



DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 241

ASHWIN 9, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIUS SANI 1, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

## BNP zeroes in on nomination, seat sharing

May roll out party tickets, launch campaign within a month

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The BNP is preparing to announce candidates for around 200 constituencies and kick off its election campaign within a month, ahead of the national polls planned for February.

Party insiders said several internal surveys have already been carried out, and intelligence reports on prospective contenders are now being gathered.

Once compiled, the findings will be placed before the BNP Standing Committee, which also functions as the parliamentary board, for final approval.

The party will then officially announce its nominees and launch extensive door-to-door campaigns to establish a strong presence on the ground and build momentum surrounding the polls.

Acting chairman Tarique Rahman shared his idea on nominations at the last meeting of the party's Standing Committee on September 15.

Sources said the discussion also touched on grassroots concerns that, after its student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's poor performance in the Ducsu and Jucsu polls, the BNP must begin its campaign without delay.

They also noted that the Jamaat-e-Islami has already announced its candidates and started canvassing. BNP leaders expressed fear the Jamaat could gain ground with an early start while the BNP remains preoccupied with street protests and political standoffs.

Contacted, Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said area-wise surveys are ongoing, CVs of aspirants are being reviewed, and interviews are in progress.

"Our goal is to uphold fairness in nominations, and we're making every effort to achieve that," he told The Daily Star.



Area-wise surveys are ongoing, CVs of aspirants are being reviewed, and interviews are in progress. Our goal is to uphold fairness in nominations.

AMIR KHOSRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY  
BNP Standing Committee member

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



From left: Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank; SM Mahubul Alam, managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries; M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of ACI Group; Salehuddin Ahmed, finance adviser; Sadia Haque, co-founder and CEO of ShareTrip; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of Pran-RFL Group; and Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose for a photo at the 23rd DHL-The Daily Star Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden last night.

PHOTO: STAR

## Best in business honoured

3 individuals, 2 firms get 23rd DHL-Star Bangladesh Business Awards



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The story of Bangladesh is often told through impressive growth charts that portray the nation as an emerging economic force. However, behind these macroeconomic statistics are the people who have fuelled this transformation – the entrepreneurs whose ambition has lifted a nation from poverty to an economic contender.


For 23 years, the Bangladesh Business Awards (BBA), a partnership between DHL

Express and The Daily Star, has chronicled this journey. The awards serve as a powerful reminder that the country's true strength is rooted in its private sector. Last night, it was a celebration of the private sector's strength, resilience and contribution to the economy.

The awards ceremony honoured five outstanding entrepreneurs and enterprises, but perhaps the most important moment was the recognition of a business icon, M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of ACI Ltd. He was bestowed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



### Alhaj Md. Shamsul Huda

Managing Director

Greatwall Ceramic Industries Ltd.  
Charu Ceramic Industries Ltd.  
Bengal Agencies Ltd.

Passed away September 23, 2025  
at 9:00 AM at a hospital in Dhaka.  
Inna lillahi wa inna ilahi raji'un.

We pray for the forgiveness of his departed soul and may the Almighty Allah grant patience and strength to his bereaved family in this difficult time.

- Greatwall Ceramic, Charu Ceramic and Bengal Agencies all employees & officers



City Bank Center  
28 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1, Dhaka  
☎ 16234 🌐 citybankplc.com



making sense of money

## BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

DHL-THE DAILY STAR BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS



Financial Institution of the Year 2024  
City Bank

23rd  
DHL-THE DAILY STAR  
BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS  
Awarding Excellence in Business

Bringing Global Corporate Standards to Bangladesh

City Bank has emerged as a true pioneer of innovation and inclusivity...For its leadership in modern banking, excellence in service, and commitment to community, the bank has been honored as the Best Financial Institution of the Year 2024



## বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীতে অফিসার ক্যাডেট হিসেবে যোগ দিন

### ৯৩ বিএএফএ কোর্স (93 BAFA COURSE)

যোগদানের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ: ২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫

অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ১৫ মে ২০২৫ থেকে ২৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫। \* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

২০২৫ সালের এইচএসসি পরীক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও অনলাইন আবেদনের জন্য : <https://joinairforce.baf.mil.bd>, Help Desk: 01769-990880 (8 AM-2.30 PM), Email: [helpdesk@baf.mil.bd](mailto:helpdesk@baf.mil.bd), Follow us: [facebook.com/BDAirForceOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/BDAirForceOfficial), [facebook.com/JoinBDAirForce](https://www.facebook.com/JoinBDAirForce), [youtube.com/@Join.BangladeshAirForce](https://www.youtube.com/@Join.BangladeshAirForce), [tiktok.com/@joinbangladeshairforce](https://www.tiktok.com/@joinbangladeshairforce)



THE WINNERS OF 23RD BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS



M ANIS UD DOWLA  
Chairman, ACI Group

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD 2024

M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Group, has received this year's Business Excellence Award – Lifetime Achievement for his transformative role in shaping Bangladesh's industrial sector at the 23rd Daily Star-DHL Business Awards.

Born in Faridpur in 1937, Dowla began his professional journey with Pakistan Oxygen, later British Oxygen, where he worked for 27 years and eventually became its first Bangladeshi managing director. In 1987, he joined Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) as managing director of its Bangladesh operations.

His defining moment came in 1992 when ICI decided to divest from Bangladesh. Dowla led a successful management buyout, giving birth to ACI. Under his stewardship, ACI grew from a modest enterprise with 230 employees and a turnover of Tk 8 crore into a diversified conglomerate with more than 15,000 employees and annual revenues exceeding Tk 5,000 crore.

Dowla's vision combined multinational management discipline with entrepreneurial adaptability. ACI became the first Bangladeshi company to secure ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications. It also pioneered iodised salt production and modern organised retail through its Shwapno chain. Today, the company is a leader in pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, and agribusiness.

Throughout his career, Dowla emphasised ethical practices and long-term value creation. He often likens business to planting a tree, saying: "Unless your roots become strong, you cannot grow big." He has consistently discouraged short-term greed, urging young entrepreneurs to prioritise integrity, quality, and sustainable market building.

Now 88, Dowla continues to guide ACI with a focus on professionalisation and national development. His legacy of resilience, discipline, and integrity remains a benchmark for Bangladesh's corporate leadership, inspiring future generations to pursue growth rooted in responsibility and vision.



AHSAN KHAN CHOWDHURY  
Chairman and CEO, Pran-RFL Group

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE  
YEAR 2024

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO, Pran-RFL Group, is a pioneering figure in Bangladesh's business landscape. Under his leadership, a small family-owned agro-processing venture has grown into one of the country's largest and most diversified conglomerates, with over 6,000 product lines, 167,000 employees, and an annual turnover exceeding \$3 billion.

Chowdhury joined the business in 1992, leaving his studies in the United States to support his father, Maj Gen (ret'd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, founder of Pran Group. He carried forward his father's vision of building value-added industries rooted in Bangladesh's agricultural strength. What began with processed pineapple and local produce has evolved into an industrial powerhouse spanning food, plastics, appliances, bicycles, and more.

A strong advocate of rural empowerment, Chowdhury has shifted industrial development beyond urban hubs like Dhaka and Chattogram, investing in regions such as Bhola to create jobs and uplift communities. His goal—to generate 1 million jobs and help reshape Bangladesh's rural economy.

Pran-RFL Group now exports to over 145 countries, earning \$500 million annually in export revenue. Chowdhury emphasizes quality, trust, and adaptability to global consumer needs as key to their success. Diversification and technological integration have also fortified the group's resilience and global competitiveness.

Looking ahead, Chowdhury envisions turning Pran-RFL Group into a \$25 billion company within two decades. He continues to champion ethical business practices, youth leadership, and smarter industrial policies.

His message to young Bangladeshis is clear—to stay, build, and believe. With bold ambition and deep national pride, Ahsan Khan Chowdhury is not just building a business empire—he's helping redefine Bangladesh's future.



SADIA HAQUE  
Co-founder and CEO, ShareTrip

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN  
BUSINESS 2024

Sadia Haque, the co-founder and CEO of ShareTrip, is a trailblazer in Bangladesh's travel-tech sector. Leaving behind a successful corporate career with roles at Grameenphone, Nokia, Banglalink, and BBC World Service Trust, she chose the uncertain path of entrepreneurship to solve a deeply personal pain point—making travel simpler, smarter, and more accessible for all.

Sadia and her husband, Kashef Rahman, began their journey in 2014 with "Travel Booking Bangladesh", initially offering offline travel services. Driven by passion and first-hand experience with the hassles of low-budget travel planning, they envisioned a fully digital platform. In 2019, they rebranded as "ShareTrip", launching Bangladesh's first full-stack digital travel solution with apps, website, and bundled services including flights, hotels, and tours.

Despite initial resistance from a market dominated by offline agents, ShareTrip stood out by offering user-centric innovations such as gamification, loyalty programmes, and localised service bundles. The COVID-19 pandemic, while devastating, became a turning point—accelerating digital adoption and leading to the launch of ShareTrip's B2B platform and hotel management system, ST Rooms.

Under Sadia's leadership, ShareTrip has raised over \$11.5 million, expanded into fintech with "STPay", and entered international markets with a branch office in Dubai. The company now boasts over 1.5 million app downloads and multiple industry awards, including World Travel Awards' Leading Online Travel Agency (2019–2024).

As a female tech founder, Sadia has broken barriers in a male-dominated industry, proving that grit and innovation can drive transformation. Today, she remains a strong voice for regulatory clarity, startup support, and digital inclusion in Bangladesh.

Her journey is not just about travel—it's about building an ecosystem, embracing change, and turning passion into impact.



SM MAHBUBUL ALAM  
Managing Director, Walton Hi-Tech Industries

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC has emerged as a symbol of industrial transformation in Bangladesh, turning a once fully import-dependent electronics market into a thriving hub of local manufacturing. Founded in the early 2000s by SM Shamsul Alam and his brothers, Walton began with a vision inspired by their father—to serve the nation by creating jobs and reducing reliance on imports.

Initially facing challenges like a lack of skilled engineers and technical expertise, Walton invested heavily in workforce training, bringing in international experts to build local capabilities. By 2008, Walton began manufacturing refrigerators and home appliances locally—a groundbreaking move in a market long dominated by foreign brands.



Over the years, Walton has diversified its product line to include televisions, smartphones, motorcycles, compressors and lifts. It now meets 60 percent to 70 percent of the domestic demand for appliances and exports to over 50 countries under its own brand name, making "Made in Bangladesh" a mark of quality in electronics.

Walton's strategic vertical integration and focus on affordability have helped it capture the middle-income segment, making TVs and refrigerators household essentials across the country. Its success has spurred industrial diversification beyond garments, creating ripple effects in jobs, local supply chains, and skills development.

Despite macroeconomic challenges and profit dips due to currency devaluation, Walton remains resilient—with sales of Tk 4,597 crore in the first nine months of FY25 and a strong R&D team of over 1,000 engineers driving innovation. Today, Walton stands not just as a market leader, but as a cultural force—shifting mindsets about local technology and proving that Bangladeshi companies can compete globally. Its journey reflects the "wind of alteration" it represents: a determined push to redefine what's possible in Bangladesh's industrial future.



MASHRUR AREFIN  
Managing Director and CEO, City Bank

The City Bank, once a problem bank, has now become one of the top lenders in the financial sector. For over four decades, the bank has been a pillar of innovation in the sector.

The top lender was established in 1983, when 12 visionary entrepreneurs took the bold step of founding Bangladesh's first private commercial bank at a time of great uncertainty.

On March 27 of that year, the bank opened its first branch on Bangabandhu Avenue, marking the start of a journey that would help shape the country's private banking sector.

According to Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank, by 2006–2007 non-performing loans (NPLs) were rising, deposit growth had slowed, and Bangladesh



Bank had even appointed two observers to its board.

That intervention opened the eyes of the second-generation sponsor directors and pushed them to feel the urgent need for reform, he added.

The private commercial bank has been operating for more than 42 years. With an 18.6 percent rise in total assets, 25.8 percent growth in deposits, and an 11 percent increase in loans and advances, the bank demonstrated remarkable financial resilience.

The bank's pioneering role in financial inclusion was further cemented through its extensive agent banking network, innovative SME financing, and strong commitment to gender-focused banking solutions.

In terms of profit and tax performance, City Bank leads among the banks analysed, with a profit after provision and taxes of Tk1,085 crore for 2024.

As of May 2025, the bank employs a total of 7,400 regular employees across its banking network and corporate functions.

Until 2024, the lender's total deposit stood at Tk 51,420 crore against Tk 44,497 crore as loans and advanced.

Best in business honoured

FROM PAGE 1

with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to an economy now valued at \$460 billion. His story, like many others celebrated at the event, is a testament to the power of unwavering dedication.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed presented the awards to the winners at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden. SK Bashir Uddin, commerce adviser, was also present.

The other four categories are the Business Person of the Year, Best Financial Institution of the Year, Best Enterprise of the Year and Outstanding Woman in Business.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of Pran-RFL Group, was honoured as the Business Person of the Year 2024.

Under his stewardship, a modest family-run agro venture expanded into one of Bangladesh's most diversified conglomerates, spanning more than 6,000 product lines – a transformation that mirrors the country's own improbable economic ascent.

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC was recognised as the Best Enterprise of the Year award.

It has transformed Bangladesh's electronics market, shifting from import dependence to global competitiveness. Founded in the early 2000s, the company now exports to more than 50 countries, and symbolises the nation's industrial diversification.

SM Mahbubul Alam, managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, received the award.

City Bank received the Best Financial Institution of the Year 2024.

Once considered troubled, City Bank has emerged as one of Bangladesh's top lenders. Founded in 1983, it now boasts strong asset growth, a vast agent banking network,

gender-focused initiatives, and net profit exceeding Tk 1,000 crore in 2024, underscoring its financial resilience and governance reforms.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank, received the award.

Sadia Haque was awarded the Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2024.

Leaving a thriving corporate career, Sadia Haque co-founded ShareTrip, Bangladesh's leading travel-tech startup.

She pioneered digital booking and fintech services. As a female founder, she champions entrepreneurship, breaking barriers in a male-dominated industry while redefining how Bangladesh travels.

Congratulating the winners, Adviser Salehuddin said Bangladesh's businesses had shown "remarkable dynamism" in expanding their reach beyond national borders.


He recalled being "pleasantly surprised" to find Pran Chanachur on shop shelves as far as Fiji. "This is how Bangladesh goes far," he said.

Ahmed called on the country's private sector to prepare for a more competitive global environment after graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) bracket.

"You have to be competitive; you'll have to look at the global situation and, of course, the local. We definitely try to facilitate all kinds of support through policy reforms, through process simplifications and through other support instruments," he said.

Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, said Bangladesh's private sector must evolve with agility, innovation, and collaboration to remain competitive in a fast-changing global economy.

"Bangladesh is on a transformation journey, and its private sector continues to be the engine of



**“You have to be competitive; you’ll have to look at the global situation and, of course, the local.”**

Salehuddin Ahmed,  
finance adviser

growth. At DHL, we are proud to celebrate the leadership that drives this progress. Tonight's awardees are not only shaping industries but also contributing to the nation's economic advancement and global competitiveness."

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, also lauded the past winners of Bangladesh Business Awards. "These individuals represent the best of Bangladesh's private sector – those who have built with integrity, broken barriers, and moved the nation forward."

Anam underscored that Bangladesh is nearing its graduation from the LDC status, yet concerns remain about readiness.

He argued that part of the answer lies in the state's inconsistent support for the private sector. While some businesses have thrived through political patronage and corruption, honest entrepreneurs often face systemic neglect. "We must distinguish between honest and



**“Bangladesh is on a transformation journey, and its private sector continues to be the engine of growth.”**

Md Miarul Haque,  
managing director, DHL  
Express Bangladesh

dishonest businessmen," he said.

Anam also called on the interim government to initiate targeted reforms during its remaining term. "You may only have six months, but even that is enough to implement critical, low-hanging reforms and leave a roadmap for the next administration," he said.


**WINNERS' REACTION**

Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Anis Ud Dowla said, "I am honoured and humbled by this recognition. It is truly an inspiration to strive for even greater excellence."

Anis Ud Dowla transformed ICI into ACI, one of Bangladesh's largest conglomerates, employing 30,000+.

From a 27-year multinational career to pioneering local industry, he champions ethics, continuous learning, and youth entrepreneurship, seeing Bangladesh's population and rising middle class as the foundation of future growth.

"This is the third time I feel honoured at this platform. In 2011



**“You [interim govt] may only have six months, but even that is enough to implement critical, low-hanging reforms and leave a roadmap for the next administration.”**

Mahfuz Anam,  
editor, The Daily Star

and 2017, I had the privilege of receiving awards on behalf of ACI and myself. But this Lifetime Achievement Award is profoundly moving," he said.

He cautioned against stagnation, noting that experience should not be the same year repeated many times. "Each of us owes it to ourselves to keep improving. Innovation must be our constant companion."

"Be punctual. Time is valuable. Not just yours, but everyone's."

Pran-RFL Chairman and CEO Chowdhury said, "I must say, I didn't have to do much in the beginning. It was the people behind Pran-RFL who made it happen. It's our customers who have carried us forward."

ShareTrip CEO Haque said, "Shareism is not often seen as a key contributor to the GDP or economic growth. I hope this recognition, both for myself and for ShareTrip, marks a turning point for the industry."

Walton MD Alam called the award timely ahead of LDC graduation. He urged continued backing for local

industries, saying, "Just as others say 'Make in India' or 'America First', we say: 'Bangladesh on Top'."

City Bank CEO Arefin reflected on the bank's transformation journey. "This was a long anticipated recognition," he said. "City Bank's transformation began in 2007, from what was then considered a problem bank, with two central bank observers on its board, to now being one of the country's leading financial institutions."

"In a time when public trust in banking has been challenged by high-profile failures, City Bank stands as a counter-narrative – proof that visionary leadership and board-level integrity can achieve real, measurable change," he added.

The event was attended by Sarah Cooke, British high commissioner to Bangladesh; Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals; Simeen Rahman, group CEO of Transcom Group; AK Azad, chairman and CEO of Ha Meem Group; Abdul Muktadir, chairman and managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals; Zaved Akhtar, president of The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh; and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue; and Geetara Safiya Choudhury, a former caretaker government adviser, were also present.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of tourism and aviation fortnightly Bangladesh Monitor; and Dewan Banif Mahmud, editor of Bonik Barta, among others, attended the event.



Ensure Your Retirement Financial Security  
at the End of Working Life

PEOPLES PUBALI PENSION SCHEME (PPPS)

✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit  
[ 6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]

✓ Monthly compounding interest / profit on a daily basis.

AAA  
Rated Bank

পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.  
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Open your  
Account  
from anywhere

PI Banking-  
a Pubali Bank apps

ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে ‘ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার’ পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

## Akhra vandalised, set on fire in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Netrakona

A group of locals vandalised and set fire to Kafil Uddin's akhra at Amanipur village in Netrakona's Khaliajuri upazila on Monday.

OC Mokbul Hossain of Khaliajuri Police Station said the incident took place around 5:00pm, when 150 to 200 individuals, under the banner of "Tawhidi Janata", stormed the site.

Several surrounding houses were also damaged in the fire, the OC said.

The police official said the attack was triggered by a social media post allegedly made by Md Mohsin, 35, from Homna in Cumilla, which contained derogatory remarks about religion on September 17.

Md Mohsin is the grandson of Kafil Uddin.

Mentionable, a group of people vandalised and set fire to a shrine of Kafil Uddin in Homna on that day.

Following protests by locals, Mohsin was detained, and a case was later filed against him.

Mirza Sayem Mahmud, superintendent of police for Netrakona, yesterday said law enforcement agencies are closely monitoring the situation.

## MILESTONE CRASH Families want 'martyr' status for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of those killed and injured in the July 21 jet crash at Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara have demanded "martyr" status for all the victims.

During a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, they placed an eight-point demand, including compensation for the victims, and lifetime medical care for the injured.

Ashraful Islam, father of Milestone students Tahia Ashraf Nazia and Ariyan Ashraf Nafi who were killed in the jet crash incident, read out the demands.

"No one from the government has checked on us recently. The chief adviser met with three teachers' families, but ignored the rest of us," he said. "If the pilot can be called a martyr, why not our children who died in their school uniforms?" he asked.

"We also seek Tk 5 crore in compensation for each bereaved family and Tk 2 crore for each injured individual," he said.

The aircraft crash left 37 people dead, including 28 schoolchildren, three teachers, three guardians, and a school staff member.

## One more dies of dengue, 664 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one dengue patient died, while 664 others were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the DGHS, the sole death occurred in DSCC area.

With the latest fatality and new cases, the total number of deaths has risen to 182 this year. The total number of cases now stands at 43,173, with 40,867 patients released so far.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presents gifts to the family members of Bangladesh-origin slain New York police officer Didarul Islam during their meeting at an NY hotel yesterday. Didarul was shot dead on Park Avenue in Manhattan by a gunman on July 28. Prof Yunus is in the USA to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

PHOTO: PID

## 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 Mostakur Rahman Zahid and GS candidate Nafiul Islam Jibon -- to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

## Mostakur to prioritise students' welfare

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Mostakur Rahman Zahid, vice-president candidate in the Rucusu election from the Shibir-backed "Sammilito Shikkharti Jote" panel, has pledged to work for students' welfare if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said Rajshahi University, despite being one of the country's oldest universities, suffers from many problems.

"The past administration failed to address them and instead focused on its own interests. I am contesting to work for students

and solve their problems," said Mostakur, a student of the Agronomy and Agricultural Extension department.

Noting that most RU students come from lower and middle-class families, he said, "My first priority will be to ensure their economic establishment through tuition, incentives, and residential facilities," he said.

He also promised a safe campus for female students, free from bullying and tagging, and initiatives to resolve issues of food, transport, and other basic crises.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

## Jibon pledges cyber cell to protect students

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Nafiul Islam Jibon, general secretary (GS) candidate from the "Oikyaboddho Notun Projonmo" panel backed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, has pledged to establish a cyber cell and revive the long-defunct Rajshahi University railway station if elected in the upcoming Rucusu polls.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said, "After 35 years, the Rucusu election is finally taking place, stirring great enthusiasm among students. I am running to restore student rights, and they have been responding

positively to our panel."

Jibon, a student of Arabic, vowed to ensure full residential facilities for students, with subsidies for those unable to get accommodation, if elected.

He also promised to modernise the university medical centre, calling its current state "terrible".

On transport issues, Jibon said his panel would push to reopen the long-closed RU railway station. "Although the railway line runs through the campus, the station has remained shut for years due to vested interests.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Cucusu election deferred to Oct 15

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections have been deferred to October 15, following demands from most of the candidates.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the university Election Commission yesterday, said member secretary Prof Dr AKM Ariful Haque.

This year's Cucusu election, the seventh in the university's history, was supposed to be held on October 12.

The central union has 28 posts, while each hall union has 16. A total of 27,637 students are eligible to vote.

## Drafting ordinance to protect journo rights: info adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to draft an ordinance to protect journalists' rights in line with the recommendations of the Media Reform Commission, said Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Unesco's Bangladesh Representative Susan Vize at the information ministry, according to a press release.

On the upcoming national election, Mahfuj Alam said the government would fully cooperate to ensure journalists can work independently.

"The government has no interference in the media at present. It expects a neutral and responsible role from the media," he added.

## Eviction at Harijan Palli halted for three months HC issues status quo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to maintain status quo for the next three months on the eviction of Harijan Palli residents from Barishal city's Kathpotti area.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why its action for evicting Harijan people from the area should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Bishwajit Debnath issued the order and rule following a petition filed by four Supreme Court lawyers seeking necessary directives.

Utpal Biswas, Saumitra Sardar, Biplob Poddar, and Hindol Nandi submitted the writ petition to the HC, following reports published in different newspapers including The Daily Star on this issue.

## Fakhrul dismisses Ei Samay interview as 'AI-generated'

STAR REPORT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday dismissed as "fake and fabricated" an interview published by Kolkata-based Indian news outlet Ei Samay, which attributed remarks to him.

"That news is fake. They [Ei Samay] used artificial intelligence to create this false and misleading report," Fakhrul told UNB over the phone from the US.

Fakhrul, who is accompanying Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus to the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said the report was "completely imaginary."

He stressed that no political leader could make such "absurd" comments as quoted in the article. "It is intentional. I never gave any interview to Ei Samay of Kolkata," he said.

On its website, the Kolkata-based outlet on Monday carried a report headlined, "Why is India putting BNP and Jamaat in the same bracket? asks Mirza", claiming that its correspondent had recently interviewed Fakhrul in Dhaka.

The interview has touched off debate across social media and drawn sharp criticism from Jamaat-e-Islami.

It quoted Fakhrul as saying that Jamaat had

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

People wait in long queues from early morning to buy rice and flour at reduced prices from OMS outlets in Rajshahi city. Despite multiple outlets across different neighbourhoods, latecomers often miss out on these essentials. The photo was taken at Monnafer intersection yesterday.



## ‘700 Durga Puja mandaps vulnerable’

### Sanatani Jagaran Jote seeks army deployment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, an alliance of leaders from Hindu community, has identified over 700 Durga Puja mandaps throughout the country as vulnerable.

The alliance leaders said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. Of those, Satkhira tops the list with 55 mandaps marked as risky, alongside others in Cumilla, Chattogram, Gazipur, Mymensingh, and Rajshahi, they said.

The alliance has already submitted the lists to the government and urged the government to deploy army and install CCTV cameras at all mandaps to ensure security.

Pradeep Kanti Dey, a representative of the alliance, said, “Since the army is already assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order, their presence during Puja will help ensure peaceful celebrations.”



Labourers load a boat with pottery items -- including pitchers, plates, and other pots -- to be transported to Dhaka from Barishal. Each boat carries pottery worth around Tk 7 lakh. The photo was taken at Maheshpur village in Bakerganj upazila yesterday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Two slow lorises die after being entangled in wires

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two endangered slow lorises died after being entangled in electric wires in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar recently.

The first incident took place on September 18 at Paschim Baraura village, where locals noticed the animal hanging from electric lines and informed the Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation.

Rescue efforts failed as the loris was already dead.

The second incident occurred on September 22 in Noagaon Saitula Khamar Project-2 area.

Locals alerted BWSF, and its director Swapan Deb Sajal, along with activists Rajdeep Deb Deep and Liton Deb, requested the Moulvibazar Rural Electricity Association to cut the power to retrieve the animal.

The loris was found dead and later handed over to the Forest Department's Moulvibazar Range Office.

Officials said food and water shortages in Lawachara National Park are forcing wildlife into nearby localities, where they face fatal accidents.



## Locals suffer for dilapidated Netrakona road

JAYDUL ISLAM, Netrakona

Locals in Netrakona have long been enduring hardships caused by the deteriorating Razu Bazar-Sidhli Bazar road.

The 13.9 km stretch, particularly a 13-km section from Razu Bazar to Sidhli Bazar, has become nearly impassable.

The bitumen has worn off, leaving behind large potholes that make daily commuting a miserable experience for the people.

This road serves as a crucial route for thousands of residents from Netrokona Municipality, Medni, and Kaliara-Gabragati unions under Sadar upazila, along with several unions in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas. It also connects long-haul passenger buses between Netrokona, Chattogram, and Sylhet.

Julhas Mia, a CNG-run rickshaw driver, said the damage to the road has significantly reduced his income as he now has to spend more on maintenance and repairs.

Larger vehicles, including buses and trucks, largely avoid using the road.

The worst affected are patients traveling to Netrakona Modern Sadar Hospital and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Transport fares have also risen dramatically as drivers avoid using the road, said Mobarak Hossain, a farmer from Gabragati village.

“There are eight primary and two secondary schools along this road. Recently, two of our female teachers were injured in an easy-bike accident. Students walking along the road often get splashed with dirty water, and many students miss school

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

## Shamsul Huda passes away

CITY DESK

Md Shamsul Huda, managing director of Greatwall Ceramic Industries Ltd, Charu Ceramic Industries Ltd and Bengal Agencies Ltd, passed away at a Dhaka hospital yesterday.

He was 70, said a press release. All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PRAYER TIMING	
SEPTEMBER 24	
Fazr	Zohr
5:15	12:45
Asr	Maghrib
4:45	6:05
Esha	
7:30	
JAMAAT	
5:15	1:15
4:45	6:10
8:00	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

## Seven burnt in Mohakhali petrol pump explosion

STAR REPORT

Seven people suffered burns in an explosion at Gulshan Petrol Pump in Mohakhali Amtali area of Dhaka yesterday.

Of them, Swapan Molla, 24, Kabir, 18, Rubel, 28, and Khairul, 28, are employees of the Gulshan Clean and Care company, while Masudur Rahman, 44, is another company owner, and Almagir Hossain, 40, and Sojib, 31, are his employees.

Gulshan Clean and Care staff member Swapan said they were taken to the petrol pump to clean an underground tank. Once the fuel had been removed, they entered the tank to clean it and used an electric fan to remove the remaining gas inside.

“At one point, when we went to switch off the electric fan, the explosion occurred inside and all seven of us who were nearby suffered burns...,” he said.

Locals who rushed them to National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery said the fire was extinguished immediately after the explosion.

Doctors at the burn institute said the injured were kept under observation and the extent of the burns will be confirmed after further assessment.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1633 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF  
Md. Atiqul Alam

VERSUS

Afrin Seeds Company Ltd. & another

--- Petitioner.

--- Respondents.

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Company Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024 of Afrin Seeds Company Ltd. has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application on 02.09.2025.

Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Md. Asif Ekbal)  
Advocate, Supreme Court  
Room # 225, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Bar, Association Main Building,  
Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01712091605.

LEGAL NOTICE FOR COMPANY

This is to inform all concerned persons that the company **Radical Crop Science Limited,** Address: BSCIC Industrial Area, Plot No. S-3, Dutta Para, Dharail, Natore Sadar, Natore is presently owned by **Mohammed Ayub Khan** (Managing Director, Debonair Group). All legal documents related to the change of ownership have already been handed over and all the activities related to liabilities and debts have been completed. If anyone has any Liabilities and debts transactions are requested to inform the authorities within 15 days of the publication of this notice. Otherwise, there will be no consideration in connection with liabilities and debts with the company.

Contact Person  
Md. Abul Kalam Azad  
Deputy General Manager,  
Radical Crop Science Limited.  
Mobile No.- 01939906627.

West Indies Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025  
Worldwide Media Rights

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2025/675

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the TV Broadcasters or Marketing Agents for acquiring the following Media Rights of West Indies Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025 comprising 03 ODI and 03 T20I to be held from 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 to 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2025.

01. Satellite TV (Linear) Rights - Worldwide including Bangladesh

02. Digital OTT (Over-the-Top) Rights - Worldwide including Bangladesh

Area of Rights :

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all necessary EOI details and documents for acquiring the above-mentioned Media Rights of West Indies Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025 involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men).

Eligibility Criteria:

01. Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogate and non-surrogate), Betting, or Online Betting shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.

02. Any person(s) or entity with an existing unresolved dispute (financial, disciplinary, or otherwise) with the BCB or ICC shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.

03. The Broadcaster/TV channel must have been in operation (on air) for at least three (03) years. Marketing agents must have the capability and reasonable experience in marketing international standard cricket events.

EOI Document Collection Procedure:

01. Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document (General Guidelines), which will be available on the BCB's official website: [www.tigercricket.com.bd](http://www.tigercricket.com.bd)

02. The details of the EOI process, Series Itinerary, Production Specifications etc. set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 to 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

EOI Submission Procedure:

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board. Interested participant may submit EOI along with financial offer electronically via email at [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com)

The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:

01. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.

02. Updated auditor's report on financial statements. (In case of a consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually.)

03. Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement.

04. Certified copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association along with the Certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.

05. Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.

06. In case of Consortium, notarized consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

Chief Executive Officer  
Bangladesh Cricket Board  
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

## Jibon pledges cyber cell

FROM PAGE 3

For students travelling long distances, a functional station is essential.”

Jibon pledged to form a dedicated cyber cell to protect female students from cyberbullying.

“Anonymous ‘bot accounts’ are used to harass female students. We want a powerful cyber cell so that no one dares to make offensive remarks again,” he said.

He also promised nutritious meals for students at subsidised rates, noting that poor food quality remains a major issue on campus.

On his chances of victory, Jibon said, “We believe our panel will secure a comprehensive win with

the support of students. It includes leaders who faced persecution, first-year students whose voting rights we fought for, a women's football team member, and a Dean's Award recipient. Our panel is highly inclusive and acceptable to students.”

He, however, expressed concern over possible irregularities.

“There were allegations of vote rigging in recent student union elections. We fear similar issues here. We urged the authorities to ensure fair polls by counting votes manually, but the commission insists on OMR machines. We strongly oppose this, as OMR always carries the risk of hacking or manipulation,” he said.

বসুন্ধরায় কর্ণার পুট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় এন-ব্লকে দুই দিকে কার্পেটিং রাস্তা ১৮ কাটা, ৯ কাটা ও পি-ব্লকে ২০ কাটার কর্ণার পুট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও মিউটেশন করা পুট বিক্রয় হইবে।

সরাসরি মালিক: ০১৭১৫৪৬৬৮৭।

Legal Notice

In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, High Court Division  
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)  
Company Matter No. 1724 of 2025

Vision Apparels (Pvt.) Limited, a Private Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1913 having its registered Office at Plot No. M-1/3, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Corporate Head Office at 429, Senpara Parbata, Mirpur-10, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh, represented by it's Managing Director- Dr. A. K. M. Hamid, ---Petitioner.

---VERSUS---

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, ---Respondent.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for addition of 02 (two) new clauses in the object clause of the Memorandum of Association of the Petitioner-Company was moved in the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for the Company against The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. The Hon'ble Company Matter Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has admitted the said application on 11.09.2025 and directed the petitioner to publish notice in "The Daily Star" & in "The Daily Bhorer Dak" within 03 (three) weeks from date and to file affidavit-in-compliance on or before 28.10.2025. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either by himself or through his agent or Advocate on or before the aforesaid date. A copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

S. M. Dedar Mahady  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.  
Chamber: Tropicana Tower, Suite # A (6th Floor), 45, Topkhana Road, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Mobile : 01717-736075.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Department of Public Health Engineering  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Survey Investigation and Research Division  
14, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo No. 46.03.2600.074.07.416.25-335

Dated: 23/09/2025

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender (Service REOI) is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for selection of consulting firm REOI Reference No. 46.03.2600.074.07.416.25-337, dated 24.09.2025, e-Tender/Proposal ID No. 1155725, has been published in Bangladesh e-GP Portal. Interested firms can see details by visiting the website: [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (16575, +8809609112233).

Shishir Kumar Biswas  
Executive Engineer  
Survey Investigation and  
Research Division, DPHE, Dhaka

GD-2073

Rajshahi City Corporation

Engineering Department  
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi  
[rajshahi.portal.gov.bd](http://rajshahi.portal.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.32.2023.4043

Date: 21.09.2025

e-Tender Notice (IFT: 04/2025-26)

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Reference No.	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	1154590	46.12.0000.006.14.32.2023.1040	Construction of Administrative Building of Hazrat Shah Makhdoom Ruposh (R.) Mazar Complex.	
2.	1154591	46.12.0000.006.14.32.2023.1041	Construction of Hazrat Shah Makhdoom Ruposh (R.) Entrance Gate.	12:30pm on 20-October-2025
3.	1154592	46.12.0000.006.14.32.2023.1042	Construction of Hazrat Shah Makhdoom Ruposh (R.) Dargah Sharif Landscaping.	

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

রাসিক/জশ-২৩(২০২৫-২৬)  
তারিখ: ২৩/০৯/২০২৫  
(৫"খত)

Nilufar Yasmin  
Executive Engineer (Dev.-2)  
Rajshahi City Corporation  
Cell Phone: 01717053897

জিডি-২০৭৪



## Spain okays ‘total’ arms embargo against Israel

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish government yesterday approved a “total” arms embargo on Israel, part of a package of measures aimed at halting what Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called “the genocide in Gaza”.

The decree prohibits all exports to Israel of defence material and dual-use products or technologies, and the import of such equipment to Spain, Economy Minister Carlos Cuerdo said at a news conference.

It also blocks requests for the transit of aircraft fuel with potential military applications and bans imports of products originating from Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories, Cuerdo said.

The decree will come into force immediately, but it must still be approved at a later date by parliament, said government sources.



People sit down in the street to block traffic in a protest against US President Donald Trump in New York City yesterday. The protest goal was to block Trump’s motorcade ahead of his appearance at the UN General Assembly. World leaders convened for the 80th Session of UNGA, with this year’s theme for the annual global meeting being “Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights.”

PHOTO: STAR

## Typhoon Ragasa nears Hong Kong Schools shut, flights axed

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong and parts of southern China ground to a halt yesterday evening as Super Typhoon Ragasa approached with high winds and lashing rain, forcing Chinese authorities to shut down schools and businesses in at least 10 cities.

Ragasa had already toppled trees, torn the roofs off buildings and killed at least two people while ripping through the northern Philippines, where thousands sought shelter in schools and evacuation centres. The typhoon has also killed two people in Taiwan.

The super typhoon was generating maximum sustained winds of 205 kilometres (127 miles) per hour near its centre while moving west across the South China Sea, according to Hong Kong’s weather service.

Other cities in the Southern province of Guangdong that are implementing the measures include Chaozhou, Zhuhai, Dongguan and Foshan.

In Hong Kong, classes were to be suspended on Tuesday and Wednesday, though the stock exchange adopted new rules this year to keep markets open during typhoons.

There were no flights out of Hong Kong after 1000 GMT, according to the airport’s website. Cathay Pacific earlier said that more than 500 of its flights were set to be cancelled.

Ragasa – named after the Filipino word for rapid motion – is expected to make landfall in the central and western coastal areas of Guangdong within 24 hours.



## Nato warns Russia over airspace violations

AFP, Brussels

Nato yesterday warned Russia to stop an “escalatory” pattern of airspace violations along its eastern flank, after the alliance held urgent talks about a jet incursion over Estonia last week.

“Russia bears full responsibility for these actions, which are escalatory, risk miscalculation and endanger lives. They must stop,” Nato’s 32 member states said in a statement.

“Russia should be in no doubt: Nato and allies will employ, in accordance with international law, all necessary military and non-military tools to defend ourselves and deter all threats from all directions.”

Estonia convened emergency consultations after armed Russian fighter jets violated its airspace for some 12 minutes on Friday.

Nato chief Mark Rutte said alliance forces would decide whether to fire upon Russian aircraft breaching its airspace “based on available intelligence regarding the threat posed by the aircraft.”

“Our message to the Russians is clear, we will defend every inch of allied territory,” he said.

## ‘Pillars of peace buckling under weight of impunity’ UN chief paints a dark picture of the world as he opens UN summit



AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday that cuts to aid budgets were “wreaking havoc” as he opened the organisation’s annual meeting of world leaders, painting a dark picture of the world order.

“But development aid cuts are wreaking havoc. They are a death sentence for many. A stolen future for many more,” he said without mentioning the United States, responsible for many of the cuts, whose president will speak shortly after Guterres.

“This is the paradox of our time: we know what we need – yet we are pulling away the very lifeline that makes it possible.”

In a doom-laden speech, Guterres pointed to worsening crises in a growing number of countries and warned of the risk of nuclear proliferation.

“Far too many crises continue unchecked. Impunity prevails. Lawlessness is a contagion. It invites mayhem, accelerates terror, and risks a nuclear free-for-all,” he said.

He did hold out a glimmer of hope, pointing to the ceasefire brokered

between Cambodia and Thailand, and the agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, “brokered by the United States.”

But the UN chief warned that the “pillars of peace” were “buckling under the weight of impunity, inequality, and indifference.”

“Sovereign nations, invaded. Hunger, weaponised. Truth, silenced. Rising smoke from bombed-out cities. Rising anger in fractured societies. Rising seas swallowing coastlines,” he said.

The UN’s leader said that “around the world, we see countries acting as if the rules don’t apply to them. We see humans treated as less than human.”

He pointed to Sudan where he said “civilians are being slaughtered, starved, and silenced” and Gaza where “the horrors are approaching a third monstrous year.”

In this moment of crisis, Guterres said, the United Nations has never been more essential.

“The world needs our unique legitimacy, our convening power, our vision to unite nations, to bridge divides, and confront the challenges before us,” he said.

## Yunus seeks WTO support

FROM PAGE 12

Yunus also attended the inaugural session of the UNGA.

Prior to the session, he met Uruguayan Foreign Minister Mario Lubetkin and former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, and World Bank President Ajay Banga.

On Monday, the chief adviser also attended a high-level event on “Social Business, Youth and Technology” at the UN Headquarters where he gave a keynote speech.

He said cuts to UN aid and shrinking official development assistance risk deepening Bangladesh’s vulnerabilities in facing climate shocks and managing the responsibility of hosting 1.3 million Rohingyas.

Many countries, including Bangladesh, are preparing to graduate from the least-developed country bracket amid severe challenges, he said.

For Bangladesh, this includes hosting 1.3 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, managing repeated climate shocks and navigating global economic turbulence.

“In such a context, reducing UN budgets or shrinking official development assistance would be counterproductive.”

Yunus’s comments come a week before the UN is set to host for the first time a High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar scheduled for September 30.

Instead, the world must “redouble” efforts to expand international support, provide technical assistance and ensure a just transition for nations facing heightened vulnerability, he said.

“What we need urgently is renewed multilateral diplomacy, deeper international cooperation and collective commitment to sustainable development.”

Meanwhile, at his meeting with Sergio Gor, the US special envoy for South and Central Asia and the US ambassador designate to India, Yunus said Bangladesh making comprehensive preparations to ensure a free, fair and peaceful general election in early February.

“The election will be

held in February. It will be free, fair and peaceful. The country is fully prepared,” Yunus told the special envoy.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, including trade, South Asian regional cooperation, the revival of SAARC, the Rohingya crisis and the proliferation of disinformation targeting Dhaka.

Yunus sought continued US support for more than one million Rohingya refugees currently residing in camps in Cox’s Bazar. In response, the US officials said that their life-saving aid for the Rohingyas would continue.

Belgium’s Queen Mathilde met Yunus on the sidelines of an event at the UN headquarters. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva also called on Yunus.

Family members of Bangladesh-origin slain New York policeman Didarul Islam also met Yunus at his hotel.

“national treasure, known not only for his umpiring excellence but also for his “eccentricities and warmth”.

“He leaves behind a legacy of sportsmanship, humility, and joy – and a legion of admirers across generations,” the statement added.

Bird had a modest playing career as a batter for Yorkshire and Leicestershire but made his name as an international umpire, wearing his trademark white cap.

He was given a guard of honour at Lord’s by England and India players before his final Test.

Bird, who sold more than a million copies of his autobiography, was named Yorkshire president in 2014.

Colin Graves, chairman of Yorkshire, told TalkSport: “It’s a sad day.

“He was a brilliant guy who loved being part of the Yorkshire set-up and everything we do here. He will be sadly missed at Headingley.”

**UGC HEAT Sub-Project 13733**

**Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC):**

*A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future*

Department of Civil Engineering

**Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET)**

Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

Ref. No: KUET/HEAT-13733/Recruitment-01/25/01

Date: 23/09/2025

### Recruitment Notice

Under the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education, and implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project, Window 3(a) – Advanced Research, has granted Sub-Project 13733 entitled “**Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC): A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future**” at the Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET). Under this sub-project, eligible candidates will be recruited for the following positions:

Positions	No. of Vacancies
Project Analyst	01
Research Associate/Fellow	02
Research Assistant	01
Office Manager	01
Process / Operational Engineer	01
On-site Plant Technician	01

**Workplace:** Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna  
**Application Deadline:** 11 October, 2025  
**For details, please visit:** <https://www.kuet.ac.bd/notices/all>

**Prof. Dr. Md. Khalekuzzaman**  
Sub Project Manager (SPM)

**Prof. Dr. Quazi Hamidul Bari**  
Associate Sub Project Manager (ASPM)

**Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC)**

*A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future*

Department of Civil Engineering

**Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET)**

Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

**GD-2078**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of the Controller of Stores (East)

Bangladesh Railway

CRB, Chattogram-4000

[www.railway.gov.bd](http://www.railway.gov.bd)

No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-

Dated: 22-09-2025

### e-Tender Notice

#### Notice No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02

#### Amendment/Corrigendum

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Controller of Stores (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram (Tender ID: 1142026) for the Procurement of Goods as stated below:

Description	Old Value	New Value
Experience Criteria	(a) General Experience: The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be [3 (THREE)] years. (b) Specific Experience: The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods (similar goods means any Mechanical Item for Bangladesh Railway) of at least [1 (ONE)] contract(s) successfully completed within the last [3 (TWO)] years, each with a value of at least Tk. (65 (Sixty-Five) LAKH). (c) Supply and /or Production capacity: The minimum supply and/or production capacity of Goods is/ are: 162 M. Ton Per year.	(a) General Experience: The Tenderer shall have a minimum 03 (Three) years General/Overall Experience in Supply of goods and related services. Documentary evidence (Completion Certificate from the end user) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website. (b) Specific Experience: Specific Experience in supply of similar goods (similar means any flooring Compositions or cementing Compound or any similar Compound used for flooring of Railway Rolling Stocks) at least 01 (ONE) Contract successfully completed within the last 03 (THREE) years each with a value of at least Tk 65,00,000.00 (Sixty-Five lakh). Documentary evidence (Completion certificate) must be submitted Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website. (c) Supply and or Production capacity: 162000 kgs per year.
The Tenderer shall submit with its e-Tender the following additional documents	1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter for the Offered Goods 2) Proof of Successful Acceptance of the Similar Goods by the procuring Entity as mentioned as the specific experience criteria.	1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter or Distributor's Authorization Letter for the Tendered Items. In Case of Authorized Dealer/Distributor, Dealership/Distributorship Certificate must be submitted. 2) Original Catalogue/Brochure/Leaflet of the Manufacturer containing product Specification must be submitted. Only valid and related documents to be submitted. 3) Valid ISO 9001 certificate or any other International Quality Assurance Organization's Certificate for the Manufacturer must be submitted. The scope of the certificate must be related to the tendered goods. 4) Manufacturer's and their Authorized Distributor's address, email and telephone number should be stated clearly in consent letter. NOTE: All submitted Documents shall be Verified by PE in Tender Evaluation.
Performance Security	The amount of Performance Security shall be 10% (ten percent) of the quarterly amount of the Total Contract Agreement Price.	(i) The amount of Performance Security shall be 10% (ten percent) of the Contract Price. However, Performance Security may be increased upto 25% as per rule-27(2) of the PPR, 2008. (ii) Performance Security shall be released only after the successful completion of the contract including the warranty period.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

৫৭(২৫)(৫৯)

GD-2078

**Engr. Md. Al-Amin**  
Sr. Asst. Controller of Stores (HQ) (Adl. Charge)  
On the behalf of Controller of Stores (East)  
01711-692931



## Expedite reforms to restore public trust

PPRC survey shows mounting frustration with the country’s direction

That public perception of the direction in which the country is moving has increasingly turned pessimistic since the July uprising is a telling indication of Bangladesh’s current state. A recent survey by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) highlights the depth of this crisis of confidence, revealing that nearly 75 percent of households feel that “nothing works without money” in the country. This assessment, which could more easily be associated with the tenure of the autocratic regime ousted in the uprising, reflects growing frustration over unmet expectations not only in governance but also in other aspects of public services.

The PPRC survey, based on responses from 8,067 families and covering a wide range of issues, shows that more than one in 12 households admitted to paying bribes or extortion money between May 2024 and April 2025. These payments were directed to police, political actors, and government offices to access basic services, avoid legal hassles, or simply because they were demanded. Sustained economic pressures compound these governance challenges. Rising commodity prices, for instance, were cited as a key concern by more than two-thirds of households. Among the poorest, 48.3 percent reported falling incomes, and 30 percent faced food insecurity. Meanwhile, two-thirds of families cited medical expenses as their biggest burden, with over half struggling with high treatment and medicine costs. Education, loan repayments, and other financial obligations are further straining household budgets, deepening a sense of economic desperation.

Concerns about law and order remain equally acute among both urban and rural households. Among low-income families, 41 percent cited corruption, 40.1 percent reported law-and-order issues, and 32.9 percent pointed to a lack of justice. In accessing basic services, complex government procedures, unclear service pathways, delays, and inattentive officials were also cited as routine obstacles. The multifaceted survey also highlighted a widening optimism gap: while only 1.6 percent of the poorest households feel very optimistic about the future, 14.4 percent of the richest reported feeling the same. The youth exhibited slightly higher levels of hope, but frustration over corruption, poor governance and political violence remains widespread overall.

These findings demonstrate that efforts by the interim government have largely failed to improve people’s perceptions about the overall direction of the country. While the authorities have taken various initiatives to address concerns highlighted in the survey, including initiating reforms in certain sectors, it is clear that these have so far failed to deliver meaningful results, or to convince citizens. What people need are not piecemeal or symbolic measures, but systemic interventions that hold institutions accountable and ensure that governance, law and order, and economic management start delivering on the promises made. Failure to do so will be a betrayal of the trust placed in the interim government—and in other stakeholders of the uprising—at a time when the nation cannot afford further disillusionment.

## Rising dengue threat must be addressed

Focus on raising awareness, strengthening healthcare facilities

We are deeply concerned about the worsening dengue situation with the cases and deaths rising steadily amid an extended monsoon. On September 21, the DGHS recorded the highest single-day dengue death toll, with 12 fatalities—five in Barisal division. At least 181 deaths and 42,509 infections were reported as of 8am September 22 this year. Although experts had earlier warned that the dengue situation would worsen around this time due to changing weather patterns, their calls for adequate preparation, including by adopting proactive measures, were clearly ignored. Instead, the authorities have continued with the same outdated approach to tackle the disease. The consequences are visible.

Reportedly, delayed hospitalisation has mainly led to the majority of deaths this year. DGHS data shows that around 74 percent of the deaths occurred within 48 hours of hospital admission, meaning that patients were already in critical condition when they were hospitalised. According to healthcare professionals, when a dengue patient arrives at hospital in the final stage, even if proper measures are taken, they are usually not effective. This also indicates that there has been a serious lack of awareness among people about when to seek hospital admission.

While in Dhaka we see some form of awareness among people, with the two city corporations taking at least some initiatives to control mosquitoes as part of their dengue response, such efforts are almost absent in other parts of the country, especially rural areas. This lack of awareness has had severe consequences. Dengue has spread extensively beyond Dhaka since last year, and so far this year, 30,854 people have been infected outside the capital, compared to 10,977 people in Dhaka. Among districts outside the capital, Barguna was worst affected, with 13 deaths reported in it so far. A June survey by IEDCR found Aedes mosquito larvae in 31 percent of homes in Barguna municipality, and a staggering 76 percent in the district’s rural areas. Had the authorities acted on these findings, many of those deaths might have been prevented.

Although the number of dengue infections this year has exceeded last year’s total, the overall mortality rate remains relatively lower. However, the rising number of infections and critically ill patients in recent weeks signals a potentially worsening crisis in the coming days. Therefore, to prevent further loss of life, it is essential to raise awareness about early testing and ensure timely hospitalisation. Special attention needs to be given to containing dengue outside Dhaka and equipping district-level hospitals to manage severe cases effectively. Only a coordinated national effort can help prevent further deaths from dengue.

# Why women are leaving the workforce



Dr Selim Raihan is professor in the Department of Economics at Dhaka University, and executive director at the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). He can be reached at selim.raihan@gmail.com.

SELIM RAIHAN

For years, Bangladesh’s economic narrative has been one of remarkable ascent, a story punctuated by the steady hum of sewing machines and the quiet revolution of women entering the workforce in unprecedented numbers. The nation’s climb up the economic ladder was, in many ways, built on the shoulders of its women, particularly in the garment industry that became the engine of its growth. Which is why the latest figures from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) feel so disquieting, like a sudden, unexpected silence in a once-booming factory. In just one year, the country’s labour force shrank by 17 lakh people, and the overwhelming majority of those who left were women. This isn’t just a statistical blip; it’s the first contraction since 2010, and it signals a potential unravelling of hard-won social and economic gains.

To understand what’s happening, we have to look beyond the single, stark number. The data reveals a tale of two realities. Male participation in the labour force held essentially steady, while female participation plummeted from 2.53 crore to 2.37 crore. This means that nearly all the losses are concentrated among women, effectively erasing a significant portion of the gains made over the last decade and a half. From this perspective, the decline feels less like an economic adjustment and more like a quiet exodus. The question, of course, is why. Why are women, who have been so integral to the nation’s progress, now stepping back?

The answers are complex, woven from global economic shifts and our own entrenched local realities, but they are made more urgent by a particularly troubling detail: this decline is happening prematurely. Bangladesh is experiencing this dip in female labour force participation at a relatively low level of per capita income, a deviation from the typical development pathway that is concerning. There’s a known, almost paradoxical, economic phenomenon at play here. As a country

develops, women’s participation in the labour force often follows a U-shaped curve. It is high in a poor, agrarian economy, dips in the middle stages of development as education enrolments rise, and then climbs again once the economy matures and creates the right kind of jobs. In other words, we may be hitting that difficult middle curve, but we are hitting it too early and from a position of greater economic fragility. Put simply, more of our daughters are in school and university—a



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

tremendous success—but our economy isn’t yet creating the types of jobs they expect and deserve once they graduate, leaving a generation of educated women in a precarious limbo between aspiration and reality.

This gap between aspiration and opportunity is critical. For women with little formal education, the traditional gateway into the formal economy—the garment sector—is itself transforming. Automation and advanced technology are reducing the reliance on vast numbers of low-skilled workers. The share of women in this industry has fallen significantly, meaning the very door that powered their entry is now narrowing. These women now require

more skills to remain competitive, and without large-scale, targeted training programmes, many are being left behind.

For the growing number of educated women, the barriers are different but equally formidable. What this implies is a landscape of frustration. The modern service sector jobs in education, healthcare, finance, or hospitality that should naturally absorb them are not being created fast enough. Even when such jobs exist, the absence of supportive infrastructure—reliable public transport, safe workplaces, and most crucially, affordable childcare—pushes them out. The burden of unpaid care work at home remains overwhelmingly on their shoulders, a social factor that no economic policy can afford to ignore. So, a young woman might graduate with a degree but find no job that matches her qualifications, or she

payment or financial autonomy. This kind of precarious, invisible labour does not equate to genuine economic empowerment. The real concern, therefore, is not just the recent decline, but the persistent failure to create high-quality, stable, and formal jobs for women, particularly in urban areas and modern sectors. Ultimately, the pattern of structural transformation in Bangladesh has failed to ensure that women are successfully integrated into the new economic landscape.

The consequences of this reversal are profound and far-reaching. On a macroeconomic level, it represents a massive waste of talent and potential, a drag on national productivity and GDP growth that the country can ill afford as it aims for higher development goals. But the true cost is human. Declining female labour force participation threatens to reverse decades of social progress. Economic independence is a key driver of better health outcomes, educational attainment for children, and greater autonomy for women within their households and communities. When that independence is curtailed, all these other gains become vulnerable.

Addressing this challenge requires a move beyond simplistic solutions. It demands a multipronged strategy that acknowledges the different needs of different women. For the urban educated, it means aggressively creating opportunities in the service sector and building the infrastructure—childcare centres, flexible work arrangements, and safe transport—that allows them to thrive. For those displaced by automation in manufacturing, it means investing in large-scale, targeted skills development and reskilling programmes. And for rural women, it means breaking down the barriers to entrepreneurship—access to capital, markets, and information—so they can build sustainable businesses in the non-farm sector.

The declining curve on the chart is more than a data point—it is a warning. It tells us that the path of progress is not linear or guaranteed. The momentum that lifted so many women into the economy is faltering, and without deliberate, thoughtful intervention, we risk not just stalling but sliding backwards. The strength of Bangladesh’s economy has always been its people. To continue rising, it cannot afford to leave half of them behind.

# Our cities need more than master plans to survive



Kabir Uddin is a GIS and remote sensing specialist and Bangladesh country focal point at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal.

KABIR UDDIN

In today’s Bangladesh, from small settlements to largest cities, a stark reality is evident: unplanned urbanisation, insufficient amenities for residents, and environmental degradation are gradually rendering our cities uninhabitable. At the root of the problem lies a failure to properly formulate and implement all three types of plans—strategic plan, master plan, and detailed area plan (DAP)—for unplanned settlements and urban development. Furthermore, urban planning is frequently focused on divisional cities, while attention remains concentrated on the largest centres.

Traffic congestion, inadequate waste management, waterlogging, and air and noise pollution have now become commonplace in our cities. The abnormal population pressure, combined with unplanned infrastructure, has exacerbated the crisis. Narrow roads, long boundary walls along the streets, inadequate sewage systems, and disappearance of green spaces are making urban life increasingly difficult. There are roads in many residential areas across the country where even two rickshaws cannot pass side by side. In numerous places, the trend of building houses obstructing the flow of canals and rivers is growing, posing a serious risk. Meanwhile, the conversion of

agricultural land into residential areas continues unabated.

If unplanned urbanisation persists, the situation will deteriorate further. Climate change will heighten the risk of flooding and other natural disasters. Inadequate housing and the lack of efficient, environment-friendly public transport systems will intensify social

**It is often stated that municipalities in Bangladesh have master plans. One cannot help but ask: do the relevant authorities or mayors truly understand the degree of effectiveness of a master plan? It is a long-term strategic document that outlines specific residential, commercial and industrial areas, as well as roads, parks, and open spaces, and includes zone-based guidelines in order to ensure sustainable development.**

inequality, stifling the cities’ economic growth. Urban centres will lose vitality and turn into chaotic seas of people.

It is often stated that municipalities in Bangladesh have master plans. One cannot help but ask: do the relevant authorities or mayors truly understand the degree of effectiveness of a master plan? It is a long-term strategic document that outlines specific residential, commercial and industrial areas, as well as roads,

parks, and open spaces, and includes zone-based guidelines in order to ensure sustainable development. The approved plan is published as an ordinance.

However, its main drawback is a lack of specific and detailed information. For example, when someone wants to build a house, there is frequently no clear guidance on how much space should be reserved for a road. This is why a DAP is required to effectively implement a master plan. A DAP enables detailed planning and implementation at a small scale, while taking local conditions into account. Its main advantage is that it can be easily updated if necessary, enabling it to keep pace with rapidly changing urban requirements. Most cities in Bangladesh still lack effective master

considerations. Sustainable urban development is only possible if all three types of plans are implemented together.

To overcome this crisis, specific steps must be taken, including proper planning, strict enforcement of laws and policies, and a zero tolerance approach to unplanned and illegal construction. When an accident occurs in a building, it is often revealed that the establishment was constructed illegally. This disclosure should not come this late. At the same time, municipalities and city corporations require financial and technical support as well as skilled staff to operate more efficiently. It should also be noted that an isolated planned housing project cannot possibly solve all of a city’s problems. It requires a holistic approach.

In addition to planning, it is vital to reduce reliance on private cars and develop an improved and affordable public transport system to meet commuters’ demand as well as ease traffic congestion. Public participation in the urban planning process must also be ensured. If projects are developed based on the needs and opinions of the people, they will prove to be more effective.

The time has come to take decisive action to ensure a liveable and sustainable urban environment. This is not solely the responsibility of the government; creating a well-planned and attractive city requires citizens’ collective awareness and participation as well. However, due to the country’s lack of skilled and experienced town planning and geospatial professionals, planning may not begin in all municipalities simultaneously. Implementation should, therefore, proceed gradually, allowing one city’s experience to benefit others.



# Democracy can’t endure without fair delivery of justice



Dr Abdullah A Dewan is professor emeritus of economics at Eastern Michigan University in the US, and a former physicist and nuclear engineer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. He can be reached at aadeone@gmail.com.

ABDULLAH A DEWAN

In Bangladesh today, arbitrary arrests, denial of bail, and politically driven prosecutions have eroded public trust in the justice system. In his recent column titled “Can justice be dispensed in an unjust manner?”, *The Daily Star* Editor Mahfuz Anam also points out a dilemma embedded in the country’s judicial system as the judiciary seems to follow the “letter” of the law while neglecting its “spirit” of fairness. Justice loses meaning when citizens see arbitrary arrests, routine denial of bail, and politically motivated cases clogging the courts. The question confronting us is stark: can the system regain integrity, or will cynicism over legal recourse become permanent?

Anam highlights the ongoing abuses clearly. Detentions are stretched beyond constitutional intent, journalists and opposition voices face false cases, and charge sheets are either delayed or manipulated to extend harassment. What is missing is a roadmap that transforms these critiques into reforms. Without such direction, moral outrage risks dissipating without effect. The challenge is therefore twofold: to expose injustice and to design remedies capable of restoring confidence in the courts.

First, it is vital to recognise that Bangladesh is not alone in facing this dilemma between “the letter of the law” and “the spirit of the law.” Many transitional democracies have struggled with the same tension between law and politics. India, for instance, witnessed widespread abuse of police power during the

1975-77 Emergency, when arrests without trial became the norm. It was only through Supreme Court interventions such as *DK Basu vs. State of West Bengal* (1997) that safeguards such as mandatory arrest records, access to legal counsel, and compensation for wrongful detention began to take shape. That jurisprudence demonstrated how persistent civil society pressure, coupled with principled judges, can translate temporary outrage into enduring institutional guardrails.

Pakistan, too, has a long history of preventive detention laws being used against political opponents. Yet, periods of judicial activism, particularly under Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry in the 2000s, demonstrated that assertive courts can push back against executive overreach, even if such gains later prove fragile. The lesson is sobering: progress is reversible if vigilance fades, and independence is never self-sustaining—it must be continually defended.

South Africa offers another instructive model: in the aftermath of apartheid, the establishment of a Judicial Service Commission created a transparent process for appointments and oversight, helping to insulate judges from partisan interference. In countries scared by authoritarianism, institutional reform was often the difference between relapse and renewal. These comparative experiences show that abusive practices can be restrained if institutions are restructured and accountability is enforced.

Second, Bangladesh must urgently

strengthen judicial independence not only in constitutional rhetoric but in practice. Independence means more than judges not taking direct orders from the executive. It requires secure tenure, adequate resources, freedom from intimidation, and a culture of professional pride. In Kenya, for example, the creation of a Judicial Service Commission after years of abuse provided a buffer against political pressure and allowed for greater

measures; they are minimum standards in any system that claims to uphold justice.

Fourth, reforms must extend beyond the judiciary to the process of case filing itself. Too often, frivolous or vindictive cases are registered with little scrutiny, overwhelming the courts and intimidating citizens. Independent oversight of law enforcement, combined with penalties for police officers or prosecutors who pursue

would allow citizens to measure whether justice is being applied evenly or manipulated for partisan ends. In South Africa, public reporting by the Constitutional Court helped cultivate trust in a fragile democracy. Bangladesh could pursue a comparable path.

In addition, Bangladesh should pilot a fast-track *habeas corpus* list with 72-hour deadlines for unlawful detention claims, cap cumulative police remand, and create a national public defender service so that indigent defendants are not abandoned to procedural traps. Cost-shifting and statutory damages for malicious prosecution would deter frivolous cases, while searchable databases of bail and sentencing decisions would make deviations visible to the public and appellate courts. None of these reforms is exotic; they are tested and implementable.

Finally, legal education and professional culture must evolve. Law schools, bar associations, and training institutes should place stronger emphasis not just on procedural technicalities but on constitutionalism, human rights, and the broader social role of justice. A judiciary that views itself as the guardian of rights rather than as a bureaucratic cog will be better positioned to withstand political manipulation.

Justice dispensed in an unjust manner is no justice at all. It may satisfy the immediate desires of those in power, but it leaves deep scars on the social contract. Citizens lose faith in institutions, grievances multiply, and cycles of impunity harden. Mahfuz Anam’s column, thus, is a timely warning that Bangladesh stands at this dangerous threshold. The path forward requires not only outrage but reform: structural, cultural, and legal. Other nations have shown that it is possible to restrain executive excess and rebuild trust in the courts. For Bangladesh, the imperative is clear: without a justice system that is both fair and seen to be fair, democracy itself cannot endure.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

transparency in judicial administration. Without such institutional mechanisms, judges risk being reduced to rubber stamps for whichever political coalition holds power.

Third, the rights of the accused need stronger protection. The principle of equality before the law cannot coexist with systemic abuse of bail, indefinite detention without charge, or selective prosecution of political rivals. Ensuring universal access to defence lawyers, mandating disclosure of evidence before denial of bail, and enforcing strict timelines for filing charge sheets would be important first steps. These are not radical

false cases, is essential. Kenya’s Independent Policing Oversight Authority provides a useful comparative example, demonstrating how external scrutiny can deter misconduct and rebuild public trust. Bangladesh would benefit from a similar body with real investigatory powers.

Fifth, transparency is indispensable. Without public scrutiny, reforms remain cosmetic. Courts should regularly publish data on the number of arrests, charge-sheet completions, bail grants and denials, and average trial lengths. Such information, if made accessible to the press and civil society,

# Saudi-Pakistan pact redraws strategic lines in a shifting region



Syed Raiyan Amir is senior research associate at The KRF Center for Bangladesh and Global Affairs (CBGA). He can be reached at raiyan.cbga@gmail.com.

SYED RAIYAN AMIR

A smiling Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, greeted with Saudi F-15 flyovers, a ceremonial red carpet and full royal honours, stood alongside Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last week to endorse a new Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA). The optics were striking: two long-time allies formalising what officials called a “shared deterrence” framework. What was once a loose partnership rooted in history is now given a binding clause: an attack on one shall be treated as an attack on both.

For analysts, this marked a turning point in a partnership that has spanned nearly eight decades, deepening in ways that could reshape alignments in both South Asia and the Gulf. Yet, the pact arrives at a time of heightened volatility. Only months earlier, India and Pakistan exchanged strikes on each other’s military sites, a four-day confrontation that brought the subcontinent to the edge of war. Against this backdrop, the Saudi-Pakistan agreement injects new complexity into an already fragile strategic landscape.

Pakistan’s foreign ministry framed the move as a reinforcement of “peace and

security,” but also as a commitment to deterrence. Such language is familiar in alliance politics, reminiscent of Nato’s Article 5 but embedded within the rivalries of South Asia and the Middle East. Scholars like Kenneth Waltz have long argued that states seek security guarantees not only to balance threats but also to hedge against abandonment (*Theory of International Politics*). For Islamabad, the pact symbolises precisely that: a counterweight to fears of isolation.

Saudi Arabia was one of the earliest states to recognise Pakistan in 1947, and since then, the relationship has often transcended diplomacy. Pakistani officers have trained thousands of Saudi personnel since the 1960s, while Riyadh’s financial lifelines have repeatedly stabilised Pakistan’s struggling economy. In 1982, a bilateral framework ensured the continued presence of Pakistani military contingents on Saudi soil.

Yet, the timing of this latest agreement is critical. The Middle East’s security order is under stress. Israel’s prolonged war on Gaza, cross-border strikes in the Gulf, and the June confrontation between Israel and Iran—all

underscore what Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver describe as the “regional security complex” where insecurities are interlinked and crises spread quickly (*Regions and Powers*). Against such uncertainty, Gulf monarchies are reassessing their heavy dependency on US protection.

Washington still maintains 40,000-50,000 troops across the region, but US credibility is eroding. The Doha attack on September 9—when Israeli missiles struck a neighbourhood sheltering Hamas ceasefire negotiators—raised new doubts about whether Gulf capitals can rely solely on the US security umbrella. As one Gulf diplomat quipped privately, “If the fire comes to our doorstep, we need neighbours, not distant protectors.” Within this climate, Pakistan’s presence as a “Muslim-majority nuclear power” carries symbolic reassurance.

Still, Washington views the latest Saudi-Pakistan agreement with unease. The Biden administration already sanctioned Pakistani firms over missile development, openly questioning the range and intent of its arsenal. As Stephen Walt argues in *The Origins of Alliances*, great powers fear smaller allies drawing them into conflicts they would rather avoid. A pact that could, in theory, interconnect Pakistan’s disputes with India and Saudi Arabia’s rivalries with Iran raises precisely such concerns.

For Islamabad, however, clarifying boundaries is crucial. Analysts stress that while Pakistan’s nuclear doctrine is India-centric, Riyadh may still hope for an implicit shield. Past conversations—cited by journalist Bob Woodward—suggest Saudi leaders floated the possibility of “buying” deterrence

from Pakistan if needed. Yet, no evidence indicates the new agreement extends to nuclear assurances. As Dr Asfandiyar Mir of the Stimson Center noted, such treaties often carry ambiguity, but ambiguity itself can be a strategic tool, signalling commitment without binding operational pledges.

The pact does not exist in a vacuum. It risks tying Pakistan more closely to Saudi Arabia’s fraught regional rivalries, particularly with Iran. For decades, Islamabad has tried to balance ties with Tehran even as sectarian tensions and border incidents strained trust. By aligning formally with Riyadh, it could find itself constrained in mediating between its two important neighbours.

At the same time, Saudi Arabia now places itself within South Asia’s tense nuclear dyad. If conflict between India and Pakistan reignites, Riyadh may face indirect exposure. As Hedley Bull argued in *The Anarchical Society*, order in international relations often depends on great powers restraining local conflicts. In this case, however, an external partner could deepen, not dampen, escalation risks.

Unsurprisingly, New Delhi is studying the pact carefully. Relations between India and Pakistan hit new lows after the April attack in Pahalgam, which killed 26 civilians. The skirmishes that followed in May—the most intense since Kargil—ended only after external mediation. India’s foreign ministry has now stated it will “assess implications for national and regional stability.”

India’s growing ties with Riyadh complicate matters further. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s third visit to Saudi Arabia this April underlined energy and investment partnerships. While Saudi Arabia has been

cultivating closer relations with India, the SMDA with Pakistan suggests that Riyadh is hedging, unwilling to rely on a single partner.

From a structural perspective, this agreement illustrates the changing nature of alliances in a multipolar order. Unlike Cold War-era treaties, today’s pacts rarely bind states into rigid blocs. Instead, they act as political signals—gestures of solidarity that may or may not translate into military intervention. Yet, even as political statements, such agreements carry weight. They recalibrate perceptions of strength, deterrence, and vulnerability.

For Pakistan, securing Saudi backing helps offset economic weakness and strategic isolation. For Saudi Arabia, engaging a nuclear-armed ally bolsters credibility at a time when US guarantees appear shakier. But both must manage the risks: entanglement, misperception, and overextension. As Mir warned, every new pact opens questions about scope, resources, and limits.

Saudi oil wealth fused with Pakistan’s nuclear shadow may alter the balance of power in both the Gulf and South Asia. It could constrain Iran’s influence, complicate India’s manoeuvres, and signal to Washington that Riyadh has alternatives. Yet, it is also a gamble. The more the agreement is perceived as binding, the higher the risks of unwanted entanglement.

As with many alliances in history, its true significance will emerge in the crises yet to come. For now, the Saudi-Pakistan pact stands as both an affirmation of old bonds and a reminder that in a volatile region, every alliance is a double-edged sword.

CROSSWORD  
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

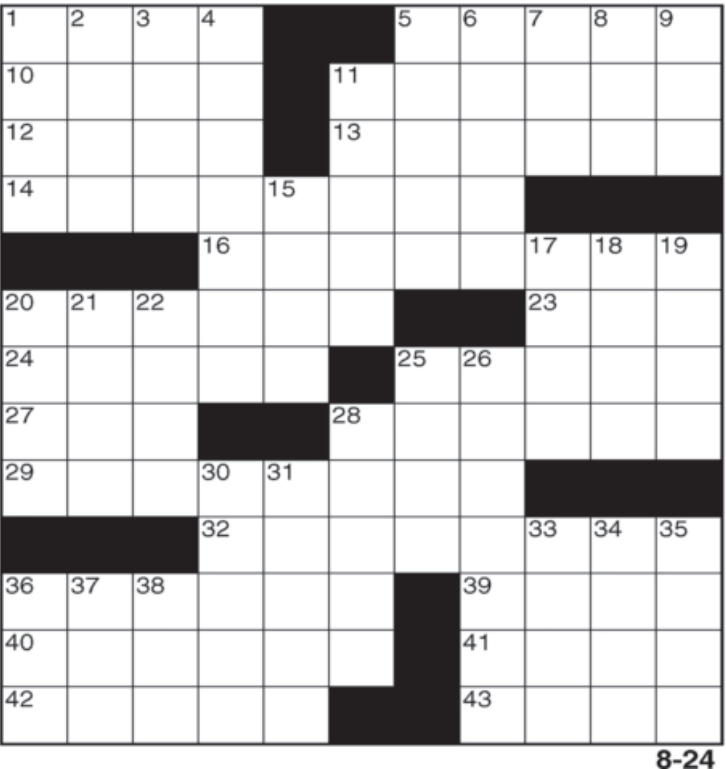
- 1 Bar order
- 5 Essential
- 10 Make lots
- 11 Costa Rica neighbor
- 12 Baseball’s Rodriguez
- 13 Dawn-to-dusk
- 14 Outlet for the Thames
- 16 Unforgiven” director
- 20 Thinly scattered
- 23 GI-entertaining grp.
- 24 Severe
- 25 Writer Levi
- 27 Crumb bearer
- 28 Kidnap cost
- 29 Connecticut town
- 32 Hyun Jin Ryu, for one
- 36 Meal
- 39 Huron neighbor
- 40 Reluctant
- 41 Style
- 42 Keyed up
- 43 Ignored the limit

DOWN

- 1 Reach across

- 2 Ring of light

- 3 Finished
- 4 Participants in silent chats
- 5 Parking pro
- 6 Spouse’s kin
- 7 Wee bit
- 8 Dr.’s org.
- 9 Put down
- 11 Out of style
- 15 Diner dish
- 17 For all of us
- 18 Norway capital
- 19 Ruin
- 20 “Pygmalion” writer
- 21 Glass section
- 22 Creative fields
- 25 Shopping aid
- 26 Patriotic tunes
- 28 Way to go
- 30 Russian rulers
- 31 Rap entourage
- 33 Stage item
- 34 Staff member
- 35 Hoe target
- 36 Informant
- 37 Garden resident
- 38 Corral



MONDAY’S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO  
dsopinion@gmail.com.





# Audience’s support made this win possible:

## KAJAL AREFIN OME

SHARMIN JOYA

One of the most popular directors in the country, Kajal Arefin Ome won over audiences with his much-acclaimed television project **Bachelor Point**. His talent was not only limited to comedy; he ventured into romance, family drama, and tragedy as well. Such is his project **Osomoy**, a production that blends family drama, romance, and tragedy with a touch of comic relief. This year, the project won three major awards

at the Blender’s Choice—The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards, including Best Director (Film) in the Popular Category and both Supporting Actor honours. As Ome could not attend the show in person due to illness, he expressed his thoughts in an interview with us. “I sincerely thank Blender’s Choice—The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards for nominating **Osomoy** in multiple categories and honouring me with the Best Director Film (Popular) recognition,” he shared, adding, “I am grateful to the jury and, above all, to the audience whose support made this win possible.” Ome believes that it’s the audience who brought him to this position today and that, without their support, the award and recognition would not have been possible. “This award is especially meaningful as it comes from the popular category, reflecting the love of the very people I create my work for,” he said.

“**Osomoy** was acclaimed widely, and even today, audiences continue to appreciate it. I also thank The Daily Star for giving viewers the platform to cast their votes.” Ome shared that when he pitched this project to Bongo producer Mushfiqur Rahman, they initially were surprised to learn that it is a serious plot. “Earlier I directed **Hotel Relax** for the same platform, and they were confident because comedy is my forte. However, **Osomoy’s** story was contemporary and something that I personally wanted to tell from my heart, so the producer believed in me and we took that risk. The outcome was so overwhelming that even today, when I meet people, they still talk about **Osomoy**.” Concluding his statement, the director asserted, “I want to keep working for the audience. The support they have given me is something I can only repay by presenting them with good work.”

# SUNERAH debuts in TV serial ‘Eta Amaderi Golpo’



Model-turned-actress Sunerah Binte Kamal, who won the National Film Award for her debut film **No Dorai** (2019), has stepped into her first television serial with **Eta Amaderi Golpo**. Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the family drama casts Sunerah as Saira and follows the success of Raz’s earlier hits like **Family Crisis** and **Graduate**. Her look for the series was revealed on September 21, marking the project’s official announcement and confirming co-star Khairul Bashar, with more names to come. Sunerah began her TV career in 2022 with **Shunno Theke Shuru** and later appeared in **Dabaghore**. On the film front, she recently acted in **Daagi** opposite Afran Nisho and made a guest appearance in **Utshob**, earning acclaim for her selective yet striking performances.

## WHAT’S THE HAPS?

### ‘Shroddhai Smarane Farida Parveen’

The Sanskrit Union at Dhaka University presents **Shroddhai Smarane Farida Parveen**, an event honouring the legacy of the late folk legend. Remembered as the Queen of Lalon Geeti, Farida Parveen will be celebrated through songs, discussions, and cherished memories, reflecting her enduring influence on Bangladesh’s cultural and musical heritage.

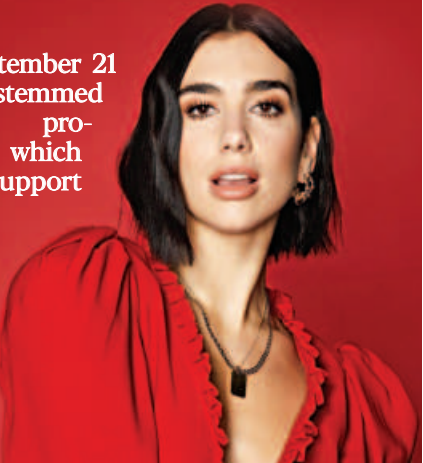
Date: Thursday | September 25, 2025  
Time: 4pm onwards  
Venue: TSC, Dhaka University



## Dua Lipa fires agent over his support for Israel

British pop star Dua Lipa has reportedly cut ties with her longtime agent, David Levy of WME, after he signed a letter urging Glastonbury Festival to drop Irish rap group Kneecap for their pro-Palestinian stance. The private letter, addressed to festival founder Michael Eavis, was later leaked, prompting backlash across the music industry. Despite the controversy, Kneecap performed as scheduled. Sources

told the Mail on September 21 that Lipa’s decision stemmed from her strong pro-Palestinian position, which clashed with Levy’s support for Israel. The 30-year-old artist has openly criticised Israeli actions in Gaza, calling them “genocide” in a 2023 Instagram post.



# NEWS

## A lie that cost a life

FROM PAGE 12  
An explosion rocked the scene, sending shockwaves through the area. It occurred when Shamim, as part of the firefighting team, was spraying water on the fire. The blast happened due to highly explosive substances inside the warehouse, said Shahin, who also got injured in the incident. The firefighters were unaware of the hazardous materials stored in the warehouse, he added. During the explosion, Shamim was immediately engulfed in flames. He succumbed to his injuries around 3:00pm yesterday at the National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute. Three other firefighters — Nurul Huda, Jannatul Nayem, and Joy Hasan — were also injured and are currently undergoing treatment. Nurul, with 100 percent burns, and Jannatul, with 42 percent, remain in critical condition in the ICU. Joy suffered 5 percent burns. “Had we known there were explosive

materials present, our response would have been different,” Shahin told The Daily Star. “We would have brought stronger equipment, adjusted our strategy, and not approached so closely.” Shamim’s brother-in-law Al Amin spoke to The Daily Star about Shamim’s final moments. Shamim reportedly told Al Amin, “This happened to me because of false information.” Al Amin expressed deep concern for Shamim’s three young children and their uncertain future. The tragedy has left Shamim’s family in shock and grief. Shamim had joined the fire service in 2004. The youngest of six brothers, he lived in Tongi with his wife and children. He hailed from Netrakona. As of the filing of the report yesterday evening, no case had been filed over the explosion and the death. Oheduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Tongi East Police Station, said

investigations are underway to determine whether the chemicals were stored legally. A case may be filed soon over the death, he said. Md Saleh Uddin, deputy director of Dhaka Division Fire Service, issued a warning about ongoing hazards at the site. “The warehouse is still hot, and smoke is occasionally visible. While the risk of reignition is low, the gases emitted are hazardous to human health,” he told reporters at the spot yesterday evening. He advised people to maintain a safe distance of at least 100 metres from the area. Meanwhile, after Shamim’s namaz e-janaza at the Fire Service headquarters yesterday evening, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret’d) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said a specialised doctor from Singapore was expected to arrive last night to oversee the treatment of the injured firefighters.

## ‘Kneel and fire below the waist’

FROM PAGE 12  
In the audio, the ex-DMP commissioner was heard saying: “All our officers, wherever you are on duty, you may exercise maximum force to protect our own lives and property, offices and courts, and protect the lives and property of the people.” “You will take a kneeling position and fire below the waist to bring the situation under control.” Following the ASI’s testimony, state defence counsel Amir Hossain, representing Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, cross-examined him. The other accused in the case, ex-inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, has turned approver (state witness). Meanwhile, CID digital laboratory

expert Shahed Jobayer Lorence, who had completed his testimony earlier, gave an additional statement yesterday. He said he examined audio recordings of phone conversations between the then prime minister and Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and former minister, and found that the voices matched their samples. Defence counsel, however, claimed that the recordings were AI-generated. Inu, accused in another case of crimes against humanity, is now in prison. At a press briefing, prosecutor Mizanul Islam said during the phone conversations on July 20 and August 4 last year, Hasina and Inu discussed suppressing the movement by using lethal weapons and planned to surround

protesters and kill them with bombs. Two sub-inspectors — Kamrul Hossain and Anisur Rahman — also testified as seizure list witnesses. Kamrul is currently serving as the record and library in-charge at the ICT’s investigation agency, a post previously held by Anisur. The ICT-1 has so far recorded testimonies from 52 witnesses in the case filed against Hasina, Kamal, and the former IGP. A special investigator in the case, who seized several phone call records of Hasina, will testify today. Two more prosecution witnesses — scrap trader Motibur Rahman and fruit seller Shafiqul Islam — testified before the ICT-2 yesterday in a case filed over the killings of six protesters in Ashulia on August 5 last year.

## Outrage over AL attack on NCP leaders

FROM PAGE 1  
In a separate statement, the CA office expressed regret over the attack, saying it was targeted and politically motivated, alleging that Fakhrul was also assaulted. “This reprehensible act is a stark and painful reminder of the toxic and violent political culture that flourished under Hasina’s regime — a legacy the interim government is firmly committed to dismantling to build a peaceful, democratic, and inclusive Bangladesh.” The statement noted that precautionary security measures had been taken, adding, “Upon arrival, the delegation was directed through a designated VVIP gate and boarded into a specially secured vehicle. However, due to last-minute visa complications, they were rerouted through an alternative exit. Despite a formal request for continued VVIP access, airport authorities denied it, inadvertently exposing the delegation to risk.” The government said it immediately engaged the New York Police Department (NYPD), which has launched a formal investigation. “Security measures for the chief adviser and all members of the delegation have been significantly reinforced. The interim government remains in close coordination with US law enforcement to ensure the safety and dignity of its representatives abroad.” It reiterated that political violence and intimidation, whether at home or

abroad, will not be tolerated. Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhrul, on his verified Facebook page, said the attack highlighted how the Awami League remains unrepentant for its past actions. “The Awami League will face trial for all its wrongdoings.” In Dhaka, NCP activists marched from the National Museum in Shahbagh to Dhaka University’s TSC yesterday afternoon, protesting the assault. At TSC, they threw eggs at a portrait of Sheikh Hasina. At a press briefing at NCP’s Bangla Motor headquarters, Convener Nahid Islam blamed the foreign ministry’s negligence. “The Consulate General in New York must resign, and action must be taken against those who failed to provide security,” he said, demanding a probe. “Those who were in charge during the fascist rule haven’t been completely removed from the foreign ministry. We’ll demand accountability from the foreign adviser.” Holding the AL responsible, Nahid added, “They have carried out terrorist activities inside the country for long, and now their activities are spreading abroad. The Awami League is now only throwing eggs to remain relevant, but if given the opportunity in the future, they will kill thousands again. “The people will stand against all politicians who make such attempts ...

There’ll be no Awami League or Mujibist politics in Bangladesh.” After the attack, Jara wrote on social media, “This wasn’t an attack on Akhter Hossen as an individual, but on his political identity. He represents the party that is constantly working to dismantle a fascist structure. This attack shows the depth of fear and frustration among the defeated forces.” Speaking to diaspora media, she said, “Since the uprising, women who entered politics have been harassed and suppressed. The people of Bangladesh have already rejected the Awami League, and through actions like these they are only making their true character clearer.” Akhter said, “I’ve faced Sheikh Hasina’s bullets, so a few eggs will not daunt me.” A video of the assault, filmed by the attackers, shows the two leaders walking away with their trolleys, refusing to engage. Another self-recorded video by one Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, whose Facebook bio describes him as “Executive Member, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, Sylhet District”, shows him holding up an egg and calling Akhter a “terrorist” before egging him twice. According to his Facebook posts, they had been waiting at the airport for hours before the flight landed. Mizanur was later arrested by the NYPD.

BNP zeroes in on nomination, seat sharing  
FROM PAGE 1  
At a press briefing yesterday, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said qualified, popular individuals accepted by the people will be chosen after proper scrutiny through the party’s designated process. The names will be announced at the appropriate time. INTERNAL DISCIPLINE Tarique, the party’s second-in-command, has already spoken with organising secretaries and vice-chairmen overseeing division-wise units about internal rivalries that may arise once single candidates are named. They are now holding meetings with aspirants in constituencies with multiple contenders, reminding the hopefuls to respect party decisions and warning that feuds over nominations will not be tolerated. Besides, party leaders are having constituency-wise informal talks with the aspirants. This comes as nomination hopefuls in several areas began using posters and banners to draw attention from the high command for securing a ticket. On September 20, while addressing the Kishoreganj District unit’s triennial council virtually from London, Tarique urged leaders and activists to respect party decisions. “When a decision is made [by the party], it is the responsibility of each of us to implement that at any cost,” he said. According to sources, the BNP will also keep backup candidates in many seats, in case nominees are disqualified due to loan defaults, cases, or other issues. SEAT-SHARING Besides picking party candidates, the

BNP is having talks with its allies about sharing seats and also for a possible expansion of its electoral alliance. Sources said the party might give away around 50 seats to candidates of its allies. If the BNP opts for a broader electoral alliance, it may sacrifice more seats in favour of its allies. Hence, it is going to announce candidates for 200 constituencies initially. In October last year, the BNP instructed its grassroots to support six top leaders of its allies. They are Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rab (Lakshmipur-4); Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna (Bogura-2); Ganosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki (Dhaka-12); Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur (Patuakhali-3) and General Secretary Rashed Khan (Jhenaidah-2); and Jatiya Dal Chairman Syed Ehsanul Huda (Kishoreganj-5). More recently, the BNP gave the green signal to Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partho for Dhaka-17 and Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajjaj for Dhaka-13, directing local units to work for them. A top leader of Dhaka North BNP confirmed the matter to The Daily Star. “We’ve informed leaders and activists of these two constituencies about the party decision,” he said, wishing anonymity. When asked, Partho told this newspaper that seat negotiations between his party and the BNP are ongoing for several constituencies. The BNP-led 20-Party Alliance last

contested a general election in 2018 under the Jatiya Oikya Front, ceding 59 seats to allies. Candidates with the BNP’s paddy sheaf symbol won seven seats in that election and got another from seats reserved for women, but Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir refused to take oath. Out of power since 2007, the party won 30 seats in the 2008 polls, boycotted the 2014 election where 153 MPs were elected uncontested, and again boycotted the 2024 polls as its caretaker government demand remained unfulfilled. CRITERIA, MANIFESTO Party insiders said the BNP will take into consideration its 2018 nominees alongside new aspirants. Dedication, honesty, popularity, organisational ability, and contributions to the anti-government movement during the Awami League’s rule and the July uprising will weigh heavily. Those accused of unethical behaviour after Sheikh Hasina’s fall and damaged the party’s image will be excluded. Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed and Advisory Council member Ismail Zabiullah are among those involved in scrutiny. Meanwhile, the BNP has begun preparing its election manifesto, drawing on the 31-point state reform agenda unveiled by Tarique and the Vision 2030 plan announced by Chairperson Khaleda Zia in 2016, which stressed inclusivity. Amir Khosru said significant progress has been made. “Our manifesto will be subject-based,” he added.





# Shyamasundari canal in peril

## Once vital, the waterbody suffers from pollution, encroachment

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Once a lifeline for local fishermen, the Shyamasundari canal in Rangpur city now lies on its deathbed, choked by pollution.

Stretching 16 kilometres in its prime, the canal was once a vibrant waterway with clear waters and an abundant fish population. Today, it is a shadow of its former self, its water now pitch-black and foul-smelling due to the unchecked discharge of household and sewage waste directly into it.

Rampant encroachment has also caused the canal to shrink drastically, from a width of 60-120 feet to a mere 15 feet.

The canal was excavated in 1890 under the patronage of Maharaja Janaki Ballav Sen. Once serving as the city's main drainage channel and adding to the city's scenic beauty, it has now been abandoned to years of encroachment, pollution, and poor urban planning.

Illegal structures, including houses and shops, have sprung up along both banks, while

sewage lines discharge wastewater directly into the canal. Household waste and plastic garbage are thrown in every day, further choking its flow. The water now emits an unbearable stench, while the city struggles with frequent waterlogging as the canal can no longer drain excess water.

"Even a few years ago, the canal's water was somewhat clear. People used to bathe in it and use its water for household purposes. But now, it is so filthy that the water can't be used for anything. Fish can no longer survive in it. If you cast a net, you won't find any fish," said Khobir Uddin, 65, a resident of the Modern area.

Khalilur Rahman, 60, echoed him.

Palash Kanti Nag, a local environmental activist, stressed the need for dredging to save the canal.

Contacted, Robiul Islam, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Rangpur, said, "The government has allocated Tk 15 crore to restore the canal. Dredging will begin soon, and both banks will be planted with trees to restore its beauty."

# Fakhrul dismisses Ei Samay interview

FROM PAGE 3

had sought 30 seats from the BNP for the upcoming national election, but the BNP showed "little interest."

The report further cited him as saying, "We offered a much smaller number, which they found unacceptable. I assure you:

we will not allow Jamaat to overstep its bounds. We've unnecessarily given them more priority than they deserve as a political force."

In a statement issued yesterday, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, "It is difficult for us to believe that such completely

false, disrespectful, and vengeful comments have been made by a senior politician like Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. The comments could not be further from the truth and lack decency. If these comments are indeed his, then we are forced to protest and condemn

them."

On BNP's official Facebook page, the party reiterated Fakhrul's denial, "The remarks attributed to him in the interview published in the Indian newspaper Ei Samay were never made by him."

Meanwhile, Ei Samay posted two photocards

on its verified Facebook page, captioned, "At the Gulshan office of Khaleda Zia, chairperson of BNP, the largest political party in Bangladesh at this moment. Anamitra Chatterjee with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on the 4th of this month."

# Locals suffer for dilapidated

FROM PAGE 4

on rainy days," said Nazmul Huda, senior assistant teacher at Barwari High School.

Contacted, Md Shoaib Imran, upazila engineer of Netrokona Sadar, said, "Due to insufficient allocations, the road could not be properly renovated in previous years. Some temporary repairs were made but did not last due to the rains. A proposal has been submitted for rebuilding and widening



the road."

Md Rafiqul Islam, senior assistant engineer at Netrokona LGED, said 2 km of the 13.9-km road has been repaired.

"A project proposal

seeking a higher allocation has been sent under RTP-3 to repair the remaining portion. Once funds are allocated, the work will proceed."

Md Abdullah Al Mahmud Jaman, deputy commissioner of Netrakona, said, "The issue will be raised at the next district coordination meeting. We will work with LGED to ensure quick repair work. I will personally monitor the progress."

# Mostakur

FROM PAGE 3

"Perhaps we cannot solve everything in a year, but we will prepare a roadmap showing how many years it will take and seek approval from the administration," he added.

"Whenever a party comes to power, its student wing wants to keep Rucsu shut. But it is the right of students to have it regularly, as it is a platform for taking initiatives to solve their problems. We will work to ensure that Rucsu elections become regular," said Mostakur, president of Shibir's RU unit.

On the election front, he alleged that "a group" wants to foil the election, which does not want students to be empowered. "We must remain alert," he said.

Mostakur concluded, "If elected, I will not be VP of Chhatra Shibir but of all students. My highest priority will be Rucsu, and I look forward to working with all."

# Irregularities alleged in Tk 5.24cr road project

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Widespread irregularities have been alleged in the construction of a 2.5-kilometre road from Uttar Kajir Hawla Mohsenia Dakhil Madrasa to Khalgora Bazar in Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali.

Residents have complained that muddy sand and stones are being mixed with clotted cement during the casting for the project, which is being implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department.

According to the upazila engineer's office, the road is being built under the Important Upazila and Union Road Widening and Strengthening project in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Tenders were invited for the construction of a 2.5km RCC road from Kachiabunia (Khalgora) Launch Ghat Bazar to Baherchar Bazar (Uttar Kajir Hawla Mohsenia Madrasa). Rajshahi-based Barendra Construction Limited secured the contract for Tk 5.24 crore and began work late last year.

During an on-site visit, this correspondent found casting underway with muddy sand and stones being fed directly into the mixing machine, alongside hardened cement.

Contractor's representative Ruhul Amin, who rushed to the site upon noticing media presence, admitted that some cement had clotted but claimed it was due to rain.

The work is being implemented by Jewel Molla, a resident of Dashmina upazila, instead of the original contracting firm.

Jewel admitted there were some difficulties, saying, "The stones were stored in a place that was flooded by tidal water. We had no alternative space, which caused the problem. But we are following the design, and no irregularities are taking place."

Rangabali Upazila Engineer Md Habibur Rahman said the road project began last year and, so far, 45 percent progress had been made, including 600 metres of RCC casting.

"The contractor was supposed to inform us before starting the casting, but on Monday they began without notice. Upon hearing this, I sent my representative to stop the work. We will test the materials before allowing them to continue," he said.

Rangabali UNO Rajib Das Purkayastha said, "I have already instructed the upazila engineer to speak with the contractor and warn them. No irregularities in development works will be tolerated."



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Eden Bhaban PWD Division  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.  
**Invitation for Tenders (IFT)**

Memo No: 1542Date: 23/09/2025

1	Name of Procuring Entity	Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Physical Services
3	Invitation Reference No. with Date	Eden/ACE/2738/2025-26/Outsourcing/PSN-02, Date-25/08/2025
4	Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
5	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/ National Competitive Tendering (NCT)
6	Tender/Package No.	Eden/ACE/2738/2025-26/Outsourcing/PSN-02
7	Tender/Package Name	Supplying of 123 nos. manpower (forash jamadar, forash, cleaner jamadar, cleaner, plumber helper, carpenter, carpenter helper, glass technician, glass technician helper, pump operator, gardener, assistant gardener, supervisor) for newly constructed 20-storied office building, 6-storied utility building and 6-storied mosque at Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
8	Tender Publication Date	23/09/2025
9	Tender Last Selling Date	21/10/2025, during Office Hours
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	22/10/2025, 12:00 PM
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	22/10/2025, 03:00 PM
12	Name & Address of the office (s)	
	Selling of Tender Documents (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
	Selling of Tender Documents (Others)	1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-3, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-4, 15 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
13	Receiving of Tender Documents	1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. 3. Office of the Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 36 Captain Mansoor Ali soroni, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-3, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. 5. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-4, 15 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
14	Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
15	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting	Start Date: 24/09/2025, 09:00 AM End Date: 13/10/2025, 05:00 PM
16	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years. (b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-consultant service of at least ONE contract of manpower supply through out-sourcing in any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization, with a contract value of at least BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs under a single contract, successfully completed within 01 (One) year over a period of last 05 (Five) years shall be required. (c) The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of BDT 100.00 (One Hundred) Lacs over the last 05 (Five) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be BDT 95.00 (Ninety-Five) Lacs only. (e) Personnel proposed by Tenderer must have relevant educational qualification and experience as mentioned in Clause ITT 40.7 of Section 2: Tender Data Sheet.
17	Price of Tender Document (non-refundable)	BDT 4000 (Four Thousand) only.
18	Tender Security (refundable)	Tenderer must submit Bank draft/ Pay Order of BDT 08 (Eight) Lacs from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favor of Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka with the tender documents.
19	Completion time	12 (Twelve) months After Satisfactory completion of Contract for 12 (Twelve) months, it will be Extended for another 12 (Twelve) month.
20	Special Instructions	(a) Tenderer must submit up-to-date Trade License, along with the tender. (b) Tenderer must submit up-to-date VAT Certificate and Income Tax Clearance Certificate as per prescribed format mentioned in the tender schedule along with the tender, otherwise tenderer will be non-responsive. (c) The Tenderer must submit up-to-date License/Registration Document as manpower provider firm issued by Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in compliance of Section 3Ka (1) of Bangladesh Labor Act 2006. Failure in submitting such document shall lead to the non-responsiveness of the concerned bidder/tenderer. (d) When quoting the price of each item in the tender, up to two digits after decimal are acceptable. (e) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR-2008. (f) Tenderer must follow the following guidelines- Outsourcing Service Acceptance Policy 2025: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Memo No-07.00.0000.000.153.99.0001.21-178, Date: 15/04/2025. (g) Tenderer must submit original tender documents and one set photocopy in separate sealed envelope (mentioning 'Original' and 'Photocopy' respectively) with clearly written name and address of the Company on the top. (h) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard. (i) All sorts of Security and Safety measures shall be carried out by the firm during execution of the work. (j) All other Terms and Conditions mentioned in the Tender Schedule must be followed by the tenderer, otherwise tenderer will be non-responsive.

Executive Engineer  
Eden Bhaban PWD Division,  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

GD-2066

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামঃ ৯ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন।  
২। কাজের বিবরণঃ ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে অপারেশন কন্টিনজেন্সী খাতে আভিযানিক ও নিরাপত্তা সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকরণ বাবদ প্রাপ্ত ০২টি বরাদ্দের মাধ্যমে এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ ব্যয় নির্বাহ বাবদ।  
৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখঃ ২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫।  
৪। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখঃ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫।  
৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখঃ ০৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৫।  
৬। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ভিজিট করুনঃ [www.army.mil.bd](http://www.army.mil.bd)

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৫৯৪

অধিনায়ক  
৯ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন  
সভার সেনানিবাস

মিফ-২০১৪

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Housing & Public Works  
Urban Development Directorate (UDD)  
82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Website: [www.udd.gov.bd](http://www.udd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 25.45.0000.002.07.026.1722/09/2025

**e-GP Tender Notice**

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

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date and time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date and time
01	Suppling & Installation of Multimedia Smart Board With Necessary goods for Urban Development Directorate.	1151257	05-Oct-2025 16:15	05-Oct-2025 16:40

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any branch of the registered bank.  
4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Maqsud Hashem  
Deputy Director, R&C (Addl Charge)  
Urban Development Directorate (UDD)

GD-2079



LAW OPINION

# Bangladesh's ship recycling industry at a crossroads

SHAIKH MD MUJAHID UL ISLAM

Bangladesh has missed the critical deadline to implement the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC 2009), which it ratified in June 2023, but enforcement is still pending as of June 2025. A recent article in Maritime Executive suggested that Bangladesh and Pakistan might delay enforcing the Convention by citing their socio-economic challenges and referencing international agreements like the 1992 Rio Declaration. However, experts stress that once a country ratifies an international treaty such as the Hong Kong Convention, it is legally bound under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties to honor its commitments in good faith. The often non-binding language of declarations such as the Rio Declaration cannot override the binding force of ratified conventions.

The ship recycling industry (SRI) in Bangladesh is currently regulated by the Ship Breaking and Recycling Rules 2011 and the Ship Recycling Act 2018, under which the Ship Recycling Board (SRB) holds official authority. Unfortunately, the Board faces a severe manpower shortage, preventing it from effectively managing key responsibilities such as issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and permits for dismantling ships. In practice, these daily administrative tasks are handled by the Ship Recycling Wing of the Ministry of Industry. The country is in a transitional phase, transferring oversight from the Ministry's Wing to the SRB. This bureaucratic shift raises

concerns about whether Bangladesh has enough administrative capacity to monitor and enforce regulations as the HKC 2009's implementation deadline approaches. Since shipbreaking yards make significant capital investments in acquiring ships for dismantling, delays in permits could result in substantial financial losses due to accruing bank interest, threatening the sector's economic viability.

For the compulsion of the HKC 2009, after June 2025, no ship can be legally permitted for dismantling in any yard in Bangladesh that has not attained "green yard" status in compliance with HKC standards. Currently, only seven yards—including PHP, SN Corporation, Kabir Recycling Yard, Arab Recycling Yard, and KR Recycling Yard—have received green certification, while fifteen others are in the process of upgrading. Most operational yards remain non-compliant but together employ thousands of workers directly and support millions more in related industries such as steel manufacturing and furniture production.

Restricting ship imports to compliant yards could jeopardise these workers' livelihoods and threaten the stability of related sectors. Moreover, without enough scrap metal from ship recycling, Bangladesh's steel industry would need to import raw materials, adding pressure on the country's foreign currency reserves. The global ship recycling industry's shift from Europe to Asia was driven by the region's more relaxed regulations and environmental standards. If Bangladesh unilaterally enforces strict rules to meet the Hong

Kong Convention, competing countries like Pakistan, India, and the Philippines could seize the opportunity to attract business, reducing Bangladesh's market share. Another urgent issue is hazardous waste disposal. The Bangladeshi government, with support from Japan, is developing a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) to safely manage hazardous materials from ship recycling. However, delays in land acquisition have hindered progress, making it unlikely the TSDF will be operational by the 2025 enforcement deadline. As a result, safe hazardous waste disposal remains uncertain.

Since its inception, the Hong Kong Convention has faced criticism for disproportionately placing the burden on ship recycling states rather than ship-owning nations. Recycling countries are required to establish safe recycling facilities, maintain TSDFs, prepare Ship Recycling Plans (SRPs), and implement strict occupational health and safety standards. Meanwhile, ship owners often shift responsibility to lesser-known flag states or cash buyers by changing a ship's flag before dismantling, avoiding accountability for the ship's end-of-life impacts despite profits during its operational life. This imbalance raises a key question: is Bangladesh truly prepared to enforce the Hong Kong Convention by the 2025 deadline? Failure by Bangladesh and other major recyclers to comply whether due to unreadiness or socioeconomic reasons would violate international law.

Ratification shows Bangladesh's commitment to uphold treaty obligations in

good faith, and it is essential to distinguish between legally binding conventions and soft international declarations. More importantly, this issue goes beyond legal obligations; it concerns protecting workers' health and safety, as well as safeguarding marine and terrestrial environments. Since the international community cannot reliably monitor occupational safety or environmental compliance at ship recycling yards, national enforcement is critical. Proper implementation of the Convention would improve working conditions for vulnerable laborers and reduce environmental pollution.

A coordinated and practical approach is needed to address these challenges. First, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) should work with recycling countries to develop tailored mandatory standards within the Hong Kong Convention framework, considering their socio-economic realities. Many yards cannot afford the costs imposed by classification societies like ClassNK, GMS, or Bureau Veritas, which certify facilities based on high MEPC guidelines. Adjusting these standards to be both feasible and effective is essential.

Second, the IMO should strengthen inspection and monitoring efforts in major recycling countries to accurately assess occupational safety and environmental compliance. Transparent,

comprehensive evaluations would help the international community recognise progress and identify gaps, encouraging accountability. Third, technical support should be combined with financial aid. Bangladesh benefits from IMO projects like SENSEREC Phase 3, which offers safety training and legislative assistance. However, financial support is also needed to supply safety gear for workers and modern equipment for ship dismantling.

The IMO could establish a fund supported by stakeholders—including ship owners, cash buyers, and industry associations—to ensure the proper disposal of ships in line with international standards. Ultimately, the debate over enforcement delays is unproductive. Bangladesh's ratification signals a commitment to international law, but realising these commitments requires strong administrative capacity, financial investment, and international cooperation. Proper and timely implementation of the Hong Kong Convention will save lives, protect the environment, and help Bangladesh stay competitive in the global ship recycling industry.

The writer is a PhD research Fellow on Ship Recycling, University of Malaya, Malaysia.



WOMAN AND LAW

## The plight of domestic violence

**The death of a young woman, Fahmida Tahsin Keya (24), a mother of four children, sparked a spate of debate among the social media netizens. The parents of the deceased alleged that she was strangled to death by her husband, Sifat Ali (30). Her parents also spoke to the media against Sifat's abusive treatment towards Keya throughout their marriage. This tragic death not only narrates the old tale of domestic violence against women afresh, but also unravels the plight in general of Bangladeshi women.**

**Without recognising the key psychological and socio-religious factors contributing to violence against women, and developing evidence-based strategies to combat them, ensuring women's safety is simply not possible.**

TASNIM NUSRAT REZA

The continuing paradigm of domestic violence and other social obstacles taught the women to be empowered, especially financially. Policies were passed for women's education; seats were reserved in many professional sectors and even in parliament. While women's empowerment became another project for every other political party to attract votes in the election, very little was done to successfully put an end to domestic violence.

The untimely death of Keya, along with its social media feedback, only sets an axiomatic example of how it was only the responsibility of Keya and her parents to save her from the inexplicable inhuman abuse of her husband. In the landscape of patriarchal psychological-control and cultural dogma, the women and their families are constantly blamed—either for their own inability, or for their parents' failure to support them

through this abuse. Very little focus is placed on addressing the deeply rooted patriarchy that historically upholds men's domination over women.

Many scholars and theorists, over time, identified patriarchy as a social construct where 'men dominate, exploit and oppress' women. Besides, domestic violence has always been regarded as a consequence of patriarchy, and a systematic attempt to maintain male dominance both in the home and the society. Hence, without understanding the layers of longstanding patriarchy and its intertwined connection with domestic violence, attempting to end domestic violence only by means of empowering women will always remain fruitless.

During the last few decades, significant efforts have been made by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in its attempts to promote women's rights and tackle domestic violence. Along with ratifying the International Covenant on

Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to promote women's rights, the GoB also enacted the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 to prevent domestic violence and protect women and children.

A victim of domestic violence can apply herself, through an enforcement officer, service providing, or any other person, for remedy in any Court under whose jurisdiction the applicant-victim or respondent resides or the place where the domestic violence occurred or where the victim temporarily resides. Upon such application, the Court may issue a protection order, a residence order, a compensation or a custody order. Unfortunately, many women do not even know about that the law exists, nor do they want to come forward to take action against their own family in apprehension of losing reputation, social stigma, worries regarding children

and financial dependency.

The '2024 Violence Against Women Survey' conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Bangladesh revealed that intimate partner (current or former husbands) violence remains high at 70%. In comparison, 64% of victims informed nobody about their experiences as they thought such violence was just another routine, faced by every other woman. Even many financially empowered women choose to stay in an abusive household merely because they consider such violence to be normal; all they need is just to 'adjust' to the abusive partner. In a society where such violence is regarded as a private matter and where husbands are given 'authority' to 'discipline' their wives, sharing it in public will only bring shame to the wives. Even some religious preachers endorse such violence, claiming this is permitted. Resultantly,

the enactment of the said Act 2010 could hardly bring any meaningful change in women's fate. Starting from emotional abuse to physical violence to strangulation to death, women continue to remain just as vulnerable as before, despite all the rhetoric around women's empowerment.

In this backdrop, it is imperative to understand that the problem with domestic violence is a socio-psychological problem, and only legal remedies in the court or saving seats in the professional sectors will not suffice to prevent it. Without flagging the key psychological and socio-religious factors contributing to violence against women, and developing evidence-based strategies to combat them, ensuring women's safety is not possible.

**The writer is lecturer at the School of Law, BRAC University.**







- India lead Bangladesh by a landslide in head-to-head T20I records, leading by 16-1 in 17 overall meetings.
- At the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, India's record stands at eight wins and four defeats from 12 matches. Their four losses came when batting first -- twice in the 2021 T20 World Cup (to Pakistan and New Zealand) and twice in the 2022 Asia Cup.
- Across those defeats, India averaged 154 in the first innings, with scores of 151-7, 110-7, 181-7, and 173-8.
- Bangladesh, meanwhile, have three wins and two losses at the venue. Their victories include a 2-0 series win over the UAE in 2022 and a win against Sri Lanka in this edition of the Asia Cup.
- Batting first in four of those matches, Bangladesh managed totals of 73 all out (vs Australia), 183-7 (vs Sri Lanka), 158-5 (vs UAE), and 169-3 (vs UAE). Their lone successful chase at the venue came against Sri Lanka when they overhauled 168-7.



## Big names missing as BCB draft voters' list revealed

SPORTS REPORTER

The much-anticipated draft voters' list of the upcoming board of directors' election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was revealed on Tuesday after a day's delay, without some of the top and incumbent directors' names.

Among the current board directors, Mahbubul Anam, Akram Khan, Kazi Inam Ahmed, Saiful Alam Swapon Chowdhury and Iftekhar Rahman Mithu were not part of the 171 member councillors' list. Only 14 percent from this draft were part of the previous election's final voters' list in 2021.

BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul has been nominated as the councillor from the Dhaka Divisional Sports Association, while Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was nominated from Dhaka District Sports Association. Former national captain and presidential aspirant Tamim Iqbal was nominated councillor from Old DOHS Sports Club, while former BCB president Faruque Ahmed received councillorship from Rangers Cricket Academy.

Other notable councillors include Fahim Sinha from Surjo Torun Club, Mohammad Salahuddin Chowdhury from Kakrail Boys' Club and Manzur Alam from Regular Sporting Club.

According to the original schedule, the draft voters' list was expected to be revealed on Monday, but the BCB mentioned they had to send the list to the Election Commission a day later due to some court issues.

On Monday, the Supreme Court chamber judge stayed, until September 28, a High Court order that had suspended the effectiveness of a letter from the BCB president, directing district and divisional sports associations to nominate councillors from ad-hoc committees for the upcoming board election. It was the chamber judge's ruling that saw the election process continue.

Although the delay in announcing the draft voters' list didn't see any change in the election date, which is scheduled on October 6, it has deferred a few earlier schedules by a day. The dates include: taking objection to the draft voters' list, hearing on the objection to it, announcing the final voters' list, and the nomination distribution.

The draft voters' list included 65 of 71 councillors from category 1 ((Regional Sports Associations), with councillors' nominations from Narsingdi, Sylhet, Naogaon, Bogura, Pabna, and Sirajganj missing.

"We have not received the councillor nomination from those places [District Sports Associations]," Advocate Mohammad Hossain, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of BCB polls 2025, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, in category 2 (Dhaka Metropolis Clubs), out of 76 clubs, 61 clubs' councillorships were accepted by the election commission and the remaining 15 clubs' councillorships were denied due to several irregularities, under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

"We haven't included them in the draft voters' list for now. They will come to us today [Tuesday] and try to convince us with evidence why they should be allowed to vote. If they can convince us tomorrow [Wednesday], then there will be a hearing after which they will be included in the final voters' list," said CEC Hossain.

BCB director Iftekhar's fate depends on the final verdict scheduled today, as he was expected to be a councillor from Vikings Cricket Academy -- one of the 15 clubs -- who couldn't make it to the draft voters' list.

Interestingly, Md Sibgat Ullah, who is working as one of the three Election Commissioners in the BCB polls, received councillorship from Bangladesh Police Cricket Club. CEC Hossain, however, dismissed any conflict of interest, stating he would not be running in the election.

Meanwhile, category C had 45 councillors, including five former skippers, 10 former national and first-class cricketers, five National Sports Council (NSC) nominated councillors and councillors from universities, educational boards and services. Notable names from this category are: Minhajul Abedin, Khaled Mashud, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, Mohammad Ashraf, Habibul Bashar, among others.

## 'Grounded' Tigers' biggest test yet

EKUSH TAPADER from Dubai

After Bangladesh's last-over win against Sri Lanka on Saturday, head coach Phil Simmons cut a calm, almost detached figure. He looked as if nothing remarkable had taken place.

"I try to control my emotions... We're not here to win one game against Sri Lanka; we're here to win the tournament," Simmons explained.

That has been Bangladesh's mantra since before the first ball of this Asia Cup. Qualification for the Super Four is no finish line.

Simmons insists this is not bravado but belief. "Until we get to the stage where we are out or have won the tournament, I have to keep everyone grounded," he said, promising to show emotion only once the mission is complete.

To reach the final, Bangladesh must first negotiate India and Pakistan. One win from those fixtures could be enough to open the door to the showpiece on September 28. India arrive first, and almost everyone agrees they are the strongest side. Simmons, though, bristles at the suggestion that "strong" means "unbeatable."

The former West Indies all-rounder pointed out that results depend on the day. "It's not about what India have done before; it's about what happens in that three-and-a-half-hour period.

"We will try to play as best as we can and hope to force mistakes in India's armoury. That's the way we win games."

The conviction to upset India has been carefully built within the squad. Players

have discussed where opportunities might arise and how to seize them. If they push themselves to the limit, Simmons believes the improbable can quickly turn possible.

On Monday, the Tigers trained at the ICC Academy ground in Dubai, knowing it could be their last full session of the competition. The atmosphere swung between light-hearted and intense. Warm-up games brought laughter, then came a six-hitting drill that sent balls soaring into adjoining nets and grounds. Journalists ducked nervously, support staff chased down lost balls, and even team physio Dr Debashish Chowdhury joined in the retrieval.

To conserve energy in the UAE heat, players rested the previous day. Captain Litton Das had no choice; a twinge in his

lower back forced him out of nets. A team source later confirmed it was not serious and required only rest.

Quite refreshingly this time, Bangladesh have abandoned the idea of a fixed winning combination. Instead, selection has varied with oppositions and conditions. Leg spinner Rishad Hossain, for instance, dazzled against Afghanistan but made way in their Sri Lanka affair where fast bowler Shoriful Islam was drafted in to test their left-handers. A similar approach is expected against India, with pacer Tanzim Sakib expected to return.

For Simmons, "balance" -- "the most important" aspect of the team -- is more than just a buzzword; it is the lever that can tilt fortune towards the Tigers, perhaps carrying them all the way.

## Butler interested in guiding U-17s in Asian mission

SPORTS REPORTER

After successfully guiding Bangladesh's senior women's team and under-20 women's team to their maiden Asian Cup berths, head coach Peter Butler is willing to take on the challenge of leading the under-17 team in next month's AFC Women's U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The British coach returned to Bangladesh last Thursday following a month-long vacation in UK and started training women's teams on Sunday even though he is none too pleased with the training facilities, especially ground conditions, as he feels "BFF standards are greatly different to mine."

Following two successful Asian Cup berths and two triumphant SAFF campaigns, Butler had decided to leave the SAFF U-17 campaign in the hands of his understudy, Mahbubur Rahman Litu. The team, however, failed to emulate their seniors in the South Asian competition, finishing second to India.

Now back in Bangladesh, Butler says he is impressed with the talent within

games from the UK. (There were) many reasons (for the failure -- poor planning and execution in selection. Irrespective (of the results), these girls have an exciting future ahead of them if handled with tender loving care."

Currently, Butler is overseeing three groups simultaneously, focusing mostly on the fitness. With nine senior team players playing in the Bhutan National Women's League, he is training the combined batch of under-20s and seniors -- 31 players currently, and also overseeing the under-17s, which features 27 players. The senior team is scheduled to play two FIFA friendlies on October 25 and 28 in Thailand and might also play in a proposed three-nation tournament at home in November.

With these assignments on the horizon, the combined team will likely move to the Korean EPZ in Chattogram for a residential training camp soon, as facilities in Dhaka -- National Stadium and Bashundhara Kings Arena -- are off-limits.

Butler knows he will not have much



## Dembele, Bonmati rule Ballon d'Or night

Paris Saint-Germain's Ousmane Dembele won the Ballon d'Or on Monday after firing the club to their first Champions League title, edging Barcelona starlet Lamine Yamal. Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the

women's award for the third straight year. PSG also dominated, being named Team of the Season, with Luis Enrique voted Coach of the Year and Gianluigi Donnarumma taking the Yashin Trophy.

## Boateng hattrick propels MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant hattrick from Samuel Boateng helped Mohammedan come from behind twice to beat Bangladesh Police 3-2 in a Group B encounter on the opening day of the Federation Cup at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

It was a much-needed win for Mohammedan, especially after their 4-1 defeat to Bashundhara Kings in the Challenge Cup last Friday.

Police fielded all six of their foreign recruits, including three SAARC players, and they looked threatening from the start, taking the lead in the ninth minute.

But it was Mohammedan's Ghanaian striker Boateng -- signed from Rahmatganj this season -- who stole the show. He first equalised before adding two more to firmly announce himself as the ideal replacement for Souleymane Diabate, who recently left the club.

"Boateng is a genuine striker who can score from opportunities. Today, he converted three out of four chances. I believe he will score more as the tournament progresses," Mohammedan



coach Alfaz Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"Boateng and Diabate are different types of players, but both have scoring ability. Boateng is a young and promising forward, and that's why we brought him in to replace Diabate," Alfaz added.

Meanwhile, at the Bashundhara Kings Arena, defending champions Bashundhara Kings surrendered a lead to draw 1-1 with Fortis FC. Defender Tariq Kazi's own goal cancelled out the 48th-minute strike from Brazilian Dorielton Gomes.



Bangladesh women's teams' head coach Peter Butler in deep contemplation as the under-17 players go through a fitness drill at the newly-installed synthetic turf at the Bangladesh Football Federation premises on Tuesday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

the under-17 team but believes they lack proper guidance and planning. "I'm studying the under-17s. They have many good players, regardless of their poor showing at SAFF," Butler told The Daily Star on Monday.

Although Bangladesh beat eventual champions India in the last match of the double round-robin competition, they had already lost to India in the first meeting and were held by Bhutan, which ultimately cost them a shot at the title. However, players like Sauravi Akanda Prity, Alpi Akter, Mamoni Chakma, and Purnima Marma impressed everyone.

Butler believes there were deficiencies in planning and execution. "I watched the

time to commit to the under-17s, but given the frustrating SAFF experience and the opportunity to stake a claim among the top teams at every level, the British coach is not ruling out the possibility of guiding the team in the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in Jordan from 13 to 17 October. The competition will involve Chinese Taipei, the hosts, and Bangladesh in Group H. Only the group winners will progress to the final round in China next year.

"I would love to take the U-17s, but it depends on the Thailand games too," Butler said. "Possibly I can travel. I have already spoken to the chairperson. It's her decision."





## ‘Kneel and fire below the waist’

Ex-DMP chief ordered during July uprising, says witness at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the July uprising, then Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman instructed police to open fire with “maximum force” to bring the situation under control, a prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) yesterday.

Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Kamrul Hasan, who was serving as a wireless operator at the DMP’s Crime Command and Control Centre at that time, testified that he relayed the commissioner’s message to all DMP units.

The directive, issued via a wireless message on July 17, 2024, was played in the tribunal yesterday.

Kamrul was testifying in a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her top aides.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A Palestinian father mourns as he holds the body of his 3-year-old son, killed in Israeli strikes on houses at Shati (Beach) refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Yunus seeks WTO support for smooth LDC graduation

Says country ready for Feb polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the World Trade Organization (WTO) to provide full support to ensure a smooth transition for Bangladesh as it prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

He raised the issue during a meeting with WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

He requested the director-general’s involvement in the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to achieve a meaningful outcome that would assist countries on the path to LDC graduation, ensuring they are not adversely affected by the potential withdrawal of trade concessions or preferential trade access in developed markets.

The director-general assured him of her full support.

Bangladesh is expected to graduate from LDC status in late 2026.

Their discussion also touched on long-anticipated WTO reforms and current global trade challenges, amid growing concerns over protectionism and a possible retreat from globalisation.



SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## ‘Recognition won’t stop the killings’

As world celebrates symbolic moves, exhausted Gazans seek an end to war

AGENCIES

Israel’s military pushed deeper towards the most populated areas of Gaza City yesterday, a stark reminder for Gazans that Western powers’ recognition of a Palestinian state does not mean an end to the horrors of war as tanks approach.

Israel pressed on with its Gaza offensive a day after dozens of world leaders gathered at the United Nations to embrace a Palestinian state. Israel says the moves will undermine the prospects of a peaceful ending to the war in the Palestinian enclave, much of it devastated by Israeli airstrikes and a humanitarian crisis, including widespread hunger.

Local health authorities said Israeli fire on Tuesday killed at least 29 people across the Gaza Strip, 18 of them in Gaza City, and the Gaza health ministry said hospitals in the enclave would run out of fuel in the coming few days, endangering lives.

“We are not steadfast, we are helpless. We don’t have money to leave to the south and we don’t have guarantees that if we do, the Israelis will not bomb us, so we are staying,” Huda, a mother of two from Gaza City, told Reuters via a chat app.

“The children tremble all the time from the sounds of explosions, we do too, they are wiping out a city that is thousands of years old, and the world is celebrating a symbolic recognition of a state that won’t stop our killing.”

On Monday, France, Luxembourg, Malta, Belgium and Monaco joined the more than three-quarters of the 193 UN members who already recognise a Palestinian state. On Sunday, Britain, Australia and Canada recognised a Palestinian state.

- Trump to meet officials from Muslim-majority countries
- At least 29 people killed across Gaza as explosions destroy homes, roads
- Luxembourg, Malta, Belgium and Monaco recognise Palestinian state

## Trump mocks UN at UN

Accuses the world body of ‘funding an assault’ on West through migrations, calls on countries to close borders, expel foreigners

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump relentlessly mocked the United Nations yesterday in his first address since his White House comeback, blasting it for failing to bring peace and claiming the world body encourages illegal migration.

In his return to the UN General Assembly podium, Trump accused the UN of fostering an “assault” through migration on Western countries that he said were “going to hell.”

He likewise used the major forum to denounce efforts to reduce global warming, calling climate change concerns “the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world.”

“What is the purpose of the United Nations?” asked Trump.

“The UN has such tremendous potential, but it’s not even coming close to living up to that potential,” he said. “All they seem to do is write a really strongly-worded letter and then never follow that letter up. It’s empty words, and empty words don’t solve war. The only thing that solves war and wars is action.”

Speaking on the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Trump called for countries to close their borders and expel foreigners, accused the UN of leading a “globalist migration agenda.”

“It’s time to end the failed experiment of open borders,” he said to world leaders and visiting delegations



- Trump says UN failing to bring peace
- Says Palestinian state recognitions ‘reward’ for ‘horrible atrocities’
- Calls climate change ‘greatest con job ever’
- Demands Europe stop buying Russian oil, slams India and China

in the grand general assembly hall in midtown Manhattan. “You have to end it now... Your countries are going to hell.”

Directly addressing European leaders, he accused them of “destroying your heritage” and of

allowing international migration because of misplaced “political correctness”.

“Your countries are being ruined,” he also said, pointing to UN programs that he said provide food, shelter and debit cards to fund migrant journeys to the United States. “The UN is funding an assault on Western countries”.

The 79-year-old even complained about a broken escalator and teleprompter at the New York headquarters of the UN, which he has repeatedly targeted during both of his presidential terms.

“This is these are the two things I got from the United Nations, a bad escalator and a bad teleprompter,” he said.

Touting what he said were his efforts to end seven wars, Trump turned to two where his outreach has produced no results -- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Israel’s war in Gaza.

He called recognition by a slate of Washington’s allies of a Palestinian state a “reward” to Hamas for “horrible atrocities” and urged the group to release hostages to reach peace.

Trump lashed out at European allies, as well as China and India, for failing to stop oil purchases from Russia, while remaining relatively restrained on Moscow even as he said Washington was ready to impose unspecified sanctions.

## NCP will not get Shapla symbol: EC

Sarjis slams decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced that the National Citizen Party will not be allocated the “Shapla” (water lily) symbol, as it is not included in the EC’s reserved symbol list.

Hours after the announcement, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (northern region) of NCP, protested the decision and said, “We too shall see how the election is held and who dreams of coming to power.”

In a Facebook post, Sarjis said the EC secretary’s claim that “Shapla” is not on the list of electoral symbols indicated that there was “no legal barrier” to allocating the symbol to the NCP.

Earlier, speaking to reporters at the commission’s headquarters, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said NCP must now submit an alternative proposal, and a final decision would be made through mutual agreement.

The EC also announced that it plans to begin dialogues with various election stakeholders, including civil society, political parties, women representatives, and election experts from September 28.

“The first phase of the discussions will begin with academics from September 28. The aim is to understand their views on the upcoming national elections,” he said.



## Iconic umpire Bird dies at 92

AFP, London

Former Test umpire Harold “Dickie” Bird, one of the most famous officials of his era, has died at the age of 92, Yorkshire County Cricket Club announced on Tuesday.

Bird stood in 66 Tests between 1973 and 1996 as well as 69 men’s ODI, including three World Cup finals.

His home county, Yorkshire, issued a statement saying Bird, “one of cricket’s most beloved figures”, had died peacefully at home.

“Dickie Bird enjoyed an illustrious career as an international umpire, writing his name into history as the most famous and popular official in the game’s history,” the club said.

Yorkshire said he had become a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

## A lie that cost a life

How false info from Tongi depot owner led to firefighter’s death

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and KEERO ADHMAN AHMED

A routine firefighting mission in Tongi’s Sahara Market took a deadly turn, all because of false information.

What began as a seemingly manageable blaze at a chemical warehouse on Monday ended in tragedy, with a devastating explosion that killed firefighter Shamim Ahmed, 40, and left two others fighting for their lives with critical injuries.

Minutes after receiving information about the fire, Station Officer Shahin Alam of Tongi Fire Station rushed to the scene with 15 firefighters around 3:00pm to handle the situation.

Following protocol, Shahin asked about the contents of the warehouse to determine the best approach for tackling the fire.

One of the warehouse owners, Solaiman, assured the firefighters that there was nothing hazardous inside, said police and firefighters.

Being assured that there were no highly flammable or explosive materials, the firefighters moved closer to assess the situation, ready to tackle the blaze with standard firefighting methods.

Then, without warning, disaster struck.



Shamim Ahmed

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Mohammad Nawaz and Hussain Talat embrace after guiding Pakistan to a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Chasing 134, Pakistan briefly stumbled, but Nawaz (38\*) and Talat (32\*) steadied the innings to secure victory with 12 balls to spare. The much-needed win followed a six-wicket loss to India last Sunday, while Sri Lanka now face the risk of elimination after two consecutive defeats.

PHOTO: AFP