include administrative bias towards a particular panel, the supplying and printing of ballots in its favour, failure to disclose the number of used and returned ballots, barring polling agents from entering centres, the use of non-transparent ballot boxes, and ballot papers without serial numbers.

The Ducusu election was held on September 9.

At a press conference at Madhur Canteen, the JCD said although they reported various irregularities after the announcement of the schedule, teachers had failed to resolve them.

Abidul Islam Khan, the JCD's VP candidate, said, "Until the administration clarifies its position regarding a fair election, there is no scope from our side to legitimise the election."

JCD said complaints regarding ballot paper issues were properly filed by multiple candidates and polling agents, but the administration neither investigated nor took action, instead offering excuses for the delays.

73% of DNCC road crash victims pedestrians

Says 2023 report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists make up 95 percent of reported road traffic fatalities in Dhaka North City Corporation areas, according to a report.

Of the fatalities, 73 percent were pedestrians, 20 percent motorcyclists, 5 percent vehicle occupants, and 2 percent cyclists.

The report, titled "Status Summary 2024: Road Safety Risk Factors", was released under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety.

The findings were unveiled at an event organised by DNCC, the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit, CIPRB, and Vital Strategies at DNCC's Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Since May 2021, JH-IIRU has been conducting studies in Dhaka north under the initiative. Presenting the findings, Dr Shirin Wadhania of JH-IIRU said speed observations between October 2021 and November

FATALITIES BREAKDOWN	
✓ 73%	pedestrians
✓ 20%	motorcyclists
✓ 2%	cyclists
✓ 5%	other vehicle occupants

Motorcycles topped the list of vehicles that exceeded speed limits, with 51 percent, while 29 percent of vehicles were over the limit on local and collector roads. Speeding was slightly higher on weekends, compared

to weekdays. Other risk factors identified were excessive speed, low helmet use, and lack of seatbelts and child restraints.

The BRTA guideline, issued in May, set maximum speeds of 80 km/h on expressways and highways and 40 km/h on city roads.

The report suggested police enforce new limits with a focus on motorcycles, pickups, light trucks, and commercial vehicles.

Brig Gen Md Moin Uddin, DNCC's chief engineer, said, "Speed is a major factor in fatalities. If vehicle speed is kept under control, fatalities will go down. From PRTF, speed limit guidance came out in 2022, and we must implement it."

"Our footpaths and footbridges must be usable. Many footpaths are occupied by shops. I take this failure on myself, but I seek everyone's cooperation to clear them. If pedestrians have safe passage, fatalities will drop significantly."



A child looks to be in discomfort as a nurse inserts a cannula into his hand to administer fluids and medication necessary for dengue treatment. Young ones remain vulnerable to the mosquito-borne disease, as evidenced by the near-full occupancy of the dengue ward for children at Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucusu election is set to take place on October 16. 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 Fuad Ratul and GS candidate Paroma Parmita -- to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

Ratul promises reforms, end to discrimination

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Fuad Ratul, a vice president candidate in the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) elections, has pledged to implement a social contract involving all student organisations to curb the culture of dominance on campus.



vocal for student rights and uncompromising against injustice since joining RU.

"During the previous regime, I was one of the few who openly opposed Chhatra League's dominance on RU campus. I played a coordinating role in the July uprising and have always been a voice of the students. That is why I am running in this election," said Ratul, a student of the Philosophy department.

Ratul said if elected, he would represent all students to have their demands met. "I believe students will vote for me based on their trust in my

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Paroma Parmita, a candidate for the post of general secretary in the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) elections, has pledged to work for building an equal, just, and non-communal campus.



A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Paroma is contesting the polls from the "Aporajeyo-71, Aprotirodhyo 24" panel.

Speaking to The Daily Star, she said, "I want to ensure a social, political, and cultural environment in our university

where people of all religions and communities can coexist in harmony."

"I consider student politics to be a matter of political responsibility and came into it consciously. My participation in the Rucusu elections is part of that responsibility," said Paroma, a student of Fine Arts.

"Since 2018, in every duty I was entrusted with -- be it in the hall, department, or campus -- I have always tried to give my best. Now, if elected as a student representative, I want to play a role in solving the various problems faced

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Paroma to work for equal, non-communal campus

Army chief off to Malaysia for Indo-Pacific Conference

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Bangladesh Army General Waker Uz Zaman left Dhaka for Malaysia yesterday to attend the four-day 14th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference.

The conference, jointly organised by the United States Indo-Pacific Command and the Malaysian Armed Forces, will be held in Kuala Lumpur, according to a media release from ISPR.



Army chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region are expected to participate in the event to strengthen friendship and cooperation, exchange views on tackling shared challenges, and discuss coordinated responses to regional crises.

General Waker-Uz-Zaman is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on September 27.

35 DU researchers among world's top 2% scientists

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has announced that 35 of its faculty members and researchers have been named among the "World's Top 2% Scientists 2025" by Stanford University and Netherlands-based publishing house Elsevier.

DU administration made the announcement through a press statement yesterday.

Last year, 10 researchers from Dhaka University featured in the list.

The global ranking is based on published papers, citations, H-index, consistency, and the impact of co-authors.

Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, vice chancellor of the university, congratulated the faculty and researchers on their inclusion in the world's top scientists' list.

No security threat during Durga Puja Says home adviser

UNB, Dhaka

There is no security threat over the Durga Puja celebrations, said Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

"Adequate security measures have been taken at 33,000 puja mandaps across the country and members of Ansar, police, Rab, BGB, and Army personnel will be deployed to ensure security," he said while talking to reporters after visiting the Ramakrishna Mission Puja Mandap in Narayanganj.

"CCTV cameras have been installed at all mandaps and this year's celebration will be vibrant and joyful. There is no lack of security," the adviser said.



A man jumps over concrete pipes onto a small patch of bricks and mud, narrowly avoiding a puddle. The risky move could easily cause a serious accident. Ongoing road maintenance and heavy rain have left the main road in Mirpur's Kazipara area in such a dilapidated state that pedestrians are forced to take such dangerous steps to get across. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Cath Lab at CMCH out of order for 5 days

Patients in peril

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The only operational Cath Lab at the Cardiology Department of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) has remained out of order for the past five days.

The hospital has two Cath Labs, one of which has been non-functional since 2021. The other had been operational until September 17, when it stopped working, halting almost all Cath Lab related services for cardiac patients.

Doctors at CMCH said the Cardiology Department admits 180 to 200 patients daily. On an average day, the Cath Lab carries out 12 to 14 angiograms and at least three Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) or stenting procedures. In addition, around two patients a day require temporary pacemaker installation.

All these services are now suspended.

The situation has put a financial burden on patients, as the cost of heart stenting or angiogram procedures is several times higher at private hospitals than the Tk 2,000 charged at CMCH, excluding essential medicines that patients must purchase separately.

Hospital sources said CMCH authorities have repeatedly appealed to the health ministry since 2021 for a new Cath Lab machine, but to no avail.

Dr Nur Uddin Tareq, head of the Cardiology Department, said, "We have already sent a letter to the supplier. The lone Cath Lab machine had become overburdened after the other stopped working, which is why it went out of order five days ago."

A critical pressure cartridge used for invasive blood pressure monitoring has failed, he said, adding that the machine's warranty runs until February 2027.

The department has written to the supplier, Dhaka-based Medi Graphic Trading Limited, seeking repair. "The machine can still perform some emergency pacemaker installations, but not angiograms or stenting," he added.

During a visit to the cardiology ward, patients were seen suffering because of the crisis.

Aminul Islam, who came from Lohagara upazila, said his father had been admitted with chest pain for four days. "The doctors advised an angiogram, but they said it can't be done here now. It would cost about Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000 at a private hospital, which would be difficult to arrange," he said.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said he had spoken to the supplier company regarding repairs. "They have assured me of sending a technician."

An engineer from the Medi Graphic Trading Limited, requesting anonymity, said the pressure cartridge is a consumable item not covered under warranty. "The component is not that expensive, but the hospital authority is unwilling to buy it," the engineer added.



A labourer sorts jute at a warehouse in the Religate area of Khulna yesterday. Jute from different districts and upazilas of Khulna is brought here and categorised according to quality, priced between Tk 3,200 and Tk 3,800 per maund, before being sold to exporters or mill owners.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DURGA PUJA

Idol artisans struggle as material costs soar

S DILIP ROY, *LaMonirhat*

With Durga Puja around the corner, nearly a hundred idol artisans in LaMonirhat and Kurigram are struggling to make ends meet due to soaring material costs.

Along with them, some 350 to 400 assistant artisans are also affected.

Once a profitable trade, idol makers say they have grown increasingly frustrated over the past two years as the prices of clay, straw, bamboo, wood, and ropes have gone up, while the prices of idols have remained unchanged.

Durga Puja will be celebrated from September 28 to October 2. Idols are nearly complete, with artisans in some temples seen putting the finishing touches by painting them.

According to Puja Udjapan

Parishad sources, 467 temples in five upazilas of LaMonirhat and 537 temples in nine upazilas of Kurigram have been prepared to celebrate the festival this year.

Nipin Chandra Pal, 55, an artisan in Kurigram, said each craftsman



PHOTO: STAR

has four to five assistants working day and night to meet deadlines. This year, they are crafting each Durga idol for Tk 20,000 to Tk 60,000.

"Earlier, I used to collect clay

from various places to make idols, so it didn't cost anything. Now, we have to buy the soil," he said.

Another craftsman, Subodh Chandra Pal, 48, echoed him.

Sribas Chandra Roy, an artisan from LaMonirhat, said last year he made a profit of Tk 10,000 to 12,000 per idol. "But this year there will be no profit. We are just living hand-to-mouth. There is no work throughout the year," he said.

Binod Chandra Roy, president of Sadhutari Durga temple in LaMonirhat town, said the price of all products and fruits used in puja has also increased.

LaMonirhat District Puja Udjapan Parishad President Hirhal Roy said they have taken all preparations to complete Durga Puja safely. "The idol makers don't make enough money from idols. They lead a subhuman life," he said.

Two cases filed over Khulna eviction clash

Around 500 accused of blocking govt activities, attacking cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Two separate cases have been filed in connection with the clash between police and locals during an eviction drive on Sunday at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna city's Khalishpur area.

According to police, one case was lodged by the National Housing Authority and another by Khalishpur Police Station, accusing 37 and 32 named individuals respectively, and 400-500 unidentified others. Many of the named accused are common to both cases, police said.

The cases were filed on charges of obstructing government activities and attacking law-enforcement officials, said Mir Atahar Ali, officer-in-charge of Khalishpur Police Station.

The clash erupted on Sunday morning when authorities launched an eviction drive against "illegal occupation" at Boyra Housing Estate's Block C (Bastuhara Colony), sparking resistance from the residents, who set tyres ablaze, blocked roads with logs, and hurled brickbats at police.

Law enforcers retaliated with baton charges and later fired tear-gas shells to disperse the crowd. During the clash, protesters vandalised a bulldozer and attacked its driver.



A farmer feeds his flock of ducks next to the Jilkarkandi haor in Mugolgaon union. Duck farming is helping many youths earn a livelihood amid rising demand in the haors of Sylhet. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1765 of 2025
An application under Section 81(2), 85(3) & 396 of the Companies Act, 1994,
Adam Tamizi Haque —VERSUS— Petitioner.
The Registrar, RJSC and another Respondent.

Take Notice that an application U/S- 81(2), 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the year 2024 of Haque Food Industries Limited, Upon hearing of the application on 18.09.2025 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit said application. In the said order, the Honorable Justice directed to publish advertisements in the newspaper, and submit affidavit-in-compliance.
If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate.
Asikur Rahman Sourav, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
SS Bhaban (Ground Floor), 70/D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 01917399260

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1763 of 2025
An application under Section 81(2), 85(3) & 396 of the Companies Act, 1994,
Adam Tamizi Haque —VERSUS— Petitioner.
The Registrar, RJSC and another Respondent.

Take Notice that an application U/S- 81(2), 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the year 2024 of Haque and Company (Dry Cell) Ltd. Upon hearing of the application on 18.09.2025 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit said application. In the said order, the Honorable Justice directed to publish advertisements in the newspaper, and submit affidavit-in-compliance.

If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate.

Asikur Rahman Sourav, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
SS Bhaban (Ground Floor), 70/D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 01917399260

Office of the Registrar
Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University
Trishal, Mymensingh-2224, Bangladesh
Phone: 02-996676404, PABX: 210
স্বাক্ষর নং: জাকি/নবিজনি/১৬৩০/১২/১০১০ তারিখ: ১২/০২/২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধিত)

বিগত ১৭/০২/২০২৫ইং তারিখে 'জাকি/নবিজনি/১৬৩০/১২/১০১০' স্বাক্ষর মূলে প্রকাশিত নজরুল ইউনিভিসিটি স্কুল আ্যাড কলেজ-এর নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নরূপভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো।

বিজ্ঞপ্তির অফিস নং তিনি (০৩)-এ বর্তিত সহকারী শিক্ষক পদে রাস্তায় বিষয়টি অতঙ্কৃত করা হলো। এটি পূর্বে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্তর্শে হিসেবে গণ্য হবে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। যোগাযোগ, শর্তাবলী এবং অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.jknni.edu.bd ভিজিট করুন।

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প্রফেসর ডি. মোস্তাফা রহমান
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

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Ref. No: AUST/EEE & TE/OTM/Tender-05/2025-26

TENDER INVITATION

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) is inviting sealed bids from bona fide/ reputed organizations/ distributors/ business partners/agents for:

- Procurement of High-Performance PC for the Department of EEE dept.
- Procurement of Communication trainer boards for EEE dept.
- Supply & Installation of 12 Nos. AC for Textile Engineering (TE) dept.
- Supply & Installation of lab equipment (Drying oven, recovery tester etc.) for TE dept.
- Supply & Installation of lab equipment (Cabinet, shelves etc.) for TE dept.
- Supply & Installation of Fiber bundle strength tester (Stelometer) for TE dept.
- Supply & Installation of lab Equipment (Miniature Rotor Spinning Machine, Qty-01 No.) for TE dept. (Re-Tender)

The bidders must submit earnest money @ 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology" along with their offer. Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from the Procurement Officer of AUST on all working days till Oct. 09, 2025 by 4pm. The sealed offer must be submitted on Oct. 12, 2025 (Sunday) by 2.30pm at the Treasurer office and the tenders will be opened at 03:00pm on the same day (Oct. 12, 2025). Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

The AUST authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason whatsoever and is not bound to award the work order to the lowest bidder.

INNOVATION:: CREATION:: LEADERSHIP

SUST lifts ban on student politics, with restrictions in place

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) has lifted its long-standing ban on student politics, though restrictions remain on certain activities within the campus.

According to circular signed by Deputy Registrar AFM Miftaul Haque, the ban was suspended following unanimous recommendations made during a meeting between the proctorial committee and representatives of all student organisations.

All political activities must now be approved by the office of the proctor. However, rallies, processions, or assemblies inside academic and administrative buildings, as well as halls, will remain prohibited. The circular said activities related to the Shahjalal University Central Students' Union polls, such as forming election panels and introducing candidates, may be organised with prior permission from the administration.

Apex court proposes specialised courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday sent a proposal to the law ministry for establishing specialised commercial courts across the country to ensure faster and more efficient disposal of business-related cases.

The jurisdiction of these courts would cover a wide range of commercial matters including business transactions, banking and financial disputes, import-export activities, aviation and maritime transport, construction and infrastructure projects, franchise agreements, distribution and licensing, technology development, and intellectual property rights.

Bus workers of 3 northern districts go on strike

UNB, *Natore*

Workers of Dhaka-bound buses from Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Natore went on an indefinite strike yesterday, demanding a rise in wages and allowances, causing suffering to passengers.

Nazmul Karim, manager of Grameen Travels, said they held meetings with workers on Sunday night but failed to reach a consensus.

Currently, drivers earn Tk 1,350 per trip, supervisors Tk 570, and helpers Tk 530. They are now demanding an additional Tk 500 each.

Driver Islam Ali said they have been demanding an increase in salaries and allowances, but owners ignored their requests, forcing them to go on strike.

INTERNATIONAL



"If the United States discards its delusional obsession with denuclearisation and, based on recognising reality, truly wishes for peaceful coexistence with us, then there is no reason we cannot meet it. I still personally hold fond memories of the current US president, Trump."

Kim Jong Un
North Korean leader



GAZA CARNAGE

(From left, clockwise) Palestinians search for victims at a residential building after it was hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City yesterday; a rescuer carries a wounded Palestinian girl as her mother tries to help her following the strike; and the father of the girl, who later died, cries during the rescue operation.

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
ASHWIN 8, 1432 BS
The Daily Star 5



Russia offers US to extend key nuke treaty

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday offered to keep abiding by nuclear warhead limits agreed with the United States once a key treaty expires, but only for one year and if Washington did the same.

The New START treaty, signed in 2010, limits the number of nuclear warheads each side can deploy and is the last major arms proliferation agreement between the two nuclear powers.

It is set to expire on February 5, 2026.

"Russia is prepared to continue adhering to the central quantitative limitations of the New START Treaty for one year after February 5, 2026," Vladimir Putin said.

He said the measure was needed to prevent "a strategic arms race" with Washington. Russia froze its participation in New START in 2023 but has continued to follow the treaty rules. The deal restricts both sides to a maximum of 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads each.

French town halls defy govt, fly Palestinian flags

AFP, Paris

Over 50 town halls in France were flying the Palestinian flag yesterday in defiance of an interior ministry warning not to do so ahead of the recognition of a Palestinian state by President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron is due to recognise a Palestinian state on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, following up on a pledge he made in the summer that angered Israel.

But hardline Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau, who is also leader of the right-wing Republicans Party, issued a circular last week ordering prefects – the top local state-appointed officials – to oppose the flying of the flags.

"The principle of neutrality in public service prohibits such displays," the interior ministry said, adding that any decisions by mayors to fly the Palestinian flag should be referred to courts.

The standoff has underlined the social and political tension in France in the wake of Israel's war on the Palestinians. France is home to western Europe's largest Jewish population, at around half a million people, as well as a

significant Muslim community sensitive to the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The Socialist Party (PS) mayors of Nantes and Rennes, big cities in western and northwestern France, flew the flags outside their city halls to mark the occasion.

"Our responsibility is to reject silence and to do everything in our power, here and now, to put an end to the horror," Rennes Mayor Nathalie Appere said in a statement.

In total 52 town halls out of 34,875 across the country were flying the flag, the interior ministry said.

The northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis also raised the Palestinian flag at a ceremony attended by PS leader Olivier Faure, who opposed Retailleau's order.

"This flag is not the flag of Hamas, it is the flag of women and men who also have the right to freedom and self-determination," he said.

Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot appeared wary of being drawn into the debate on what he described as a "historic day for peace".

"I do not want... it to be used for political polemics, to divide us at a time when, more than ever, we need to be united to be strong," he told TF1 television.

KSA will have Pakistan's nuclear cover
Says KSA source

AFP, Riyadh

Pakistan's nuclear umbrella will cover Saudi Arabia, a source close to the kingdom's government told AFP on Sunday, days after the two allies signed a surprise mutual defence treaty.

The source told AFP that the deal had been in the works for years and that Saudi Arabia expected Pakistan's arch-rival India to understand the kingdom's security needs.

When asked if the deal meant Pakistan's nuclear weapons could be used to defend Saudi Arabia, Ali Shihabi, an analyst close to the royal court, told AFP: "Yes, it does".

"Nuclear is integral to this deal and Pakistan remembers that the kingdom effectively financed their nuclear programme and supported them when they were sanctioned," he added.

"India will understand the security needs of Saudi Arabia. Saudi maintains excellent ties with India."

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reportedly also told a local broadcaster that the country's nuclear programme would be made available to Saudi Arabia if needed, following the signing of the agreement.

The mutual defence agreement was signed in Riyadh just days after an Israeli strike targeted Hamas leaders in neighbouring Qatar that sent shock waves through the Gulf states.

The new pact also comes mere months after Pakistan and India engaged in an intense four day conflict in May that killed more than 70 people on both sides.

'GENERATION Z' Anti-govt protests rage on in Peru

AFP, Lima

Hundreds of anti government demonstrators in Peru's capital Lima took to the streets again on Sunday following clashes that injured at least 18 people, including police officers and journalists.

The youth-led "Generation Z" collective led another march toward the seat of President Dina Boluarte's administration in downtown Lima, where police were deployed in force.

Unrest has been brewing for months in Peru, fuelled by a wave of organised crime and extortion



cases. Several opinion polls have shown that many view the government and conservative majority Congress as corrupt. Protests intensified this week after a law was passed requiring young adults to join a private pension fund, despite many facing a precarious working environment.

As night fell on Sunday, groups of protesters threw stones and Molotov cocktails at police, with officers firing tear gas in response.

ANTI-GRAFT PROTESTS Arrest tally grows in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Police in the Philippine capital arrested more than 200 people during clashes with masked protesters that erupted on a day of largely peaceful anti-corruption demonstrations, a spokesperson said yesterday.

At least 88 minors were among the initial count of 216 taken into custody Sunday as police deployed water cannons and deafening sirens against crowds of mostly young, rock-throwing protesters.

The protest was held over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.



A man stands near debris on a waterfront road amid heavy rain caused by Super Typhoon Ragasa in Aparri town in the Philippines yesterday. The Chinese city of Shenzhen began preparing to evacuate 400,000 people while the typhoon made landfall in the northern Philippines, causing damage and casualties.



Rupali Bank PLC

Procurement Division, Head Office
Eunoos Trade Center (Level-14)
52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.rupalibank.com.bd
E-mail address: ho-procurement@rupalibank.org

Invitation for Open Tendering Method (OTM) Invitation Tender No. 2025/21

Date: 22.09.2025

Name of work	Tender selling date and time		Tender price (non-refundable)	Last date & time for tender & security submission (refundable)	Tender / proposal opening time
	Start	Closed			
Printing work for Publication of 7 (Seven) Manuals / Policies in book to use by Rupali Bank PLC.	24.09.2025 (Only for working hours)	07.10.2025 (Only for working hours)	Tk.1000/- (one thousand only) non-refundable and to be furnished through Pay Order favoring "Rupali Bank PLC" issued from any branches of Rupali Bank PLC. The purchased original tender document must be submitted with the offer.	08.10.2025 Time: 3:00pm Tender security amount: Tk. 15,300/- (Taka fifteen thousand three hundred only)	08.10.2025 Time: 3:15pm (In form of the bidder, if any)

Note: Details in Rupali Bank PLC, Website: <http://www.rupalibank.com.bd>

GD-2069

Signed-
Md. Tajuddin Mahmud
Deputy General Manager
Procurement Division, Head Office
Eunoos Trade Center (Level-14)
52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Air raid kills 23 in Pak border region

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan police and security sources said aerial bombing in a remote border region killed at least 23 civilians yesterday in an area where militancy has been rising.

Opposition MPs accused the military of carrying out the night raid as part of a counter terrorism operation, but no official statement has been released by the government.

Pakistani Taliban militants have in recent months stepped up attacks against security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that border Afghanistan.

'AI dreams' putting media in peril: top economists

AFP, Paris

A group of leading economists, including Nobel winners Joseph Stiglitz and Daron Acemoglu, yesterday warned about the "collapse" of the public interest media sector and called on governments to help quality journalism survive.

The group of 11 economists in leading American and European universities published a joint statement via the "Forum on Information and Democracy", a body formed by the Reporters Without Borders media freedom group and the French state.

After detailing the problems stemming from job losses, falling revenues and the AI threat to journalism, the economists urged governments to play a larger role in "investing in and shaping the media ecosystem."

"Governments around the world are chasing the AI dream, pinning their

hopes on these technologies to drive economic prosperity," they wrote. "Yet they are not investing sufficiently in a foundational resource that underpins our 21st century economies – independent, verifiable information."

Media companies have seen their traditional model of selling advertising decimated since the advent of the internet. Online platforms such as Meta and Google captured the bulk of online advertising revenues, while new AI chatbots such as ChatGPT or Google's Gemini have dramatically reduced the number of people accessing media company websites for information.

Government action was needed to "save us from continuing on a path where public interest journalism looks set to collapse, with enormous consequences for our economy, our society, and our democracies", they concluded.

Why are vital labour markets still closed?

Govt must address the migration crisis as a priority

It is disheartening to see Bangladesh's labour migration to some major overseas markets remaining stalled for years. According to a report by this daily, the country has yet to reverse or recover from the restrictions imposed by destination countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, Oman, and Bahrain, with no clear timeline for reopening. This is despite repeated assurances and high-level engagements from the authorities in recent times.

The situation in the UAE and Malaysia, both major markets for Bangladeshi workers, highlights the depth of the crisis. The UAE has remained effectively closed since July 2024, when some migrants demonstrated in solidarity with the quota reform protesters at home. This is reflected in the fact that no visit or work visas have been issued over the past year, although there has been no official confirmation. Moreover, there is some talk that the ban or restriction may extend to 2026 as well. The stalemate, which has left aspiring workers stuck in limbo, has persisted despite efforts by the interim government, including during the World Governments Summit held in Dubai earlier this year where Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus urged UAE ministers to lift the ban.

The Malaysia situation remains equally bleak. Despite recent efforts put by the governments of both countries in reopening the market—leading to Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Asif Nazrul announcing in mid-May the "imminent" deployment of 7,926 workers in the first batch—there has been no tangible progress yet. Of particular concern is the protracted uncertainty over the future of the 18,000 or so workers left stranded after missing the May 31, 2024 departure deadline, when the market last closed. Any recruitment drive post-reopening is supposed to prioritise those stranded, who paid hefty sums to recruiting agencies—far above the official fee—but to no avail so far. The question is, what's stalling the progress?

Over the past decade, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, and Brunei have also closed their doors to Bangladeshi workers at various times. Among them, Bahrain closed its labour market in 2018, Oman in September 2024, and the Maldives last year; they have yet to be reopened. The picture that emerges from this reality of market closures and visa suspensions is deeply troubling. Over the years, we have repeatedly warned about the long-term consequences of our recruitment practices. We have highlighted the widespread irregularities in recruitment as well as the stranglehold of syndicates. The continuation of these systemic flaws has not only driven up costs for aspiring migrants but also eroded the confidence of destination countries, which is now evident.

This situation must be reversed. Our overdependence on Saudi Arabia against the backdrop of shrinking access to other labour markets is totally unsustainable. We urge the government to address this crisis as a key priority. The lack of progress or breakthrough in reopening closed markets is proof that diplomatic efforts alone are not enough. We must overhaul the entire labour recruitment system to ensure the welfare of our workers and steady economic progress for the nation.

Palestine recognition must follow action

Four Western nations' recognition of a Palestinian state raises cautious hope

We cannot stress enough the significance of the decision by Britain, Canada, Australia and Portugal to formally recognise a Palestinian state. For decades, Palestinians have been denied their right to self-determination, with their lives and livelihoods steadily eroded by Israeli occupation and brutalities. Coming against this backdrop, the recognition aligns these Western states with more than 140 other countries also backing Palestinians' aspiration to forge an independent homeland free from Israeli oppression. Britain's move carries particular weight, given its pivotal role in Israel's creation through the Balfour Declaration. But symbolism alone will not stop the carnage in Gaza.

As it is, the latest recognition has come far too late, and without immediate measures to halt Israel's continued assaults, its impact will be minimal. In the latest war in Gaza, more than 65,000 Palestinians have been killed, famine has spread, and displacement has become near total. Even as the recognition was announced, Israel continued its bombardment and daily raids across the occupied West Bank, advancing annexation plans that undermine the very notion of a viable Palestinian state. What, therefore, is required now is concrete action to end the war. This means exerting maximum pressure for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, opening corridors for humanitarian aid, and stopping Israel from annexing more Palestinian territory. Crucially, Israel must be held accountable under international law for its genocide in Palestine.

Another question related to the recognition is: why have these Western powers still not suspended their military cooperation with Israel, including the sale of arms and technology that are being used to commit atrocities? The continued provision of weapons undermines the very principles of human rights that Western leaders like to talk about. True justice for Palestinians cannot be achieved while the machinery of war is still being supplied.

This week's recognition should, therefore, be the start of a broader shift. Global leaders who have joined the move must follow up with impactful measures including arms embargoes, sanctions on individuals responsible for war crimes, and support for international investigations into Israel's crimes. They must also help rebuild Gaza and ensure that Palestinians can exercise sovereignty over their own land, free from occupation and apartheid. Palestinians themselves have welcomed the recognition but stressed, rightly, that it must translate into changes on the ground. After decades of dispossession, the international community owes them more than symbolic gestures; they must help create the path to a genuine statehood.

EDITORIAL

Just transition is key to our pledge to cut emissions



MACRO MIRROR

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

FAHMIDA KATUN

In the run-up to the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (Conference of the Parties-COP 30), Bangladesh is preparing its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0). This is part of the country's commitment under the Paris Agreement, a legally binding treaty adopted by 195 countries in 2015 to address climate change. Initially, in its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), Bangladesh committed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the power, industry and transport sectors by 15 percent below the business-as-usual levels within 2030. Of this target, five percent was unconditional, meaning it would be achieved without any external aid, and 10 percent was to be achieved with international technical and financial support.

In its second NDC (NDC 2.0), Bangladesh committed to reducing GHG emissions by 6.73 percent below the business-as-usual levels by 2030 without any external aid. With international support, it committed to a steeper reduction of 15.12 percent. This implies that it offered a potential reduction of GHG emissions by 21.85 percent within 2030. This is equivalent to 89.47 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO₂e). The sectors set to contribute to such emission cuts include energy, cement and fertiliser, agriculture, livestock and forestry, and municipal solid waste and wastewater.

NDC 3.0 should not limit the focus to carbon reduction targets only. How climate action can transform Bangladesh's economy and society in ways that are not only environmentally friendly but also equitable, inclusive, and sustainable should be at the core of the NDC 3.0 framework. Just transition should be at the centre of it; it should provide a comprehensive development pathway that ensures that decarbonisation also generates employment and social justice.

To understand why a just transition must be central to Bangladesh's climate strategy, it is important to place it within the NDC frameworks. Under the Paris Agreement, every country is required to submit an NDC, which outlines its commitments to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate impacts. These NDCs are revised every five years, with the expectation that

each time countries will announce more ambitious targets and provide clearer strategies for achieving said targets. However, NDCs should not be viewed as merely technical reports for submission to the UN. These are indeed part of the national development strategy that will have implications for our economic and social outcomes.

Bangladesh has been showing progress in meeting its emission reduction pledges, but challenges in implementation are evident. Its economy still relies heavily on RMG exports. The RMG industry is facing increasing pressure from international buyers who now demand higher compliance with climate and sustainability standards. The energy



EDITORIAL

Just transition is key to our pledge to cut emissions

avoid its responsibility in reducing emissions. Integrating just transition into NDC 3.0 is thus about ensuring that Bangladesh's economy remains competitive in a rapidly changing global landscape.

There are several reasons for embedding just transition into NDC commitments. First, climate action must align with the country's development priorities. Decarbonisation without just transition will have a negative impact on employment, deepen inequality, and obstruct poverty reduction. Within the framework of just transition, climate policies should be designed to create new opportunities for green growth, industrial upgrading, and skills development.

Second, the scale of employment vulnerabilities should be taken into consideration. Millions of workers in the RMG, transport, agriculture and energy sectors will be directly affected by policy changes towards a green transition. If these workers are not reskilled and redeployed into new, climate-friendly industries, the transition could generate economic

and remain competitive, but also to manage their workforce challenges in a fair and equitable manner.

What might this look like in practice? An NDC 3.0 that includes just transition would need to prioritise job creation and skills development. Bangladesh needs to update its employment strategy to prepare workers for jobs in renewable energy, energy efficient industries, digital services, green construction, climate-resilient agriculture, and other related sectors. Technical and vocational institutions would need to adapt their curricula to meet these demands. Industries should be incentivised to invest in workforce training in view of the green compliance requirements.

Integrating just transition principles into various policies, including industrial, trade, agricultural, energy and employment, is equally important, as climate change is a cross-cutting issue. These policies must be aligned with NDC 3.0 so that climate targets are not isolated commitments but part of a broader economic strategy. Just transition also requires small and medium enterprises to have access to concessional finance to adopt cleaner technologies. Besides, supply chains must be diversified to respond to changing global markets.

Youth and gender dimensions must also be central to a just transition. Bangladesh's demographic dividend can only be harnessed if young people are given opportunities in areas such as climate innovation, start-ups, and green digital platforms. Women, who are heavily concentrated in RMG, agriculture, and informal employment, must be included in the transition. Designing programmes with a gender lens would ensure that women gain access to new skills and jobs in the green economy.

A just transition necessitates robust governance. Clear monitoring indicators should be established by the government to track progress towards a just transition. This is essential for creating green jobs, reskilling workers, and ensuring the fair distribution of benefits.

The road ahead is challenging. Climate change is already transforming Bangladesh's economy and society. The choice we face is not whether to transition, but how to do so. A transition lacking justice risks deepening inequalities and weakening social cohesion. A fair transition would ensure that climate action benefits are broadly shared, workers are protected, and industries are enhanced rather than harmed. Ultimately, our future must be judged by not only how quickly we reduce our emissions, but also how fairly and inclusively we achieve it.

Social protection is a necessity in Asia and the Pacific

ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA is under-secretary general at the UN and executive secretary at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

KANNI WIGNARAJA is UN assistant secretary-general and regional director for Asia and the Pacific at the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

FATIMA YASMIN is vice president, sectors and themes, at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA, KANNI WIGNARAJA and FATIMA YASMIN

Asia and the Pacific is navigating multiple disruptions, both positive and negative. Economic restructuring, green transitions, intensifying climate change, demographic shifts and digital transformations are posing a critical question: how do we ensure that large numbers of people are not left behind?

One response is indispensable: social protection for individuals and households must be recognised not just as a safety net, but as an economically and socially empowering instrument that brings stability, prosperity and resilience.

Across the region, many workers are already experiencing disruptions caused by intensifying climate risks, shifting job markets, and deepening inequalities. These are not abstract threats; they frame existential

livelihood challenges for hundreds of millions of people in the region.

This makes social protection imperative. Smartly designed and delivered, it can enable more inclusive economic progress in the short and medium terms, leading to more resilient societies that can respond faster and more effectively to shocks. Effective social protection mechanisms keep households afloat for extended periods, allow workers to transition smoothly from brown to green jobs, support caregiving and old-age security, and give people the confidence to pivot to new skills, jobs and business ventures.

While over 50 percent of the region's population is covered by at least one social protection benefit, slightly above the global average, coverage remains uneven and protection is patchy. Work-related benefits remain critically low, with just 13.5 percent covered by unemployment insurance and only 30.5 percent of workers having workplace injury protection.

At the recent Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Sevilla, global leaders called for an increase in investment in social protection by at least two percentage points annually.

However, in some countries, social protection is still viewed as a cost rather than a strategic investment. This mindset must change. Social protection that is comprehensive and guided by updated, connected data systems delivers high returns and must be seen as a plus on the balance sheet.

Modelling and AI-driven social protection systems can now help reduce the rising costs of unemployment, pressure on health systems, and negatives associated with societal dissatisfaction. This was evidenced during the pandemic, for example, when digital technologies helped support measures to reach the target groups. Today, AI is increasingly being used to obtain valuable insights from beneficiaries' inquiries and enhance service delivery.

Governments must not wait for a crisis to act. Investing early in universal, inclusive and adaptive social protection systems makes for good economic, political and social policy and practice.

We are already seeing promising impacts of improved social protection systems. In the Philippines, the Barangay Bay Environmental Cash for Work programme compensated crew members of commercial fishing vessels who lost income during a fishing ban aimed at restoring fish stocks. To compensate, these workers received a wage in exchange for environmental protection work such as cleaning up beaches and canals. In Indonesia, the government provided cash transfers to low-income households. These transfers work to disincentivise the consumption of forest-sourced goods while encouraging purchases of goods in the market. India's pioneering Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers Act of 2023 targets the gig economy, establishing a welfare

board and a dedicated social security fund financed by a levy on platform-based transactions.

Social protection and climate adaptation policies share the common goal of reducing vulnerability and building resilience. Governments can address both poverty and environmental goals by aligning social protection measures with the ongoing green transition. Countries moving towards this integration all count on sustained political will and leadership that sees the investment in people as central to their nations' progress.

International partners can play a vital role in helping countries achieve these twin goals. Multilateral development banks and UN agencies can help governments design, finance, and scale social protection systems, especially in low-income and climate-vulnerable contexts.

Our 2025 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report highlights the need for targeted solutions to promote inclusive workforce development, emphasising that expanding social protection systems is essential to enabling just transitions to green and blue economies, particularly for the region's most vulnerable populations facing complex and disruptive challenges.

These actions will help ensure the region does more than simply survive disruption. Prioritising social protection as a strategic investment for development will allow everyone to thrive as challenges are overcome.

Why we need a water allocation plan



Dr Anwar Zahid
is former director at Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and an academic.

ANWAR ZAHID

The volume of water in the atmosphere, on the Earth's surface, and underground is considered constant, but its use in various ways has been increasing with time. Freshwater makes up only about three percent of the Earth's total water, but less than one percent is readily available for use, as approximately two percent is locked in glaciers and ice caps. Due to the unwise use of water, this small portion of freshwater is

Yet, in two-thirds of Bangladesh, withdrawal of groundwater has already surpassed seasonal recharge from the monsoon. Though we have plenty of rainfall and hundreds of rivers, groundwater remains the main source of potable, industrial, and dry-season irrigation water. Water resources management in Bangladesh, therefore, faces immense challenges. The country receives huge volumes of water during the monsoon, causing

agricultural, rural and urban water supplies and to forecast the groundwater situation in advance for dry seasons and future uses. Research on transboundary water, including groundwater, is also vital for managing shared resources with the neighbouring countries.

Preparation of water budget and water allocation plans is also important and should be based on an assessment of usable water resources. This can be done using the required data and information under the Water Act, 2013, which provides for the formation of water allocation committees from the union to the national level. During water allocation, the Water Act's outline on the priority of water use must be followed. For example, industries in and around the Dhaka city, which fall under water use priority serial 8, already poses a



Bangladesh withdraws about 32 cubic kilometres of groundwater annually, 90 percent of which is used for irrigation.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

also under threat of pollution and contamination.

Understandably, the overall amount of usable freshwater has been shrinking under a rising, uncontrolled demand. Various global studies have raised the alarm about water stress in different parts of the world. From lifesaving potable water supplies to food security and booming industrialisation, all sectors are suffering from water scarcity, while allocation for ecosystems and biodiversity remains largely neglected.

A recent study led by Arizona State University and published in *Science Advances* revealed that 101 countries have suffered unprecedented freshwater loss since 2002, driven by climate change, unsustainable groundwater use, and extreme droughts. Using GRACE/FO satellite data from 2003 to 2024, the study tracked total water storage (TWS) across the Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin, which covers much of Bangladesh, and found a consistent decline over 21 years. The northwest and north-central regions showed annual TWS losses between -1 and -2 cm.

According to a World Bank Group study in 2019, Bangladesh withdraws about 32 cubic kilometres of groundwater annually, mainly for irrigation (90 percent) and domestic and industrial use (10 percent). A 2022 study led by the University College London and published in *Science*, analysing 34 years of groundwater level data from 465 monitoring wells of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), showed continuous water level decline in two-thirds of the country. The current annual depletion ranges from millimetres to more than two metres—an unsustainable trend.

Sustainable development of groundwater means that abstraction from aquifers is less than or equal to the seasonal recharge by rain and surface water. Matching long-term withdrawals with recharge is the principal objective of sustainable groundwater planning. Both shallow and deep (up to 400 metres) groundwater resources need to be properly assessed. Regional modelling of the groundwater systems has to be developed for effective water resource management, to plan

regular flooding in low-lying areas. But in the dry irrigation season, scarcity of water threatens time-bound irrigation in many areas, leading to extensive extraction of groundwater. The country is already seeing conflicts among various sectors and user groups regarding water-sharing and use.

Bangladesh has formulated many policies, plans, and acts related to water development and use. While important issues are well-addressed in these documents, their main weakness lies in inadequate implementation. There is also a lack of research-based education, advocacy and scientific approaches that can translate research outputs into sustainable water use.

Demand for water in the country is rising sharply to meet planned irrigation as well as domestic and industrial needs. Sustainable use of available safe water, including groundwater, requires careful analysis of the water cycle data. Fortunately, the country has been collecting hydro meteorological data for over 60 years, led by the BWDB, though further expansion and strengthening are needed.

Although almost all sectors require water and operate under the guidance of the respective ministries, there is currently no dedicated organisation for monitoring and managing the status of water resources used across sectors in the country. Given the stress and importance of groundwater, a specialised organisation, initiated by the Ministry of Water Resources, needs to be established for the sustainable management and tracking of groundwater resources, including assessment, usage, water budgeting, and allocation planning.

Practices, techniques, and technologies should be improved to enhance water use efficiency, reduce wastage, and ensure optimal economic and social benefits. Citizens can play a vital role in saving a huge volume of freshwater by not overusing or misusing it in their everyday life.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CLIMATE POLLUTION

Lessons for Global South from a sinking Indonesian island



Saudia Afrin
is an environmentalist and journalist turned development practitioner.

SAUDIA AFRIN

Since late August, Indonesia has been gripped by demonstrations rooted in long-standing structural pressures faced by its people. The outrage is fuelled by economic hardship, a faltering economy, and a government largely turning a blind eye to people's struggles. Amid this unrest, at the beginning of this month, another confrontation emerged, far from the political spotlight.

According to the Climate Accountability Institute, 180 companies have produced the majority of global CO₂ emissions since the pre-industrial era. Holcim is among those that released more than seven billion tonnes of CO₂, more than double Switzerland's cumulative emissions between 1950 and 2021.

Yet, are these emitters doing enough to reduce their carbon footprint? The impacts of climate change we face today suggest otherwise. The melting ice, rising sea levels, and increasing temperatures are no longer a distant reality. It is high time climate victims took the lead to demand justice and immediate action—and that's what the Pari island residents are doing. Home to fishing families and small tourism operators, Pular Pari's residents have long depended on the ocean for their livelihoods. Their homes and their core livelihood component—boats—are now at the mercy of tidal floods. Precious, limited sources of fresh drinking water are being contaminated and made unusable by the sea. Moreover, the island's mangroves and coral reefs, natural protectors of the coastal region, are steadily wearing away. If current trends linger, much of the island might disappear entirely by 2050.

The lawsuit marks a historic moment in climate accountability. It is the first time that a company of this size is being held accountable in its own country for alleged climate-related devastation. On July 23, the International Court of Justice, the world's highest court, ruled that

people harmed by climate change could be entitled to "full reparation." Interestingly, the Pular Pari residents filed their case even before the ICJ ruling, reflecting a growing recognition that climate justice is a legitimate claim.

According to the Climate Accountability Institute, 180 companies have produced the majority of global CO₂ emissions since the pre-industrial era. Holcim is among those that released more than seven billion tonnes of CO₂, more than double Switzerland's cumulative emissions between 1950 and 2021.

Although the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius is crucial for the survival of low-lying islands and vulnerable communities, the current emission curve and rising temperature indicate that the world is far from the right track.

On September 3 in Zug, no decision was reached about the Pular Pari case. When the court will announce its decision is still uncertain. However, the case has opened a door for other vulnerable communities in the Global South to seek justice, holding immense potential to inspire climate victims to fight back. It underscores the need to hold polluters accountable—those who profit while remaining untouchable as the world suffers, and particularly as vulnerable communities are pushed to the brink.

What lies ahead is a whole new discussion, but this case has surely created a path where victims are not defenceless, and corporate giants are not untouchable. The Pular Pari case thus serves as a wake-up call for countries like Bangladesh to seek climate justice.



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Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Jashore Export Processing Zone Project
BEPZA Complex
House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.



e-Tender Notice (05/2025-26)

Reference No. 03.06.4104.325.07.009.25-05

Date: 18 September 2025.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) under Development Budget of Jashore Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA.

Sl	Tender ID	Description of Works	Package No.	Publication Date	Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	1153612	Supply and Installation of 11 KV HT Line at JEPZ Project	JEPZ EW-1	25 Sep 2025 14:00	26 Oct 2025 17:00	27 Oct 2025 14:00
2	1153613	Supply and Installation of 11/0.415 KV Substation (250 KVA Pole Mounted) for JEPZ Project	JEPZ EW-4	25 Sep 2025 14:00	26 Oct 2025 17:00	27 Oct 2025 14:00

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

*MD. YOUSUF PASHA
18.9.2025*

(MD. YOUSUF PASHA)
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Tahsan announces gradual retirement from music at Melbourne concert

Popular singer and actor Tahsan Khan stunned fans in Melbourne by announcing he will gradually step back from music. During his Australia tour concert on September 20, the 45 year old artiste told an emotional crowd, "This is my last concert. I will slowly wind down my music career," hinting that regular shows and new releases will cease.

Marking a decisive retreat from public life, Tahsan revealed he has deactivated all social media to devote more time to his family, especially his daughter. Though he stopped short of saying "retirement," the concert – part of his 25 year music celebration – felt like a farewell, leaving admirers teary-eyed and reflective as the celebrated performer closed a defining chapter of Bangladeshi pop music on a poignant note.



I am beyond words; this award means so much: Mohammad Touqir Islam

SHARMIN JOYA

Last year, the web series *Sinpaat* earned praise after releasing on Chorki. It did not just make a mark for its vivid screenplay, but also for its raw locations, and most interestingly, its artistes, who are mostly non-actors.

This year at Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards, the project was awarded four major awards in the critics' category, including the Best Director, Best Actor (Female), Best Film Drama/Series, and Best Sound Design.

Regarding winning the Best Director award, Touqir shared his favourite moment while attending the show and shared why *Sinpaat* is close to his heart.

"Before heading to the award show, all 17 of us who planned to attend decided to meet under the metro station at Bijoy Sarani," he shared wittily. "As we gathered, one team member pulled out a can

Receiving the award feels especially meaningful because the project was so demanding for all of us. Portraying real-life criminal Sohel Sheikh and exploring his intense stories was challenging, and full of complexities.

of hairspray, and there we were – getting ready right on the street! That moment, messy yet joyful, perfectly captured who we are and the beauty of our unity."

After *Shaaticup*, the director wanted to focus on a plot that detailed the characters in the spinoff, such as the role of Duru, played by Zinnat Ara, who was crowned the Best Actor (Female) in the critics' category. He also shared how the plot was inspired by its lead



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHE

role, Sohel Sheikh, as well.

"Receiving the award for *Sinpaat* feels extra special because it was such a challenging project for me and the entire team. The lead role of Sohel Sheikh, a real-life criminal, and much of the plot were inspired by his personal stories. Delving into those accounts was extremely difficult – raw, intense, yet layered

with unexpected colours."

His realisation while making the show will remain with him forever as he shared while concluding, "They shaped the entire show and, in many ways, added depth to our own lives, making us realise so much about the world and ourselves. Winning an award for such a work is beyond words."

First look at 'SABA' unveils riveting new teaser

The official trailer of *Saba*, directed by Maksud Hossain and starring Mehazabien Chowdhury, offers a gripping preview of one of the year's most anticipated Bangladeshi films. The teaser follows Saba, a young woman balancing the care of her paralysed mother with the relentless demands of survival in Dhaka.

Mehazabien's intense performance shines through the brief clips, contrasting tender caregiving scenes with the city's chaotic energy. The film also features Rokeya Prachy and Mostafa Monwar, and is noted for its gritty realism and emotional depth.

After a successful festival circuit – including Toronto, Busan, and Red Sea – *Saba* is set for a September 26 Durga Puja release, positioning itself as one of the year's most powerful Bangladeshi dramas.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?



Play: Last Suffer

Megahomprivo brings *Last Suffer* to the stage, reimagining Anton Chekhov's character *Vasili Svetlovodoff* alongside the life of French playwright and actor *Moliere*. Directed by Nawajesh Ashraf Easad with dramaturgy by Rizu Luxmy Aboroadh and Easad, the play promises a bold exploration of pain, resistance, and liberation through riveting performances.

Date: Wednesday-Friday | September 24-26, 2025

Time: 7:30pm onwards

Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA

NEWS

BB to provide

FROM PAGE 14

July, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data. However, inflation remained above 9 percent for more than two years.

The governor has set a target to bring inflation down to 5 percent by the end of this year. The meeting was held to help achieve that goal and analyse the market.

After the meeting, Mostafa Kamal, chairman and managing director of Meghna Group, said discussions were held with the governor on the current stock of essential commodities, import requirements, and supply challenges.

He said the governor wanted imports to increase without fuelling inflation and emphasised the need for market analysis and necessary measures.

Some restrictions had been imposed on imports worth over \$300 million, he said, adding that the governor assured them the central bank would ensure close monitoring so there would be no difficulties in importing essential and other major commodities.

Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of Shwapno, a subsidiary of ACI Ltd, told journalists that the US dollar market had remained stable for a long time and that there was currently no shortage of dollars.

"Now Bangladesh Bank aims to maintain reserves while bringing inflation down below 5 percent and at the same time ensuring an adequate supply of goods," he said.

Arif Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank, told journalists that the inflation target could not be achieved if the supply of goods was disrupted.

"The businesses have shared their concerns, and Bangladesh Bank will provide full cooperation in importing essential commodities," he said.

The spokesperson said there was currently no US dollar crisis in the banking sector. On the contrary, the central bank was purchasing dollars from the market. If obstacles were created in imports now, the situation would worsen in the future if a shortage arose, he said.

"There are no restrictions on opening LCs, and Bangladesh Bank will provide direct support, if necessary," he added.

New BB scheme may hurt

FROM PAGE 14

by realistic cash flow projections. Without rigorous scrutiny, the facility risks becoming a tool for evergreening distressed assets, undermining transparency."

The agency highlighted that the scheme reduces the central bank's role in oversight, allowing lenders to approve rescheduling themselves with board endorsement, except for loans exceeding Tk 300 crore.

This implies reduced oversight from the central bank, potentially increasing the risk of inconsistent practices and weaker credit discipline across banks, Moody's said.

The low threshold of 2 percent down payment raises risks and the two-year grace period "delays testing

actual repayment capacity, which could artificially suppress NPL ratios, masking underlying asset quality risks".

The requirement to withdraw legal cases within 90 days of rescheduling "will likely hinder recovery efforts and increase loss given default if borrowers default again".

Lower provisioning requirements under the scheme could boost short-term profitability, but Moody's warned this might "lead to higher dividend payouts, especially in banks with weak risk management, resulting in capital outflows at a time when the system needs to conserve capital".

"Without regulatory checks, this will exacerbate the capital shortfall," Moody's said.

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Earlier in the day, several panels including Rucusu for Radical Change, Sarbojonin Shikkharthi Sangsad,

Bangladesh Business Awards

FROM PAGE 1

community every year since 2000 to recognise outstanding achievements and contributions of business icons.

The theme of this year's award is "Powering the Private Sector".

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed is scheduled to attend the event as chief guest at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka. Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin is also scheduled to attend as special guest.

This year, awards will be given in five categories: Business Person of the Year, Best Financial Institution of the Year, Enterprise of the Year, Outstanding Woman in Business and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for deadly strikes

FROM PAGE 14

ministry called the strike a "terrorist attack" and initially put the death toll at two.

Ukraine said Moscow had carried out 46 air strikes on its territory as of 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Sunday.

Kyiv said overnight Russian strikes in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia had killed three people and wounded two others, one seriously.

Russian forces had "dropped at least five" bombs on the city, according to Ivan Fedorov, the head of the regional military administration.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and wants Kyiv and Western countries to recognise the peninsula as part of its territory.

Ukrainian forces frequently carry out strikes on the heavily fortified region, including on a bridge connecting it to the Russian mainland.

After meeting Russian leader Vladimir Putin for high-profile talks last month, US President Donald Trump said Ukraine would not be able to regain Crimea as part of a peace deal.

Progress towards a truce has stalled since that flurry of diplomacy, which also saw Trump hold a separate meeting with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky.

'Nothing works without money'

FROM PAGE 1

7.21 percent, income drops 36.8 percent, and capital shortages 30.8 percent. The richest 20 percent were most concerned with price hikes (73.6 percent) and loan repayments (30.5 percent). Rural and urban households shared similar concerns, with price hikes affecting 68.9 and 71.1 percent respectively.

Concerns over children's education amid rising school fees affected 64.5 percent of rural households and 64.6 percent of urban ones. Marriage prospects were a worry for some but ranked lower.

Law and order topped governance concerns, especially for urban and higher-income groups, with bureaucratic corruption a close second. Among low-income families, 41 percent reported corruption, 40.1 percent cited law and order issues, and 32.9 percent pointed to lack of justice. Among the richest households, 52.1 percent were concerned with law and order, 41.6 percent with corruption, and 37.2 percent with freedom of speech.

Optimism about the future revealed a clear class divide. Only 1.6 percent of the poorest group felt "very optimistic", compared to 14.4 percent of the richest. About a third of the bottom 10 percent expressed pessimism, while nearly 38 percent of the richest said they were optimistic.

Younger people were slightly more hopeful, with 33.17 percent of youth calling themselves optimistic.

Looking ahead, most respondents – both youth and non-youth – said they wanted corruption prevented, good governance established, and political violence ended. Among youth, 55.9 percent prioritised fighting corruption, 52.3 percent sought good governance, and 43.9 percent called for an end to political violence. Economic development was the top aspiration for both groups, with 60.9 percent of youth and 62.3 percent of non-youth highlighting it, followed by poverty reduction and better law and order.

Addressing the webinar, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute President M Humayun Kabir, also a former ambassador to the US, said people remain worried about law and order. "We had bureaucratic problems, and people thought these would change, but they haven't. In fact, the situation has become more complex."

"Our politicians are now more focused on whether proportional representation will be introduced in the upper house, which has actually kept people in a state of tension," he said.

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue; journalist and researcher Asif Bin Ali; and Bhuiyan M Asaduzzaman, researcher at Dacca Institute of Research & Analytics, also spoke at the event.

"Earlier, people used to go to the police, who would take the case after accepting a bribe. But now the police say they have no power and cannot do anything."

He said this makes finding solutions harder. "Most problems cannot be solved because people do not have money. Justice is out of the people's hands, and that is why they are frustrated and want to be free from corruption."

He added that the reform people want most is proper service at the deputy commissioner's office or police stations, and accountable governance.

Researcher and columnist Altaf Parvez warned that nearly 46 percent of people have "given up hope" after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. He said the survey should also include the voices of women and minorities, who face fear and intimidation.

"We used to say that we must keep our struggle alive. But how long will we continue our struggle? We fought in 1971 and have seen two uprisings since then."

He said that after the July uprising, the social fabric has been torn and a trend of revenge and hatred is visible. "We couldn't accommodate everyone; instead, conflict is growing in the country," he said, adding that the absence of effective local government and a weak interim government has deepened the crisis.

"As a result, we've seen mobs replacing the administration, and false charges being filed across the country," he said, adding that extortion has risen due to a lack of new employment opportunities.

He also said the health sector is facing a new crisis after India imposed visa restrictions, while universities remain unstable and students have yet to return to classes – something politicians themselves want. Despite the recent student union elections, the situation has not improved.

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Rucusu polls deferred to

FROM PAGE 1

Abdullah Al Kafi, cultural secretary candidate from the JCD-backed Oikobbodh Notun Projonno panel, alleged that the crisis had been staged. "Our campaign was disrupted by an unjustified strike. Now, with the shutdown suddenly withdrawn by Jamaat-backed teachers, it is clear the whole thing was designed to benefit Shibir."

Fuad Ratul, VP candidate from the left-backed Gontontrik Shikkharthi Parishad, although supporting the deferral, said, "Repeated changes in schedule have eroded students' trust. The administration must now strictly ensure a participatory election on October 16."

Tasin Khan, VP candidate from the Sarbojonin Shikkharthi Sangsad panel, welcomed the deferral but called for a permanent solution to the quota issue. "Otherwise, the same crisis may rise again just before the election date," he said.

Salahuddin Ammar, GS candidate from the Adhipottobirodi Oikya panel, said the commission has acted to protect student participation. "If the election had been held on the 25th, it likely would not have been inclusive. We now hope for a participatory and festive election on October 16."

Earlier in the day, several panels including Rucusu for Radical Change, Sarbojonin Shikkharthi Sangsad,

Socheton Shikkharthi Parishad, United for Rights, and over 50 independent candidates, submitted a memorandum to the Rucusu Election Commission, demanding that the election date be deferred.

Later, at 3:00pm, the Shibir-backed panel submitted a separate memorandum, urging the commission not to postpone or reschedule the polls.

In response to the memoranda, the Rucusu Election Commission convened an emergency meeting at 4:00pm.

The announcement for the deferral came only a day after university authorities had reaffirmed that the election would go ahead on September 25 despite the ongoing strike by teachers, officers, and staff.

The strike by teachers and staff was first called on Saturday to protest an alleged attack

Finding fortune in resin trade

Engineer-turned-entrepreneur creates jobs for 400 families in Gopalganj



SUZID DAS, Faridpur

Md Sohel Rana, an engineer-turned-entrepreneur, has achieved self-reliance through a unique trade – collecting lac resin from raintrees.

Hailing from Chapainawabganj, Rana studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Gopalganj University of Science and Technology and now runs his business in Gobra union under Gopalganj Sadar upazila.

Through his venture, he not only turned his own fortune but also created employment opportunities for around 400 local families.

"While visiting Satkhira as a student, I first learned about lac – a type of resin collected from lac insect infested raintrees. My home district is Chapainawabganj, where this resin is sold. After returning to Gopalganj, I looked for lac resin here and encouraged locals to get involved. Alongside my studies, I started this business two years ago with a small capital," Rana told The Daily Star.

"At first, I used to buy and sell small amounts of resin. Now I purchase and sell 40-50 maunds every week, earning a monthly profit of Tk 50,000-60,000. Around 400 families in Gopalganj are involved in this business with me, and have gained financial stability."

He explained that collectors bring three categories of lac resin. Depending on the grade, he buys them at Tk 400-500 per kilogramme. The resin is

stored and dried in a warehouse before being supplied to lacquer factories in Chapainawabganj.

Rana believes the business could expand further with government support.

In Gopalganj Sadar and surrounding upazilas, many people are now collecting lac resin from trees as an additional source of income.

Locally, lac resin is known as "virus." Md Roni Molla, a lac resin collector, said, "I work as a logger. When I learned that this 'virus' sells, I started collecting and selling it. I've been doing this for about a year and now earn Tk 20,000-25,000 per month."

Dr Nahmina Begum, chairperson of the Botany Department at Gopalganj University of Science and Technology, said, "In the last two to three years, infestations of the lac insect (Kerria lacca) have been observed in Gopalganj. This red parasitic insect completes its six-month life cycle on host trees, producing a protective red resin on the branches. Locals then collect this resin for sale."

"After processing, this resin is used to make seedlac, which is used as wood polish and lacquer, as well as for dyeing wool, silk, and leather. In addition, seedlac is used in cosmetics, juices, carbonated drinks, jams, sauces, candies, and pharmaceuticals."

Considering its economic viability, large-scale production of lac resin is possible, she added.



Passengers jump off a speedboat onto the Kumira Ghat in Chattogram's Sitakunda. Every day, people travel on such overcrowded speedboats without life jackets or emergency equipment, putting their lives at risk. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

RAJBARI SHRINE VIOLENCE Another arrested in murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police arrested one more suspect on Sunday night in connection with a murder during a clash outside Nural Pagla's Darbar Sharif in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila.

The arrestee, Sojib Sheikh, 24, of Natunpara Ujanchar village, was arrested from his home around 12:30am yesterday during a drive by Goalanda police.

Confirming the arrest, Md Sharif Al Rajib, additional superintendent of police (crime and operations), said CCTV footage showed Mizanur involved in looting at the shrine.

He was later identified and detained in a case filed by Azad Molla, father of victim Rasel Molla.

The case includes charges of grievous assault, looting, arson, murder, exhuming a body from a grave and burning it, the police official said.

With this arrest, the number of people held in the Rasel murder case has risen to nine.

In total, 26 suspects have been detained so far in two separate cases filed over the incident, according to police.

On September 5, hundreds of people attacked the darbar sharif, exhumed the body of Nurul from his grave and set it on fire.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development Project
Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority
Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance
Jibon Bima Bhaban, Front Block (5th Floor)
10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bisdproject.gov.bd; E-mail: pd.bisdproject@gmail.com

Date: 21 September 2025

Memo No.: 53.03.0000.090.07.051.25-564

Time Extension Notice for submission of Tender for the Package No.: G-38
Invitation for OTM Tender Notice published in different National dailies and CPTU, IDRA & BISDP website as per Invitation Ref No.: 53.03.0000.090.07.051.25-561; dated: 01 September 2025, the last date for submission of Tender for 'Design and building modern cafeteria and associate furniture and Fixing for BIA (Package No.: G-38)' is hereby extended/amended as mentioned below:

SL. No.	Reference of Tender Notice	Item descriptions as per Tender Notice	Amended
1.	Sl. No.: 17	Tender Last Selling Date: 29 September 2025 up to 5.00 PM	Tender Last Selling Date: 21 October 2025 up to 5.00 PM
2.	Sl. No.: 18	Last Date and Time of Tender Submission: 30 September 2025 at 03.00 PM	Last Date and Time of Tender Submission: 22 October 2025 at 03.00 PM
3.	Sl. No.: 19	Tender Opening Date and Time: 30 September 2025 at 03.30 PM	Tender Opening Date and Time: 22 October 2025 at 03.30 PM
4.	Sl. No.: 21	Last date of queries/clarification sought by Tenders (in writing or e-mail): 17 September 2025 by 4.00 PM	Last date of queries/clarification sought by Tenders (in writing or e-mail): 13 October 2025 by 4.00 PM

N.B.: All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

(Md. Abdur Rab)
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Phone: 02-9514963



BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
DHAKA-1000
Office of the Chief Engineer

e-Tender Notice

CE/Tender Notice-No-06/25-26(018-022)/E-178(30)

Date: 22/09/2025

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

Tender ID	Tender Name	Tender Document Last selling/downloading date and Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1151599	CE/C-91/24-25 Supplying, Fitting & Fixing MS Grill for Room No. 202/A, B, C & D) of Math Department & Aluminium Fixed Composite Window for Nano Composite Physics Lab at OAB.	08-Oct-2025 16:00	09-Oct-2025 16:00
1151747	CE/C-99/23-24 Renovation Works of Under Graduate Lab 01, 02 & 03 of Physics Department, OAB	08-Oct-2025 16:00	09-Oct-2025 16:00
1151858	CE/C-02/25-26 Re-Placement of Existing Rain, Soil and Waste Water HCl Pipe by 100 mm Dia uPVC Pipe at Building No.17, BUTET	08-Oct-2025 16:00	09-Oct-2025 16:00
1151612	CE/C-04/25-26 Tiles Work for Ladies Common Room, Toilet & MS Grill Work for 202 No. Room of Math Department.	08-Oct-2025 16:00	09-Oct-2025 16:00
1152253	CE/C-83/24-25 Supplying Sewing and Fitting Prayer Carpet Cover Cloth for Central Mosque.	08-Oct-2025 16:00	09-Oct-2025 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dr. A.K.M. Jahangir Alam, PEng)
Chief Engineer

GD-2065

[Signature of Dr. A.K.M. Jahangir Alam]

Paroma to work

FROM PAGE 3
by students of Rajshahi University," she added.

She said they could not present a full panel for various reasons. "However, alongside the nominees of Chhakra Union, we also have independent candidates who uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and want to contribute to building a non-communal Bangladesh," she said.

At the same time, my ultimate goal is to build a non-communal and discrimination-free campus. Every student will enjoy equal rights. There will be no nepotism or bias. I want to represent students from a completely

neutral standpoint," she added.

Paroma said her priority will be advancing research opportunities for students, the core objective of higher education. "I will work on upgrading the library facilities, curbing session jams, addressing the accommodation crisis, and creating a healthier environment on campus," she said.

Paroma expressed hope that the Rucusu polls will be held fairly and transparently. "Winning or losing is part of an election, and we will accept the results. Most importantly, Rucusu elections must be held regularly. That is one of our core demands with its revival after 35 years."

and nepotism in teachers' recruitment.

The Rucusu polls is a new experience, and a festive atmosphere is prevailing. I want Rucusu to be held regularly. If elected, I will integrate it into the academic calendar. Also, the president's excessive powers will be curtailed and authority transferred to representatives of general students," he said.

He also promised to eliminate all forms of discrimination and ensure equal treatment for everyone on campus, regardless of identity.

His pledges include budget allocations, creation of part-time jobs for students, and resolving issues regarding accommodation, food, healthcare, women's safety, transport, and facilities for students with special needs.

Ratul vowed to introduce an independent student rating system for teachers, saying he would work to eliminate corruption, politicisation,

and nepotism in teachers' recruitment.

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Ratul also said, "Before August 5, one group dominated the campus. Afterward, another group tried to do the same. General students will not accept this. They will elect competent representatives."

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How AI can transform your job search

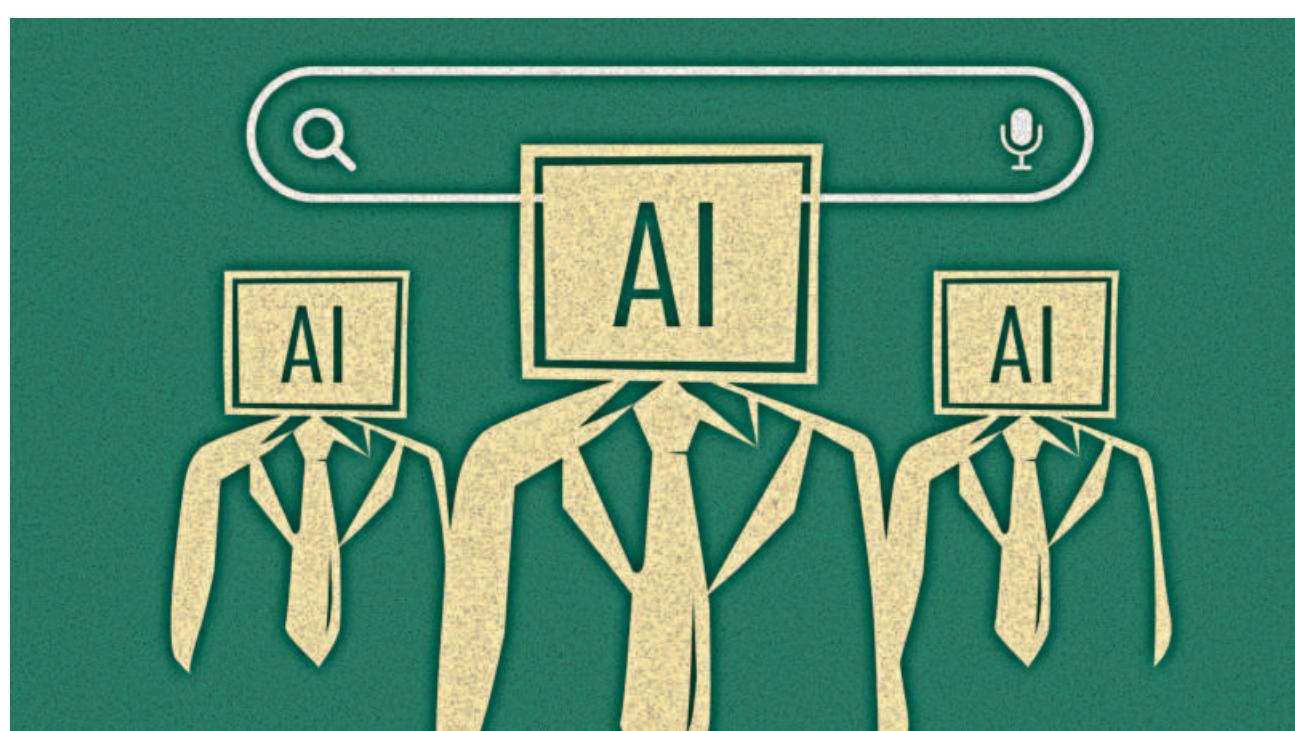


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

AI can assist in organising learning and skill-building alongside your applications. For example, if a role requires Python or data visualisation skills, AI can suggest relevant tutorials, summarise complex concepts, and even generate practice exercises.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Applying for your first job can be exhilarating, but it often quickly turns into a juggling act. As a fresh graduate, you might be managing multiple applications at once, tailoring resumes and cover letters for different roles, keeping track of deadlines, and preparing for interviews. The sheer volume of administrative and creative tasks can feel overwhelming, and that is where AI can genuinely become a personal productivity partner. However, it is important to understand that AI is not a magic wand, but a tool that, when used thoughtfully, can save time, reduce errors, and help you present your best self to potential employers. Here are some ways you can do so.

Tailoring your resume and cover letter
Instead of spending hours tweaking the same document for every application, or worse, sending it as it is to companies, AI platforms like ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Jasper can help you create versions tailored to each role. For instance, if you are applying to a marketing internship at one company and a product management role at another, you can feed the AI your base resume and job description, and it can suggest phrasing, reword sentences for impact, and highlight relevant skills. It is crucial, though, to treat the AI output as a starting point. You should go through every recommendation, adjust the tone to reflect your personal style, and make sure that the content is accurate and aligns with your experience.

Master tracker for all applications

Beyond document customisation, AI can help organise and track your applications in ways that are almost impossible to do manually at scale. For example, you can use Notion AI, Airtable, or Excel with AI integrations to create a dynamic job application tracker. You can set up columns for company names, roles, application dates, deadlines, interview dates, follow-ups, and status updates. Some AI tools can extract relevant information from job postings, like required skills, location, or responsibilities, and automatically populate your tracker, so you do not have to copy-paste manually.

Brainstorming and framing experiences

Another practical use of AI is generating ideas and structuring application materials. For cover letters, AI can help you brainstorm specific achievements or experiences to highlight, based on the role and company. For instance, you could ask the AI to take your internship experience in a research project and suggest ways to frame it for a data analytics role. Similarly, AI can help condense lengthy experience descriptions into concise, impactful bullet points, making your application more readable for busy recruiters. It can even help you identify gaps in your skill set compared to the job description, giving you clear areas to focus on before interviews.

Visual portfolios and mock projects

Some applicants use AI to visualise their projects or portfolios, particularly if they are in design, marketing, or product roles. Tools like Whimsical, Canva with AI integration,

or Figma's AI-assisted features allow you to quickly generate mockups, diagrams, or visual project summaries. These can be used to create impressive portfolio attachments, slides, or project snapshots for your applications. Instead of spending hours building everything from scratch, you use AI to produce a professional-looking version, and then refine it with your unique perspective.

Interview preparation

AI can also assist with preparing for interviews, which is often where fresh graduates feel the most unprepared. You can simulate mock interviews with AI chatbots, practicing answers to common behavioural and technical questions. These tools can provide feedback on phrasing, clarity, and even suggest additional points to include. For example, if you are preparing for a consultancy role, you could ask the AI to run through case study questions or suggest ways to articulate your analytical thinking. While AI cannot replace real-world practice, it helps you structure your responses and boosts confidence.

Email drafting and follow-ups

Following up is crucial, but writing professional emails repeatedly can be tedious. AI can draft polite, concise, and effective emails for updates, thank-you notes, or interview confirmations. Even for networking interviews, AI can help you craft concise and professional messages. For example, if you want to reach out to alumni from your university or professionals on LinkedIn, AI can suggest templates, draft introductory messages, and even adapt the tone depending on the recipient's seniority or industry. You still need to personalise the messages, but AI accelerates the process, ensuring that you do not spend hours staring at a blank screen trying to figure out how to word your outreach.

Continuous skill mapping

AI can assist in organising learning and skill-building alongside your applications. For example, if a role requires Python or data visualisation skills, AI can suggest relevant tutorials, summarise complex concepts, and even generate practice exercises. By combining learning with your application tracker, you can see which skills you need to develop for upcoming applications and allocate time accordingly.

Maintaining personalisation and oversight

Even though AI can generate content, it is essential to maintain your personal voice. Think of AI as a first draft partner rather than a replacement because every resume, cover letter, and email should be reviewed and edited. This prevents mistakes, ensures confidentiality, and keeps your applications authentic. AI amplifies your productivity, but the judgment, creativity, and final touch remain yours.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

American International University

Bangladesh (AIUB) - Lecturer, various departments

Deadline: September 27

Eligibility:

• MBA/Master's with Bachelor's/Honor's degree in relevant discipline with no third class in all examinations with a minimum 3.80 CGPA.

Minimum experience: N/A



Plan International

Programme Specialist, Education

Deadline: September 27

Eligibility:

• Master's degree in Education or a related subject. Professional certification in Early Childhood Development (ECD) will be an advantage.

Minimum experience: 5-8 years

CARE Bangladesh

Program Associate



Deadline: October 4

Eligibility:

• Bachelor's degree in Geography, Disaster Management, International Relations, or a related field from a reputed public/private university.

Minimum experience: 1-2 years

Sydney International School

Academic Coordinator, Senior Section



Deadline: October 15

Eligibility:

• O/A level background with a Bachelor's degree from any recognised university.

Minimum experience: 5 years

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



THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



NEXT STEP DESK

French luxury group Kering has appointed Francesca Bellettini as the new chief executive of Gucci, replacing Stefano Cantino after nine months in the role. This

marks the second leadership change at the brand in under a year as Kering seeks to reverse a significant decline in sales.

Bellettini, who previously served as Kering's deputy CEO in charge of brand development, will now lead efforts to

revitalise the struggling label. Her former deputy position, which she held alongside Jean-Marc Duplaix, who remains as chief operating officer, will be eliminated as part of a broader restructuring.

Cantino, who joined Gucci from rival

Louis Vuitton, will leave the company. Gucci, once Kering's top performing brand with annual sales exceeding €10 billion, has seen its revenue decline by double-digit percentages in recent quarters, including a 25% drop in the past quarter.

Gucci CEO out after nine months in job

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Your career's secret weapon? Honest self-assessment

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

When you're new in a job, it's normal to feel like you don't understand half of what's going on. But as months pass, you start recognising your strengths, weaknesses, and areas to improve. While supervisor feedback or year-end reviews may highlight some of these gaps, you don't need to wait that long. Regular self-assessment is one of the most effective ways to stay on top of growth and keep your career moving forward.

The good news is that self-assessment doesn't need to be complicated. Think of them as habits, not homework. Start by reviewing your own work. If your job involves writing, presentations, or reports, keep a copy in a Google Doc or Notes app. Revisit them, add comments, and ask yourself honestly whether you'd submit that piece again today. Even if your work isn't written - say, you're in sales, engineering, or customer service - you can still keep regular notes about what you think went smoothly and what could have been done differently.

Benchmarking yourself against others is another useful strategy. Look at the work of colleagues who've held your role before or ask teammates how they approach tricky tasks. This isn't about copying but learning from examples. Often, seeing how someone else structures a report, manages time, or handles a

client call can spark ideas for your own growth.

If your role is in a technical or specialist field, industry standards can be an excellent guide for self-assessment. Instruction manuals, textbooks, or updated guidelines often outline the 'right' way of doing things. By checking your current methods against these standards, you'll spot gaps you might otherwise miss and ensure your skills remain relevant as industries evolve.

Upskilling doubles as self-assessment. Job platforms like Indeed or learning sites like Coursera reveal which skills employers want. If your CV lacks something that shows up often, that's your cue. Whether it's a short course, workshop, or shadowing a colleague, investing in new skills shows initiative and keeps you competitive.

Beyond these practical steps,

self-assessment is also about self-awareness. Pay attention to how you react under stress, how you manage deadlines, and how well you communicate with others. Sometimes career development isn't just about technical expertise but also about emotional intelligence, teamwork, and leadership potential. Soft skills can be just as valuable as hard skills, especially in the modern age of workplace AI.

Ultimately, self-assessment is about taking ownership of your career. It keeps you from becoming stagnant and helps you stay proactive rather than reactive. Instead of waiting for feedback to arrive once a year, you're creating a constant loop of reflection and improvement. With just a little time and effort, you'll not only become better at your current role but also prepare yourself for the bigger opportunities ahead.

Illustration: ZARIF FAIAZ



OpenAI keeps poaching talent from Apple: report

NEXT STEP DESK

OpenAI is drawing increasing numbers of employees from Apple as it accelerates work on its first hardware devices, according to a recent report by The Information.

The AI company has recruited more than two dozen Apple staff this year, up from about 10 in 2024. Many of the hires came from Apple's wearables, cameras, audio, and interface design teams. Notable recruits include Cyrus Daniel Irani, who designed Siri's waveform, and Erik de Jong, a former senior figure on the Apple Watch team.

The hiring wave is being led by Tang Tan, OpenAI's chief hardware officer and a 25-year Apple veteran, states the report. Tan, once responsible for translating iPhone designer Jony Ive's ideas into mass production, has described OpenAI as offering more freedom and collaboration than Apple's slower product cycles, the report says.

To lure staff, OpenAI is reportedly offering stock packages worth more than \$1 million, along with promises of quicker decision-making and fewer layers of bureaucracy. Some Apple workers are said to be frustrated by incremental updates and weak stock gains, according to the report.



"A lot of hard work is hidden behind nice things."

RALPH LAUREN



Spotting chinks in India's armour

EKUSH TAPADER from Dubai

In Sunday's Asia Cup Super Four clash with Pakistan, India dropped five catches in Dubai. After yet another one-sided win over their arch-rivals, the first question inevitably centred on those missed chances.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav answered with humour in the post-match presser, but also admitted such lapses were a warning sign for sterner contests ahead.

Indian analysts believe the team still have not played its best cricket in the regional tournament. Yet, even without hitting full stride, they have shown how far ahead they are of the rest.

Asking in which areas India are ahead almost seems redundant. The real question is: in which areas are they not? Among Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the balance might tilt occasionally, but against India the gulf remains overwhelming.

Suryakumar's comments after beating Pakistan for a second time in a week carried a hint of arrogance. "If two teams play 15 or 20 matches and it's 7-all or 8-7, that's a rivalry. But 13-0, 10-1... this is not a rivalry anymore."

Still, the Indian camp quietly concede that Bangladesh and Sri Lanka could be trickier opponents. One Indian journalist noted that "India really do consider Bangladesh and Sri Lanka tougher opponents than Pakistan now; at least in this tournament."

Even Suryakumar hinted as much when he said of the dropped catches: "We have more crucial games to play ahead."

His own form, though, raises doubts. His duck against Pakistan suggested that the outside noise since the politicised handshake saga might be affecting one of the most prolific batters in the shortest format.

On the other hand, the same cannot be said for their younger guns. The Indian Premier League (IPL) has helped forge a battle-hardened breed, and many who did not make this squad could walk into rival teams. Opener Abhishek Sharma's back-to-back first-ball boundaries off Pakistan star pacer Shaheen Afridi underlined that the newbies on the block seem to thrive on pressure.

Support Sri Lanka tonight?

As the Asia Cup shifts briefly to Abu Dhabi today, Sri Lanka and Pakistan face off Super Four clash, each coming off losses in their previous matches. India sit comfortably at the top of the table with a run rate of 0.689, while Bangladesh (0.121) occupy second place, just ahead of Sri Lanka (0.121) and Pakistan (0.689). As things stands, even without beating India or Pakistan, the Tigers still have a path to the final. Sri Lanka could play a crucial role here, just as they did earlier in the tournament when a win over Afghanistan helped Bangladesh progress past the group stage. If Sri Lanka can edge past Pakistan but lose heavily to India in the Super Four's final fixture, Bangladesh's task is simple: avoid heavy defeats and eventually end up with a superior net run rate.

Still, nothing is guaranteed. In T20s, the gulf between teams narrows, and even star bowlers can have an off day.

India do have a soft spot in that regard. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah looked off-colour against Pakistan, conceding 45 in his four overs. "He hasn't been himself right through this tournament," commentator Harsha Bhogle observed. Bangladesh will hope that slump lingers a little longer.

Then there's the batting. The Asia Cup's top run-scorers feature Abhishek at the top, while India's next representative Tilak Varma sits at 13th. The fact that India's middle and lower order have remained relatively untested, it's something Bangladesh could exploit if they remove the top order quickly.

Liton Das and his teammates know this will be their biggest test yet. They've focused on rest as much as training since beating Sri Lanka -- having completely rested on Sunday, and trained only in the evening on Monday, with Tuesday already marked as a rest day -- conserving energy in the punishing UAE heat for back-to-back games against India and Pakistan on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Head-to-head T20 record shows Bangladesh have only beaten India once in 17 attempts. At the end of the day, though, even the strongest sides can have bad days -- such is the nature of the sport. For the Tigers, that faint sliver of unpredictability is the hope to cling to.

A defeat to India would not invite much criticism, but any unexpected success would be cherished.

BCB polls: SC chamber judge stays HC order on president's letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge on Monday stayed, until September 28, a High Court order that had suspended the effectiveness of a letter from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam Bulbul, directing district and divisional sports associations to nominate councillors from ad hoc committees for the upcoming board election.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Farah Mahbub passed the stay order following a petition filed by the ministry of youth and sports challenging the HC order. Barrister Mahin M Rahman represented the BCB during the hearing.

The apex court chamber judge also adjourned hearing of the matter till September 28, additional attorney general Md Arshadur Rauf told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, four individuals -- ABM Monjurul Alam Dulal from Rajbari, Josimuddin Khan Khosru from



Gopalganj, Moyeen Uddin Chowdhury from Laxmipur and AKM Ali Imam Tapan from Tangail -- had submitted a writ petition challenging the legality of the letter sent by the BCB president.

In the petition, the petitioners prayed to the HC to stay the operation of the letter issued on September 18, in which the regional associations that nominated councillors from outside of the ad-hoc committees were told to resubmit their nominations for the draft list.

The petitioners claimed that the BCB president had no authority to reject the nominated councillors as an election commission for the polls was already formed on September 7. They also claimed that 53 of the 72 nominations were getting cancelled because of it.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Bishwajit Debnath ordered a stay for 15 days on the operation of the letter and also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government and the BCB to explain in 10 days why the letter

should not be declared illegal.

Lawyers Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal and Md Rafiqul Islam appeared for the petitioners while additional attorney general Md Arshadur Rauf and deputy attorney general Abdullah Al Mahmud Masud represented the state during the hearing.

On August 21 last year, the ministry of youth and sports dissolved the executive committees of all divisional, district and upazila sports associations after the fall of the Awami League regime in the face of a student-led people's movement.

On August 27, NSC issued an outline on how a seven-member ad-hoc committee would be formed for the associations. Since then, it has been approving ad-hoc committees in regular intervals, which are running these regional sports bodies.

Ahead of the BCB polls, the NSC had sent out letters to district and divisional sports associations to nominate councillors for the election within September 17.

The BCB first pushed back the deadline to September 18, then again to the 21st. The BCB polls is scheduled on October 6.

What to WATCH

TSPORTS

Federation Cup
Bashundhara
Kings vs Fortis FC

Live from 2:45 pm

Asia Cup
Pakistan vs
Sri Lanka
Live from 8:30 pm

Federation Cup promises intense competition

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain rises today on the Federation Cup at two different venues, promising a competitive tournament as mid-table teams have bolstered their squads by signing players from the SAARC region to close the gap in local talent.

In today's Group B fixtures, defending champions Bashundhara Kings will face Fortis at the Bashundhara Kings Arena, while crowd favourites Mohammedan take on Bangladesh Police at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium. Both matches are scheduled to kick off at 2:45 PM.

Last season's Federation Cup title race was largely dominated by the big-budgeted clubs -- 12-time champions Abahani, 11-time champions Mohammedan, and four-time champions Bashundhara Kings. Interestingly, none of these three giants opted to sign players from South Asia. In contrast, mid-table teams such as Bangladesh Police, Fortis, Brothers Union, and Rahmatganj have brought in SAARC players, considered to be on par with the top local talents -- complementing their squads alongside three foreign signings



allowed under the international player quota.

Kings have already asserted their dominance by clinching the one off Challenge Cup with a convincing 4-1 win over Mohammedan on Friday. Meanwhile, Abahani are expected to field a stronger side than last season. Still, with the growing strength of mid-table teams, it wouldn't be surprising if one of the traditional "big three" fail to reach the grand finale scheduled for April 10 next year.

"Except for Bashundhara Kings and Abahani, there's hardly any difference among the remaining teams, which makes this Federation Cup highly competitive," Mohammedan coach Alfaz Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He admitted that his team lacks cohesion due to limited preparation, primarily caused by the absence of key national players during pre-season.

Bangladesh Police are expected to pose a serious challenge to Mohammedan, having already defeated them in a pre-season warm-up match.

"Police are enjoying better facilities -- ranging from performance analysts to improved accommodation -- which has mentally prepared our players to deliver something special," said head coach Asifuzzaman. He believes the psychological edge gained from the earlier win against Mohammedan could prove crucial.

Asifuzzaman also emphasised that teams like Police, Fortis, Rahmatganj, and Brothers Union have a realistic chance of causing upsets.

Fortis coach Masud Parvez Kaiser echoed the sentiment, expressing confidence in his team's ability to beat any opponent on their day -- just as they did last season by defeating Bashundhara Kings in the Federation Cup.

However, Kaiser voiced concern over maintaining consistency, with the Federation Cup and the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League facing a prolonged break from September 29 to November 23. This suspension is due to international commitments involving the national team and Bashundhara Kings, and may affect the players' rhythm and form.

NO HANDSHAKE only in cricket!

Less than 24 hours after Indian players refused to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts for the second time in cricket's Asia Cup 2025 in Dubai, teams from India and Pakistan met on a football pitch for the first time since April's Pahalgam attack and the subsequent conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. The SAFF U-17 Championship fixture saw the two captains -- India's Denny Singh Wangkhem and Pakistan's Abdul Samad -- shake hands and exchange pennants. Players from both sides did high-fives, both before and after the match, and performed all the necessary formalities that are typical of the beautiful game. For the record, India won the keenly-contested match 3-2, setting up a semifinal clash against Nepal while Pakistan will square off against Bangladesh in the other semifinal.

PHOTO: SAFF

'Gentleman's game' no more

AFP, New Delhi

India's and Pakistan's refusal to shake hands during their Asia Cup cricket matches bent the code of the so-called "gentleman's game", as sport once again served as a proxy battlefield.

The tournament marks the first meeting between the nuclear armed neighbours since their armies clashed in May -- a four day exchange of artillery, drones and missiles that killed more than 70 people.

The handshake snub is the latest example of how cricket mirrors politics between the two countries. The cricket-

mad neighbours have already met twice in the Asia Cup T20 tournament this month, played in the United Arab Emirates as a neutral venue.

On September 14, India captain Suryakumar Yadav said his refusal to shake hands with his Pakistani counterpart was "aligned with the government" -- a move Pakistan said had "disappointed" them.

When they met again on September 21, neither side offered the traditional handshake. Both skipper kept their eyes and hands down after the toss.

**Read full story on The Daily Star website.



BANGLADESH'S FIXTURES

October 2, vs Pakistan, Colombo

October 7, vs England, Guwahati

October 10, vs New Zealand, Guwahati

October 13, vs South Africa, Visakhapatnam

October 16, vs Australia, Visakhapatnam

October 20, vs Sri Lanka, Mumbai

October 26, vs India, Mumbai

SQUAD

Nigar Sultana Joty (capt), Nahida Akter, Fargana Hoque, Ruby Haider, Sharmin Akter, Sobhana Mostary, Ritu Moni, Shorna Akter, Fahima Khatun, Rabeya Khan, Marufa Akter, Fariba Trisna, Sanjida Akter, Nishita Akter, Sumaiya Akter

'No negativity'

Bangladesh's build-up to the ICC Women's World Cup has been far from ideal. Since April, there has been no domestic competition, no international series, and poor practice surfaces, leaving the Tigresses grappling with batting concerns. On the eve of departure for Colombo, the Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty brushed aside "negativity", instead looking ahead to warm-ups against South Africa and Sri Lanka on September 25 and 27, respectively, as opportunities to test combinations and fix weaknesses.

**Read full story on The Daily Star website.



BSRM
THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025



BB to provide policy support for importers to ease inflation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has agreed to provide policy support for importers to stabilise the prices of essential commodities in a bid to ease high inflation.

As part of the move, the regulator will relax import rules for essentials and provide US dollar support if necessary.

The decision came from a meeting between the central bank and around 20 leading business groups at its headquarters yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur presided over the meeting, which was attended by top officials and representatives of Meghna Group, City Group, TK Group, ACI Group, Bashundhara Group, Nabil Group, and Pran-RFL, among others.

The importers assured the governor that they would keep the prices of essential commodities stable.

Inflation last month eased slightly to 8.29 percent from 8.55 percent in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Ritu Moni takes a selfie with teammates Sharmin Supta, Sanjida Akter Meghila, Fahima Khatun and Shorna Akter after their pre-departure photoshoot. The Bangladesh Women's Cricket Team leaves for Colombo today to compete in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, beginning September 30.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Quasi-moon near Earth discovered

CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have spotted a quasi-moon near Earth, and the small space rock has likely been hanging out near our planet unseen by telescopes for about 60 years, according to new research.

The newly discovered celestial object, named 2025 PN7, is a type of near-Earth asteroid that orbits the sun but sticks close to our planet. Like our world, 2025 PN7 takes one year to complete an orbit around the sun.

Quasi-moons differ from temporary mini-moons that occasionally orbit Earth, such as 2024 PT5, which circled the planet for two months in 2024 and could be an ancient fragment that was blasted off our primary moon.

The newly found 2025 PN7 is just one of a handful of known quasi-moons with orbits near our planet, including Kamo'alewa, which is also thought to be an ancient lunar fragment. Kamo'alewa is one of the destinations of China's Tianwen-2 mission launched in May, which aims to collect and return samples from the space rock in 2027.

The quasi-moon managed to escape the notice of astronomers for so long because it is small and faint, said Carlos de la Fuente Marcos, a researcher on the faculty of mathematical sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid who recently authored a paper about the space rock. The paper was published on September 2 in the journal Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, which is for timely non-peer-reviewed astronomical observations.

Women account for only 10% of judges in higher judiciary

Lack of institutional support, gender stereotypes blamed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Women remain severely underrepresented in Bangladesh's higher judiciary, making up less than 10 percent of all judges in the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court.

Out of the 118 judges serving in the SC, 11 are women – 10 in the HC and only one in the Appellate Division.

Since independence, the country has seen appointments of 25 chief justices, but the top judicial post has never been held by a woman.

Besides, only five female judges from the HC have been elevated to the Appellate Division over the last five decades.

The disparity is also evident in lower judiciary. There are 496 female judges compared to 1,691 male judges across the country, according to SC sources.

Systemic barriers discourage young women from pursuing judicial careers, legal experts said, calling for measures to address the underrepresentation of women in the judiciary.

Referring to systemic barriers for women in upper tiers of the judiciary, Ishrat Hasan, a lawyer at the SC, said, "The appointment process often favours male-dominated networks of senior lawyers. Other barriers include a lack of institutional support, such as maternity-friendly policies, and stereotypes suggesting that women are less capable of handling complex or sensitive cases."

The low representation of female judges in the Appellate and High Court

- Only 11 of 118 SC judges are women
- Just 1 woman serves in Appellate Division
- No female chief justice appointed in 54 years
- Only 5 women elevated to Appellate Division in five decades

Divisions reflects a serious imbalance in the justice system," she told The Daily Star.

This crisis deprives courts of diverse perspectives – particularly in cases involving gender-based violence, family disputes, and women's rights, Ishrat pointed out.

Another SC lawyer, Shukla Sarwat Siraj, said the scrapping of quota for women in government jobs has further curtailed opportunities for women.

A year has passed since the quota was abolished, yet no reforms have been

carried out even though quota reform was the main demand of the July uprising, she said.

"It is likely that the presence of women in the judicial service will gradually decline," she said.

Momtaj Parvin, a SC lawyer, said, "Our society has not yet been able to break free from deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes."

Women are doing well as judges in lower judiciary, but many of them are not making it to the HC, she said, adding that when 25 judges were appointed to the HC most recently in August, only three of them were women.

SUGGESTIONS

Shukla proposed reserving a specific number of positions for women in the judiciary, similar to the system of reserved seats in parliament.

Ishrat stressed the need for transparent and gender-sensitive appointment policies, career development opportunities for women in law, and conscious efforts to counter gender stereotypes.

When asked, Md Muajjem Hussain, spokesperson for the SC, said the number of female judges in the apex court is expected to rise, as appointments are now being made through a transparent process under the recently enacted Supreme Court Judges' Appointment Ordinance, 2025.

A total of 48 HC judges were appointed in two phases since Syed Refaat Ahmed took charge as the chief justice in August last year. Four female judges were appointed in the first phase, and three more in the second one, he said.

'Election in Feb still uncertain' Says Patwary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party (NCP) Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary yesterday said there is still uncertainty about whether the election will be held in February.

"The government is pressing hard to hold the election in February. But regarding the July Charter's legal perspective, no solution has been reached yet," he told reporters after meeting Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

Patwary alleged that because of the "hypocrisy" of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, the country cannot move towards the polls. He urged the parties to reach agreement on the legal basis and implementation method of the July Charter and join the election.

He said the party could win around 150 seats in the polls, with preparations underway to field candidates in all 300 constituencies.

He said NCP remains committed to a fair election but with the completion of reforms and a quick transition to restore democracy.

Asked how many seats BNP and Jamaat will get, he said, "BNP will not go above 50 to 100 seats. But you can see the real scenario now – which way things are sinking. It will happen."

Patwary said NCP would remain with its own banner and symbol. "Other parties will be dissolved, and many will come under the NCP. We are going to make this a major party," he said, adding that NCP is adamant on PR in the upper house only.

The NCP leader also reiterated the demand for its proposed symbol, the shapla (water lily), despite disputes over its availability on the EC's list.

Baskets of hilsa being unloaded from fishing trawlers lining the shore at Gohira beach in Chattogram's Anowara upazila yesterday. After a disappointing peak season, fishermen finally netted a good catch, while the government mulls imposing the 22-day ban on hilsa fishing from October 5 to protect brood hilsa. The fishermen, however, are demanding that the ban be delayed until October 18 so they can recover from their losses.

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for deadly strikes

AFP, MOSCOW

The head of the Kremlin-backed government in annexed Crimea blamed Ukraine yesterday for a deadly drone strike, while Kyiv said a Russian attack had killed three people in the country's southeast.

Sergey Aksyonov said the Ukrainian military had targeted the Crimean resort town of Foros, damaging the grounds of a sanatorium and a school building.

"According to updated data, three people were killed and 16 were wounded as a result of (the) UAV attack," Aksyonov said on Telegram.

Fragments of the downed drone also caused a fire near the coastal city of Yalta, he said.

Russia's defence

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

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লিঙ্গুইস্টিক অলিম্পিয়াড-২০২৬

মহান শহিদ দিবস-২০২৬ উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনসিটিউট ঢাকায়ৰাবেৰ মতো দেশবাসীৰ লিঙ্গুইস্টিক অলিম্পিয়াডেৰ আয়োজন কৰতে যাচ্ছে। এ আয়োজনে মাধ্যমে শিক্ষাবীদেৰ মাধ্যমে মাতৃভাষা চৰ্চা, প্রচার ও প্রসাৰ ঘটাবলৈ ইনসিটিউটেৰ মূল লক্ষ্য। আগস্টী ০১/০৯/২০২৫ তাৰিখ থেকে লিঙ্গুইস্টিক অলিম্পিয়াড আৰম্ভ হৈব। প্ৰতিযোগিতাৰ অনুষ্ঠিত হৈব এটি ২টি কাটিগৰিতে। ক-কাটিগৰিৰ যথে থেকে নথম মূল লক্ষ্য এবং খ-কাটিগৰিৰ দশম মূল লক্ষ্য থেকে ঘৰাবলৈ। এ লক্ষ্যে আয়োজনেৰ জন্য আন্তৰ্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনসিটিউট ও কোনো অন্য প্ৰতিবেশী কোনো যোগাযোগ কৰা যাব। এছাবে আয়োজনেৰ মাধ্যমে QR Code কোড কৰেও প্ৰতিবেশীৰ ফৰম পূৰণ কৰা যাব। প্ৰতিযোগিতাৰ অৱস্থা ঢাকা, চট্টগ্ৰাম, রাজশাহী, খুলনা, বৰিশাল, সিলেট, রংপুৰ, ময়মনসিংহ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ও কুমিল্লা।

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