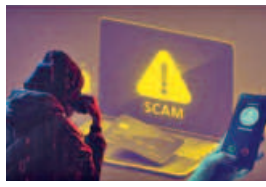




The interim government's troubling continuity
P12



Spot the scam: How fraudsters prey on fear, trust, and greed
P13



Gandhi's search for harmony in Noakhali
P14



Mohammedan to release players 72 hours before the Hong Kong tie
P15

PROTEST OVER RAPE 3 shot dead in Khagrachhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people were shot dead and four others injured yesterday afternoon in Khagrachhari's Guimara upazila during protests by indigenous people over the rape of a schoolgirl.

Ahsan Habib Palash, deputy inspector general of police for the Chattogram range, confirmed the incident to The Daily Star around 6:25pm.

"The bodies are now at Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital morgue, and post-mortems are scheduled for tomorrow," he added.

The DIG, however, could not say whose bullets caused the deaths. The identities of the deceased were also not known at the time of filing this report at 11:30pm.

Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Mohammed Saber said three people were brought dead to the Sadar hospital along with four injured.

In the aftermath of the shooting, many shops -- mostly owned by indigenous people -- were looted and set on fire at Ramesu Bazar in Guimara. Nearby houses were also vandalised.

Videos and photos of the fire went viral on social media.

According to eyewitnesses, the Jumma Chhatra Janata, a platform of indigenous community, which has been protesting the rape of a class VIII student on Tuesday, was enforcing a blockade on the Guimara road yesterday morning.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Shops, houses, and vehicles burning in Ramesu Bazar of Khagrachhari's Guimara upazila yesterday afternoon.

WORLD HEART DAY Drug shortage risks hypertension control effort

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government's Bangladesh Hypertension Control Initiative (BHCI), which has significantly improved hypertension control nationwide, is now facing a major setback as medicine supply to patients remains disrupted due to a funding crisis.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in its Global Report on Hypertension 2025 published last week, praised the initiative for "demonstrating a strong and scalable impact in improving hypertension management and control".

Under the programme, registered patients with hypertension and diabetes receive free check-ups and medicines at Upazila Health Complexes (UHCS) and select district hospitals. Between October 2018 and June 2024, 56 percent of 5.17 lakh treated patients achieved blood pressure control at implementing facilities, the WHO report noted.

But medicine supply was disrupted after the expiry of the Fourth Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP) in June 2024. The programme previously funded the supply

- Tension runs high in Guimara upazila
- Jumma Chhatra Janata calls indefinite road blockade in 3 hilly dists from today
- ISPR accuses UPDF of shooting at army personnel, locals at Ramesu

Around 11:30am, members of the security forces arrived and asked the protesters why the blockade was continuing despite the arrest of a suspect in the rape case. Soon an altercation ensued, and moments later, heavy gunfire rang out.

Mongsazai Marma and Kongjari Marma, who were present at the scene, said they were peacefully demonstrating in front of a food warehouse when law enforcers intervened. At one point, the forces opened fire on the protesters.

Then around 1:00pm, some 25 people, many wearing masks, went into a rampage at Ramesu Bazar. They looted and torched shops and houses. They also set fire to motorcycles parked in the area, they added.

Sanaw Marma, a former Chittagong University student, said the torched houses and shops belonged to the Marma community. Some shopkeepers were attacked with machetes.

Late at night, Inter-Services Public Relations, the media and public relations wing of the Armed Forces, issued a statement, accusing United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and its affiliates of inciting violence in Khagrachhari.

It said UPDF activists blocked roads at Ramesu Bazar yesterday morning, defying section 144, and engaged in chase and counter-chase with Bangalees.

When troops tried to intervene, the armed groups attacked them with brickbats, sticks, slingshots, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'We need strict enforcement of electoral laws'

Civil society members tell EC in pre-polls dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission must strictly enforce electoral laws to ensure that the upcoming general elections are free, fair and credible, said civil society representatives yesterday.

"The upcoming election as a transitional moment for Bangladesh as it will reveal the country's future trajectory -- you must carry out your responsibilities strongly despite the challenges," said Humayun Kabir, a former ambassador, on the opening day of the EC's pre-election dialogue series.

Some parties are demanding specific symbols and threatening not to participate otherwise, said Muhammad Yahya Akhtar, vice-chancellor of Chittagong University. "This is not right. The EC is an entirely independent institution. This is its jurisdiction. It should not be pressured."

Special care must be taken when managing voting through postal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

CIVIL SERVICE Govt mulls hiring from outside

Move sparks unease among bureaucrats

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is moving to introduce lateral entry, or direct appointment, at the level of joint secretary to speed up the administration's work.

A committee of three secretaries and an additional secretary has held several meetings on the matter and is now working to finalise its report.

The move, which came following the Public Administration Reform Commission's recommendation, has sparked resentment among young civil service officers, though no one is willing to speak on the record.

Earlier, the commission, in its report on February 5, suggested introducing lateral entry at the level of deputy secretary and above. The report did not specify what percentage of posts would be filled through such appointments.

Lateral entry means bringing in professionals from outside the traditional civil service cadre -- often from the private sector, academia, armed forces, state-

owned enterprises, or other specialised fields -- directly, instead of them rising through the regular recruitment and promotion process of the civil service.

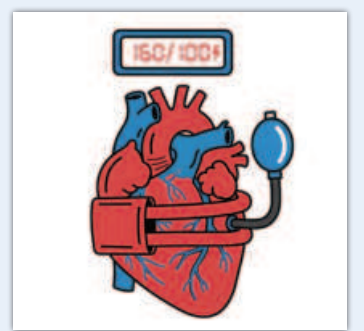
The committee working on the matter is headed by ASM Saleh Ahmed, senior secretary of the land ministry, and includes the finance secretary, local government secretary, and an additional secretary from the public administration ministry.

Saleh Ahmed told The Daily Star, "We have held multiple meetings, and the report is now being drafted. It will be submitted soon."

Currently, there are over 1,000 joint secretaries in the administration. For example, if the government approves lateral entry for 10 percent, more than 100 officers could be recruited.

Sources familiar with the committee's work told The Daily Star that it studied lateral appointment practices in Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka, but found that such appointments were generally not well received there.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



- BHCI helped 56% of 5.17 lakh patients control blood pressure
- Medicine supply broke down after funding ended in June 2024
- Tk 100cr allocated but projects still awaiting approval

of medicines and equipment to Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) corners in hospitals.

Health officials warn that the disruption is increasing patients' out-of-pocket costs, raising the risk of life-threatening complications from sudden interruptions in medication, and potentially undoing the initiative's gains as many may discontinue treatment.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



On a pavement near Dhaka University's Milon Chattar, two children sleep under a mosquito net -- shielded from the threat of dengue. Having no other choice but to bring them along, their mother, a flower seller, tends to her stall in the background. Her struggle for survival means taking care of livelihood and her children at the same time. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Corruption impeding investment in Bangladesh

Says US State Department report

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A US State Department report has identified corruption as a persistent and serious impediment to investment and economic growth in Bangladesh.

"Despite the interim government's efforts to combat corruption, it remains common in public procurement, tax and customs collection, and among regulatory authorities," said the 2025 Bangladesh Investment Climate Statement, released last Friday.

"Off the record payments by firms reduce Bangladesh's GDP by two to three percent, according to some estimates," it said.

In its Bangladesh part, the report mentioned that Bangladesh is a party to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and has laws to combat bribery, embezzlement, and other forms of corruption.

"But enforcement is inconsistent," it added.

The report helps US companies make informed business decisions by providing up-to-date information on the investment climates of more than 170 countries.

In the latest version, the report said the

previous Awami League government publicly stated its commitment to fighting corruption, but opposition parties claimed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was instead used to harass political opponents.

It said the interim government has signalled a stronger anti-corruption stance. Since taking office, it reconstituted the ACC with new leadership.

It also said a sluggish and reportedly corrupt judicial system and limits on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms continue to impede the timely enforcement of contracts and the fair resolution of business disputes.

The report said the interim government's enforcement of intellectual property (IPR) and labour rights remains ineffective.

Counterfeit goods are readily available, and the government does not prioritise or invest heavily in IPR protection.

US firms have reported IPR violations in apparel, consumer goods, movies, pharmaceuticals, and software.

Although Bangladesh is not in the 2025 US

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

KEY HURDLES

- Inconsistent enforcement of laws
- Regulatory uncertainty
- Ineffective labour rights
- Delayed foreign currency payments
- Intellectual property violations



Youth art brings 'Transformation' to Dhaka

JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

On September 24, a youth art exhibition, titled "Transformation," came to a successful close in Dhaka. The event, held at the Residence of the Kingdom of Netherlands, brought together young artists, cultural leaders, and art enthusiasts for an evening that celebrated creativity, wellness, and community.

The exhibition drew most of its participants from young artists at leading universities across Bangladesh, including some pursuing studies abroad, and it also welcomed talents beyond specific academic degrees.

"Transformation" showcased works in a wide variety of mediums, including woodcut, acrylic, digital art, etc. From surrealist paintings of hibiscus and water lilies to vibrant pieces inspired



PHOTO: JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

One of her pieces, "Tea in the Winter," portrayed how something as small as a warm cup of tea, made with the warmth of 'mamar haater jadu,' can transform an ordinary moment into comfort and connection.

Rowshun Ara Polly, mother of Niharika Awhona Barsaat, an artist studying abroad, shared her pride: "I may not know the full meaning of her artwork, but I definitely know my daughter poured her heart into it. I am proud that her work is being praised by everyone."

Anzareen Chaudhury, a graduate from SOAS University of London, explained her artworks "Twins of Sunlight - Inara" and "Hibiscus When We Meet," where she added

textures and patterns to create surreal environments. Using waterlilies, hibiscus, ponds, and rivers as her subjects, she transformed the natural elements of Bangladesh into dreamlike scenes. Her works showed how everyday landscapes can be reimagined to reflect inner change and new perspectives.

Organised by The Flow Fest, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands and The Bangladesh Dialogue, the exhibition reflected a joint commitment to well-being, creativity, and youth empowerment. The Flow Fest, a wellness platform based in Dhaka, curates festivals, workshops, and cultural collaborations rooted in South Asian traditions while embracing global

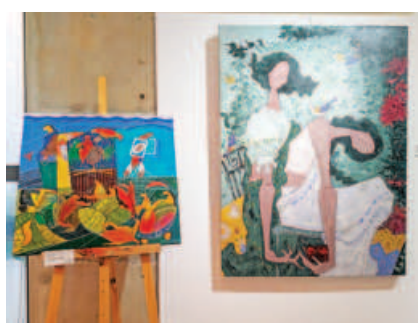
ideas. The vision is to help individuals find their "flow," a state where purpose and peace align.

Distinguished guests attended the evening, including Joris van Bommel, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands. Speaking about the spirit of the young artists, he shared, "Art helps us make sense of the world, especially in times of uncertainty and change. This exhibition captures transformation: of identity, memory, culture, and place, through diverse yet interconnected visual languages."

Shazia Omar, CEO and founder of The Flow Fest, highlighted the role of creative expression in well-being. "We create these spaces so young people can feel empowered. Picking up a brush or a camera is not just about art; it's a way to process, to heal, and to grow. Through this, we hope to raise awareness, encourage young minds, and remind everyone that creative expression is essential for well-being."

Meherba Sabrin, director of The Bangladesh Dialogue and a partner in the exhibition, said, "Art is not only a reflection of society, it is a language of transformation. This exhibition shows resilience, imagination, and the dreams of our young generation."

The exhibition concluded with a message of hope: that art is not a luxury, but a shared journey, helping individuals and communities connect, reflect, and reimagine the future together. With this success, The Flow Fest and its partners promised future collaborations that would give youth a platform to share their visions and foster "transformation."



by everyday life, each creation carried a personal story.

Fareen Ahmed, a young artist from North South University, presented works inspired by Bangladeshi culture and the simple joys of life.

Is Jamaat getting a new logo?

MAMUNUR RASHID

The Jamaat-e-Islami exhibited a new logo in meetings between its Ameer Shafiqur Rahman and foreign diplomats yesterday without formally unveiling the new emblem.

A leader said the party is considering changing the logo as part of efforts to reshape its image in what it calls a "new Bangladesh" after the July uprising.

The new design features a rising sun, a pen and a balance scale placed on an open book against a green background.

Photographs released by the party show the emblem displayed at the meetings between Shafiqur, Spanish Ambassador Gabriel Sistiaga Ochoa de Chinchetru, and a delegation of the European Union Election Observation Mission at his residence in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area.

Contacted, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ehsanul Mahbub Zubair said the change was still under discussion. "The change has not been finalised. Several designs have been made, and that one is among them. Once it is final, we will announce it," he said.

Leaders said the party has changed its name and logo before, most recently in June 2016. After the change, the logo carried just the word "Bangladesh" written on a red portion and "Jamaat-e-Islami" on green.

Previously, the widely used logo had carried the electoral symbol -- scale -- the Arabic word "Aakimuddin" (establish Islam), along with "Allah" in calligraphy.

Jamaat rarely uses the red and green version even for official purposes, often reverting to the older logo with the calligraphy in programmes and documents.

Its electoral symbol -- the balance scale -- was dropped from the Election Commission's list of symbols in March 2017 after the Supreme Court reserved it exclusively for the judiciary. But in June this year, Jamaat's registration and the scale symbol were reinstated following an Appellate Division verdict.

Explaining the latest move, Ehsanul said, "The previous logo has become quite old. That's why there is a proposal for a new design. We are trying to reshape everything with a new look in a new Bangladesh. This initiative is part of that effort."



3 shot dead in Khagrachhari

FROM PAGE 1

locally made weapons, injuring 10 soldiers, including three officers. BGB personnel were also attacked, with one vehicle vandalised.

The statement added that around 11:30am, armed members of UPDF (main) opened fire from a hill west of Ramesu Bazar, targeting both Bangalees and hill people engaged in clashes as well as army troops trying to control the situation. An estimated 100-150 rounds were shot from automatic weapons, leaving several locals injured.

The army later advanced, forcing the group to flee, while outsiders linked to the UPDF set fire to Ramesu Bazar and nearby houses. Additional forces were deployed, and the situation was brought under control by around 4:30pm.

According to the ISPR statement, communal tensions in Khagrachhari had been rising since September 23, following the alleged rape of a schoolgirl in the Singinila area. Police, with army assistance, arrested suspect Shoyon Shil the next day. Legal proceedings are ongoing.

However, despite the arrest, UPDF-linked organisations staged protests, rallies and a half-day hartal in Khagrachhari on September 24-25.

The ISPR alleged that social media propaganda from both domestic and overseas bloggers fuelled communal incitement during this period.

"The events of September 19-28 clearly indicate a greater conspiracy to destabilise the Chittagong Hill Tracts and incite communal riots," the statement read, adding that evidence has been preserved with law enforcement agencies.

The army urged leaders of all political parties and communities in the region to act with restraint, and

called on the public to cooperate with security forces in restoring peace.

Meanwhile, the home ministry in a statement yesterday evening expressed deep sorrow over the incident in Guimara.

It claimed three people were killed in an attack by "miscreants". Thirteen army personnel, including a major, as well as three policemen, including the officer-in-charge of Guimara Police Station, and several others were injured.

The ministry assured that those involved in the incident would be brought to book following an investigation, and that no offenders would be spared.

The ministry urged all to remain calm and be patient.

In a statement, the BGB said, "Seven platoons have been deployed in Khagrachhari to maintain law and order."

The alleged rape took place on Tuesday when the eighth grader was returning from private tuition around 9:00pm.

The Jumma people began protesting on Wednesday. Responding to their call, a half-day road blockade was observed on Thursday.

On Friday, a rally was held at Chengi Square in Khagrachhari Sadar, protesting violence against women. Stones and brickbats were hurled at army vehicles.

On Saturday, a day-long blockade was called. During the picketing, tensions flared when a group of Bangalees was blocked.

From around 11:30am to 4:00pm, chase and counter-chase took place in the upazila headquarters. In the afternoon, the administration imposed section 144.

However, when news spread on social media of an attack on a local

Buddhist temple, members of the Marma community again took to the streets, resulting in further confrontations with Bangalees.

By evening, the law enforcement brought situation under control.

On Sunday, protesters again staged a road blockade. As part of this, they set up barricades at various points.

JUMMA STATEMENT
Jumma Chhatra Janata has announced an indefinite road blockade across three hill districts from today, demanding justice for the rape victim.

In a statement posted on the organisation's official Facebook page last night, it also said that all tourism activities in the region would remain suspended during the blockade.

The group alleged that since September 27, Khagrachhari town has witnessed widespread army raids, assaults, and arbitrary detentions. It also accused settler groups of looting and arson in Guimara, claiming that four people were killed and many were injured in attacks carried out by the army and settlers.

The Jumma platform has demanded that authorities guarantee protection against attacks or intimidation during and after any dialogue, and called for the immediate arrest of the two remaining suspects in the Khagrachhari rape case.

It also demanded a speedy trial of the accused; adequate financial compensation and full rehabilitation for the survivor; an impartial investigation into the 27-28 September incidents in Khagrachhari and Guimara; compensation for damages in Jumma homes and businesses; free treatment for the injured; immediate release of all detained Jumma students; and withdrawal of section 144 in Khagrachhari Sadar and Guimara.

Govt mulls hiring from outside

FROM PAGE 1

"We will highlight the pros and cons of lateral appointments in the administration, but the final decision rests on the government," one of the sources said.

Another source said, "Lateral appointments cannot solve the administration's ongoing problems. Still, since the government has requested it, we are preparing a report."

He also said it is important to understand why the country's top talents, upon joining the administration, get involved in corruption or fail to show their capabilities when needed.

Speaking to this correspondent, several senior officials said sudden appointments at the joint or deputy secretary level could create conflicts among officers of the same rank.

Officers expecting promotions may also react unfavourably. Lateral appointments could limit promotion opportunities for junior officers, potentially causing instability within the administration.

Top officials interviewed by this newspaper for this report believe that if competent officers are assessed on merit and skills and deployed impartially, the existing workforce alone can handle the expected level of administration.

Under existing rules, the president can make special appointments to 10 percent posts, and such appointments are already being practised by recruiting former civil-military servants, which is known as the "President's Quota".

A joint secretary, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "Irresponsible conduct by some senior officers has created unprecedented distrust in the administration. I fear

that lateral recruitment could be used to bring relatives of powerful individuals into the administration, which would further weaken an already fragile administration."

Officials at the public administration ministry say they have learned that lateral recruits are to be inducted into the administration after just three months of training.

An additional secretary at the Cabinet Division said, "Joint secretaries are promoted after 20 years of experience. It is hard to see how lateral recruits will perform well with only three months of training."

"They need to assess competent officers properly, while also ensuring that dishonest officials cannot enjoy wealth earned illegally. Only then will the administration be able to move in the right direction. Research by experts alone does not make the administration function."

Officials also said they have no objection to lateral appointments to technical positions -- bringing in specialists for a specific period in technical posts, such as scientists, doctors or engineers.

Another joint secretary said the government should carefully take factors like opportunities for corruption and politicisation into account.

"Even though recruits who enter the administration through the existing structured process come in through a transparent, bribe-free system, many of them still become involved in corruption. A lateral entry system could create unlimited scope for corruption and politicisation."

"It will also create opportunities for outsiders to enjoy bureaucratic authority, shrinking promotion

and other facilities of the career bureaucrats," he said.

Former secretary Abdul Awal Mazumder told The Daily Star that the government has failed to set good examples in transfers and promotions, which makes the prospects of the lateral recruitment initiative yielding positive results slim.

Many cite the American spoils system as an example, but Mazumder noted that the US no longer follows that approach.

The spoils system is a practice in government where political leaders reward their supporters, friends, or party members with government jobs or positions, rather than hiring based on merit or qualifications.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Citizens for Good Governance (Shujan), welcomed the move. "In principle, introducing a lateral entry system in the administration is a very good initiative. At the very least, it should be tried and tested," he told this newspaper yesterday.

"However, I don't think the officers in the existing structure will allow it. They consider themselves to be the elites of the minds, though their performance no longer reflects that reality," he added.

A senior official at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday that Pakistan had provisions for lateral entry in the past, but the practice is no longer in place.

The Daily Star's New Delhi correspondent reported that India had introduced lateral entry into the Indian Administrative Service and other tiers of the bureaucracy on a limited scale in 2015. However, it remains unclear how many such recruitments take place each year.

Corruption impeding investment in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

Trade Representative's Special Report List, it is highlighted as being one of the top five source economies for counterfeit clothing.

"Although Bangladesh made progress over the past decade to improve fire and building safety standards in the export-focused ready-made garment (RMG) industry, workers face significant legal barriers in exercising their rights to organize and collectively bargain," the report said.

The interim government's investment climate reform efforts remain in the early implementation stage, it added.

Bangladesh made gradual progress over the past decade to reduce constraints on investment, such as efforts to better ensure reliable electricity service, but foreign investment continues to be hindered by issues such as inadequate infrastructure, limited financing

instruments, bureaucratic delays, unfair tax burdens for foreign firms, and corruption.

"The interim government is working to remove two Hasinara practices that hinder foreign investment: delayed foreign currency payments owed by state owned enterprises (SOEs) and a requirement that the Bangladesh Bank approve the transfer of foreign currency from the country," the report said.

The foreign currency shortage coincided with a banking scandal in which several major Bangladeshi banks made large, questionable loans to companies linked to members of the ruling AL party that later defaulted on the loans.

By December 2024, the value of non-performing loans rose to \$28.57 billion. The interim government has prioritised banking sector reform to align the sector with international best practices.

After the ouster of former prime

minister Sheikh Hasina, the interim government began work on reforming the state administration, but much of the day-to-day regulatory landscape remains unchanged, the report said.

It said the government has made incremental progress in using information technology to improve the transparency and efficiency of some government services. Nevertheless, regulations are often unclear, inconsistent, or not publicised, making it difficult for investors to find the correct channel to address issues, such as protectionism and subsidies in certain industries.

"Some investors have cited unclear regulations and lack of implementation as key barriers to investment," the report said.

The Right to Information Act (2009) provides for stakeholder consultations; however, this consultation process is weak and needs improvement, it added.

We need strict enforcement of electoral laws

FROM PAGE 1

ballots, as there is a high risk of disputes.

Adopting the proportional representation system in the upcoming polls without prior testing or public awareness would not be wise, he added.

"The EC must ensure that voters feel secure at the local level -- this must be visible now," said Mohammad Harun Chowdhury, member of the Police Reform Commission.

Many candidates are unable to appoint polling agents because major parties resort to intimidation. "The EC must prevent this," he said.

It seems that preparations are underway for an election excluding certain parties, said journalist and columnist Sohrab Hasan.

"The chief adviser has said it will be the best election. But how can it be the best if some are excluded?"

Ensuring voting rights is the responsibility of the government, the EC and the law enforcement agencies.

Arrangements must be made so all candidates can campaign on the same platform as it would reduce the influence of black money, he said.

"The entire nation is watching you.

The EC must be transparent," said Robaet Ferdous, professor at the University of Dhaka's mass communication and journalism department.

International observers should be engaged as much as possible, he said.

Transparency International Bangladesh Director Mohammad Badiuzzaman called for a system to verify the affidavits submitted by candidates.

He also called for the inclusion of a "No Vote" option in all constituencies.

"If this election is to be free and credible, you must stand strong," said Mohon Raihan, president of Jatiya Kabita Parishad.

Once the EC announces the election date, many regular activities will come to a halt and the entire administration will come under the EC's authority, said Abdul Wazed, senior fellow at Power and Participation Research Centre.

"It's crucial that the EC officials can command and control the field administration if it is to conduct the election properly," he added.

Former caretaker government adviser Rasheda K Choudhury demanded ensuring 33 percent of representation of women in parliament.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said the EC will try to implement all suggestions made during the series.

"This time, it will not be like in the past. We have reinstated the authority to cancel an entire constituency's election if irregularities take place at any centre," he said, adding that the EC has taken preparations in case of technical failures too.

In the second session, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Niaz Ahmed Khan said that caution is needed regarding IT-supported postal ballots.

Election responsibilities must be entrusted to morally sound individuals, said Kamrul Ahsan, vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University.

"It is essential to examine who is being placed where and what their track record is," he said.

The experts and resources of different universities must be engaged to prevent fake news and AI-generated false content during the election, said Gitara Nasreen, a professor at the University of Dhaka's mass communication and journalism department.

DURGA PUJA Tarique calls for harmony, vigilance

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting
Chairman
Tarique
Rahman
yesterday

urged the law enforcement agencies to remain alert so that no attempt is made to create communal tensions or disrupt security during celebrations of Durga Puja.

In a video message marking Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Bangalee Hindu community, he also said every citizen should play a role in protecting the safety and dignity of fellow citizens.

"On the occasion of Durga Puja, I extend my greetings to the Hindu community," Tarique said.

He said people of all faiths in Bangladesh have been practising their religions and celebrating their respective festivals with harmony for generations. "This represents the eternal religious and social values and cultural beauty of Bangladesh."



A devotee praying to Goddess Durga at the Khamarbari puja mandap on the first day of the Durga Puja festival (Shasthi) yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Delayed diagnosis putting dengue patients at risk

HELEMUL ALAM

Mainuddin, 40, a resident of Abdullahpur, was admitted to Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital in critical condition last Monday.

He had been suffering from fever since September 17 but neither consulted a doctor nor underwent a dengue test.

"We took him to a local doctor when his belly became swollen. After diagnosing dengue, the doctor advised us to take him to Mitford Hospital," said his wife, Lutfia Akter.

She admitted they had not ensured he took enough fluids, which doctors say is crucial in dengue management. "His platelet count was 25,000 when he was admitted, and later dropped to 10,000. By Thursday morning, it had risen to 24,000," she said.

Akter also said the family had already spent Tk 30,000 on blood transfusions and tests. "He had to receive four bags of blood — three white cell and one red cell transfusion," she noted.

Mainuddin, who runs a small business, said he was relieved to see progress. "I hope to fully recover soon so I can repay the loans we had to take from relatives during this illness," he said.

Another patient, Mohammad Ibrahim, 27, of Bikrampur, has been receiving treatment at Mitford since September 22, though he had been suffering from fever at least three days before admission.

"My platelet count fell to 65,000 at first, then down to 25,000. Now it is 30,000," said Ibrahim, who is also experiencing liver complications due to dengue.

The case of 13-year-old Tasim Saifee of Laxmibazar was even more severe, as he went eight days without being diagnosed despite having a fever.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



If a dengue patient arrives at the hospital in the final stage, even if measures are taken, they are usually not effective.

Prof Md Abu Jafor
Director general of DGHS

Ensure citizens' right to info, form commission immediately

Speakers urge govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members at a seminar yesterday urged the government to immediately form a new Information Commission through a transparent process.

They said most applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act are now being rejected at the lower levels due to the absence of commissioners.

"There may not be any other precedents of two major commissions remaining vacant for over a year — the Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

He added that while the interim government had taken many positive steps, it set a bad example by failing to address this issue.

The seminar, titled "Right to Information Act: A Contextual Review", was organised by the Right to Information Forum at a hotel in Dhaka, marking the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

Iftekharuzzaman said the RTI Act is a strong tool against corruption but has limitations.

"Section 7 of the act excludes certain institutions from its jurisdiction. There should instead be some clear benchmarks defining national interest," he said.

He also called for the private sector and political parties to be brought under the act.

Badiul Alam Majumder, head of the Election Reform Commission, said political parties should

be brought under the act for transparency.

If political parties are not transparent and democratic, the establishment of democracy in the country will remain a distant dream, he added.

He also said RTI played a vital role in uncovering irregularities in the 2018 national election by revealing centre-wise vote data.

"Only people's participation in government can ensure good

they do not know where to access information. "We must fix this. Many are working, but we have no clear idea who is monitoring or where the feedback is going," he added.

He stressed the need for monitoring and research to ensure progress.

Susan Vize, head of office and country representative to Unesco Dhaka, said there should be clear guidelines on grounds for rejecting RTI applications.

She also suggested a citizen forum to review the commission's decisions, as going to the High Court is beyond most people's reach.

Presiding over the seminar, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the right to information is in a precarious state. "The commission has been ineffective and almost non-existent for the past one and a half years," she said.

She added, "The government we overthrew had no accountability. We want a government that will guarantee citizens' constitutional, fundamental, and information rights. The interim government had a responsibility to lay the foundation for such a system."

In the keynote paper, Ruhi Naz, deputy director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, said the RTI Act remains powerful on paper but underused in practice due to weak institutional independence, secrecy, and administrative barriers.

Ananya Raihan, chairperson of iSocial, said NGOs using public funds must also make their information accessible.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

There may not be any other precedents of two major commissions remaining vacant for over a year — the Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission. While the interim government had taken many positive steps, it set a bad example by failing to address this issue.

Iftekharuzzaman
Executive director, TIB

Case filed over Tongi warehouse fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

A case was filed over the recent fire incident at a chemical warehouse in Tongi's Sahara market, accusing four named persons and some 15-20 others yesterday.

Abdul Mannan, deputy assistant director of fire service, Dhaka (Zone-3), filed the case with Tongi East Police Station.

The named accused in the case are: Ismail Hossain, 42, owner of Famous Chemical Warehouse; Solaiman, 35; Tajul Islam, 40; and Rakib, 32.

On September 22, a fire broke out at the tin shed warehouse. As firefighters battled the blaze, a sudden explosion rocked the building, injuring multiple fire service personnel.

Three Tongi fire service personnel — Khandakar Jannatul Naeem, Shamim Ahmed and Nurul Huda died while undergoing treatment. A worker of a nearby shop also died from burn injuries.

Some ballot papers printed in Nilkhet

Admits DU VC, denies possibility
of rigging in Ducsu polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

Acknowledging that some ballot papers for the recent Ducsu election were printed in Nilkhet, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan yesterday ruled out any possibility of vote rigging with those papers.

"There is no opportunity for anyone to carry it in their pocket to the centre or use it," the VC said.

Printing the ballot papers in Nilkhet "did not compromise the integrity of the election process", he said at an emergency press conference at the university, as allegations of irregularities in the voting have been raised.

He, however, said, "We are embarrassed by this situation because the associate vendor failed to inform us on time."

The VC said printing ballots — regardless of its location — and cutting them are the initial steps of the process. "The security phase involves at least five layers, and in some cases, six."

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) and hall union elections were held on September 9. Since then, panels backed by Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad, leftist groups, and independents have alleged irregularities and partiality, pointing to the ballots being printed at an unsecured location in Nilkhet.

Niaz Ahmed said, "The location or quantity of ballot paper printing does not affect election fairness. Several steps must be completed to fully prepare ballot papers for voting."



Dhaka South City Corporation carrying out drainage work without any safety barriers or warning signs in Kakrail, right next to Willes Little Flower School and College. This poses a risk of major accidents for vehicles and pedestrians passing through the area daily. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rights groups decry violence in Khagrachhari

Call for probe, punishment
of perpetrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several rights, cultural, and political groups yesterday called for urgent investigations into the violence and reported deaths in Khagrachhari, demanding immediate action to ensure justice for the victims.

Expressing outrage over the Khagrachhari incidents, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) questioned what crime lies in the indigenous communities' legitimate demand for justice following yet another brutal assault on a young girl.

"The administration must answer this fundamental question," it added.

The organisation called for a comprehensive judicial investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment for the rapists.

At least three people were shot dead yesterday in the district's Guimara upazila during protests over the rape of a schoolgirl.

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "Attempts to normalise the rape of indigenous women are not new. Why could the local administration and police under army authority not adopt timely and effective strategies to prevent this violence? Is this indifference or complicity towards the destructive conspiracies of vested interests, through which the systematic deprivation of indigenous rights and ethnic suppression is being normalised?"

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Bangla Academy postpones Ekushey Book Fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangla Academy has postponed the Ekushey Book Fair, which was scheduled to be held this December.

The academy issued a notice in this regard last night, signed by its Director General Prof Mohammad Azam.

According to the notice, following a decision by the home ministry, the fair should be organised after the upcoming national election. Based on the views of the Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association and other stakeholders, the previously fixed date for the fair has been postponed.

A new date will be set later after consultations with publishers and other participants, it said.

Earlier, on September 18, the Bangla Academy had announced that the fair would be held from December 17 to January 17, taking into account the national election and the holy month of Ramadan.

Steps to be taken over assault in NY Says foreign affairs adviser

BSS, New York

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain has said the government will take appropriate action regarding recent politically motivated assault on political leaders in New York upon their return to Bangladesh from the United States.

"Four advisers and political leaders sat together, and we had a long discussion to this end," he said while responding to a question from a non-resident Bangladeshi at an event in New York on Saturday.

Touhid said they discussed what action can be taken and how it will be taken.



Children pluck white kans grass and run around joyously along a river in Atrai upazila of Naogaon. With increasing urban development, the whimsical autumn blooms have become rare in cities but can still be seen along rural riverbanks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Brahmaputra's erosion leaves hundreds homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The erosion of the Brahmaputra River has intensified recently in Char Pakshimari union under Sherpur Sadar upazila, leaving several hundred people homeless.

The erosion has become particularly severe in Bagolgarh, Kulurchar, Bepaipara, Batpara, and Dhakpara areas. In Bagolgarh village alone, around 30 families have been rendered homeless overnight.

Many victims have taken shelter in relatives' or neighbours' homes, while others are struggling to rebuild their shelters elsewhere, said Pori Begum, a member of the union parishad.

Khokhi Begum, 60, of Bagolgarh village, said she now lives in a neighbour's house after losing her homestead in the recent spate of erosion. "The Brahmaputra devoured

my home right before my eyes."

Monto Mia, 50, a share-cropper from the village, said he has lost everything and has been forced to relocate with his two children.

Hundreds of families in the area are now living in fear of further erosion.



Victims said they have appealed to the deputy commissioner of Sherpur for support and to the authorities of the Water Development Board for immediate measures to strengthen riverbank protection.

BWDB officials have started

dumping geo-bags along a 130-metre stretch of the riverbank in the erosion-hit areas. Geo-tubes will also be deployed to further enhance protection against erosion, said Akhinuzzaman, executive engineer of BWDB in Sherpur.

Due to river dredging followed by recent flash floods, the erosion has taken a serious turn in different areas of Sherpur, including Narayankhola, Kamarerchar, and Char Pakshimari, he added.

"We have also informed the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority about the erosion and sought their financial assistance to contain it. They have agreed to our proposal and official work has begun," the official confirmed.

"We have a plan for a project to build a permanent embankment along the riverbank in the affected areas."

Govt unveils 3 hajj packages

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced three official hajj packages, setting the lowest cost at Tk 4.67 lakh and the highest at Tk 6.90 lakh.

Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain disclosed the details at a press briefing at his ministry yesterday.

Hajj Package-1 (Special), which will cost Tk 6.90 lakh, offers accommodation within a maximum distance of 700 metres from the outer courtyard of the Haram Sharif in Makkah, and in the Markazia (Central) area of Madinah, said the adviser.

Accommodation will be shared by a maximum of five people per room with six attached bathrooms.

Pilgrims will stay in tents located in Zone-2 in Mina, with meals provided by the Moallem, along with D+ category services in Mina and Arafah.

AFM Khalid said Hajj Package-2 is slightly less expensive, estimated at Tk 5,58,881, and pilgrims will be accommodated within 1.2-1.8 km of the outer courtyard of the Haram Sharif in Makkah and in the Markazia area of Madinah. A maximum of six people will share each room, with attached bathrooms, he said.

Tents will also be set up in Zone-2 in Mina with meals provided by the Moallem and D category services in Mina and Arafah, he added.

Room upgrades to 2- or 3-seaters and short-stay package options in Makkah and Madinah are available under Packages 1 and 2, subject to payment of additional charges. The usual stay in Saudi Arabia for pilgrims will range from 35-47 days.

However, for short-stay packages, the duration will be between 22-30 days.

The adviser said Hajj Package 3 is newly introduced and a budget-friendly package, costing around Tk 4.67 lakh, which includes accommodation in the Azizia area in Makkah and outside the Markazia area in Madinah.

Each room will house a maximum of six people and tents will be set up in Zone-5 in Mina, with food provided by the Moallem and D category services in Mina and Arafah, he said.

Air-conditioned buses will be arranged for daily travel to the Haram Sharif for the five daily prayers.

The adviser said that this is the first time the government has arranged accommodation for pilgrims in the Azizia area.

Package 1: Tk 6.90 lakh

Package 2: Tk 5.59 lakh

Package 3: Tk 4.67 lakh

Delayed diagnosis

FROM PAGE 3

"We thought it was just a regular fever and only took him to the doctor when his belly became swollen," said his mother, Chadni Akter.

Like these patients, many others in critical condition are being admitted to general wards at Mitford Hospital, most of them arriving late and only getting tested three or more days after fever began.

According to findings of the Directorate General of Health Services released on September 22, 81 percent of dengue patients who died this year were admitted to hospitals only after suffering from fever for three or more days.

The report also shows that 74 percent of patients died within 48 hours of admission, while 50 percent succumbed to Dengue Shock Syndrome. Around 43 percent of the deceased had comorbidities.

"If a dengue patient arrives at the hospital in the final stage, even if measures are taken, they are usually not effective," said Prof Md Abu Jafor, director general of DGHS.

Health officials stressed that early testing and timely hospitalisation are crucial.

Although DGHS has instructed hospitals to designate separate wards for dengue patients, Mitford authorities said they are prioritising only severe cases.

Dr Md Mafizur Rahman, assistant director (finance and store) at Mitford Hospital, told The Daily Star on Thursday, "We have separate beds in each ward for dengue patients and adequate logistics and doctors. On Thursday, the

number of dengue patients stood at 53. If the number rises significantly, we have separate arrangements ready."

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, recommended early admission for elderly patients, those with comorbidities, and expecting women to reduce risks.

He also warned about cross-infection from different dengue serotypes, which can cause severe complications if treatment is delayed.

Ensure citizens'

FROM PAGE 3

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, said, "We must reach a level where authorities are compelled to disclose information proactively, and if they do not, action must be taken."

The event was conducted by Hasibur Rahman, executive director of Media Resources Development Initiative.

NGO Affairs Bureau Director General Daud Miah and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddhyog, also spoke, among others.

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 29

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-35	12-45	4-15	6-00	7-30
JAMAAT 5-10	1-15	4-30	6-05	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.৬৯৪৪.৭৩৮.১৭.১২৫.২৫.৫৭৬ তারিখঃ ২৫/০৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, ঈশ্বরদী দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1154806	27.21.6944.738.02.118.25.461; Date: 18/09/25	Construction of Toilet cum bathroom and repair & colouring works of barbed wire of Bheramara (GK) 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station under GMD, Power Grid, Ishwardi.
1156634	27.21.6944.738.02.118.25.575; Date: 24/09/25	Cutting jungle & shrub in switchyard area of different grid sub-station under GMD, Power Grid, Ishwardi.

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

মোঃ আরিফুল কায়সার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, ঈশ্বরদী

Due to river dredging followed by recent flash floods, the erosion has taken a serious turn in different areas of Sherpur, including Narayankhola, Kamarerchar, and Char Pakshimari.

Akhinuzzaman
BWDB executive engineer in Sherpur

গাড়ী বিক্রয়

টয়োটা এলিয়েন গাড়ী বিক্রি হবে।
মডেল-০৯, রেজিস্ট্রেশন-১৪,
এলপিজি করা। সরাসরি মালিক
যোগাযোগ: ০১৭৪৩-১১০২৬৭

Eastern Bank PLC.
HEAD OFFICE, 100 GULSHAN AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

Eastern Bank PLC. (EBL) invites sealed bids from eligible, experienced, and competent bidders for the following services/items:

Lot 1: Security Operation Centre (SIEM, SOAR, CIT, MDR)- 2nd Call
Lot 2: Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
Lot 3: Network Access Control (NAC)
Lot 4: Load Balancer
Lot 5: Sandboxing Tools

Interested bidders are requested to collect the RFP document electronically by sending an email from their official email address to bidit@ebi-bd.com mentioning the name of the company and the authorized contact person, mailing address, telephone & mobile phone numbers on or before **Thursday, 9 October 2025**.

Queries are to be mailed by **Thursday, 16 October 2025**.

Bids should be prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document and submitted as per the process described in the RFP document bearing official authorized personnel's seal & signature in two separate sealed envelopes clearly marking "Technical Offer" (hardcopy and softcopy both) and "Financial Offer" (hardcopy only) on the envelopes.

Bids should be dropped in the ICT Tender Box, addressing to The Office of the President, Purchase Committee, Head Office, Eastern Bank PLC., 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212 (Basement-1, ICT Tender Box) on or before **Thursday, 30 October 2025**.

Tenderers are allowed to bid for all lots or any lot separately. However, common documents need not to be submitted for multiple lots, submission with one lot is enough.

GET YOUR next JOB your best OPPORTUNITY is here!

Sohozcash Limited is currently in the pre-operational stage and in the process of obtaining approval from Bangladesh Bank to launch Mobile Financial Services (MFS). At this stage, we are inviting applications for administrative, IT, and compliance positions only.

- Chief Operating Officer**
 - Must be a Major General (Retd.) of Bangladesh Army or retired officer of equivalent rank.
 - Proven experience in strategic planning, administration, and Strong leadership with security management.
 - Ability to coordinate effectively with government and private organizations.
- Project Coordinator**
 - Master's/MBA in Management, Business Administration, or Economics.
 - Experience in project management, documentation & team coordination.
 - Knowledge of Bangladesh Bank regulations/financial sector will be an advantage.
- Admin & HR Officer**
 - Master's in HR/Management/Social Sciences.
 - Experience in HR policies, recruitment, and payroll management.
 - Strong skills in office administration, reporting, and record keeping.
 - Knowledge of labor law and compliance will be an advantage.
- Compliance & Finance Officer**
 - Master's in Accounting/Finance/Banking/Law.
 - Familiarity with Bangladesh Bank and regulatory compliance frameworks.
 - Experience in financial reporting, auditing, and risk management required.
 - Professional certification (ACCA/CA/ICAB/ICMAB - student or member) will be an added advantage.
- IT Officer (Software/Server)**
 - Master's in Computer Science/ICT/Engineering.
 - Strong knowledge of software development, server management, and API integration.
 - Experience in mobile app development (Android/iOS) and database management (SQL, Oracle, MongoDB).
 - Understanding of cybersecurity preferred advantage.
- Business Development Executive**
 - Master's in Business Administration, Marketing, or Economics.
 - Strong skills in business proposal writing, presentations, & partnership development.
 - Excellent communication skills in both Bangla and English.
 - Experience in banking/telecom sector preferred.
- Manager**
 - Master's in Business Administration, Finance, Economics, or related field.
 - Experience in banking, financial institutions, or mobile financial services.
 - Strong knowledge of payment systems, mobile banking, all business management, and compliance and excellent communication, analytical, and leadership skills.

Candidates for all positions must e-mail a complete resume including experience to the e-mail address provided by October 8, 2025.

* Important Notes
Selected candidates will be part of the pre-operational team only.
Full MFS operations will begin only after approval from Bangladesh Bank.
This recruitment is not for agents or customer service operations.

সহজক্যাশ
e-Mail
sohozcashbd@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR ITB 1763- ICT Items and PA System	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS ICT EQUIPMENT AND PA SYSTEM INCLUDING INSTALLATION AT UNHCR BANGLADESH

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Invitation to Bid (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from the **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

Bdjobs.com Link: <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr/unhcr547.htm%20>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR ITB 1763- ICT Items and PA System by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in the Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe (Acknowledge Participation) to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in, as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:
UNHCR will organize an online supplier pre-bid conference on **2 October 2025 at 10:30 am BST via Microsoft Teams**. Bidders may also join the meeting by scanning the QR Code:

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guidelines: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to log in with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on **Forgot Password** to reset your password.

Bid submission deadline: Thursday, 16 October 2025 - 02:00 PM Bangladesh time.

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer must be submitted only through the Cloud ERP portal.

Scan above QR Code to join

10,644 qualify in 47th BCS preliminary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 10,644 candidates have passed the preliminary test of the 47th Bangladesh Civil Service preliminary examination.

Bangladesh Public Service Commission published the results last night, said a press release.

The results and relevant information will be available on the commission's website or on Teletalk Bangladesh Limited's website.

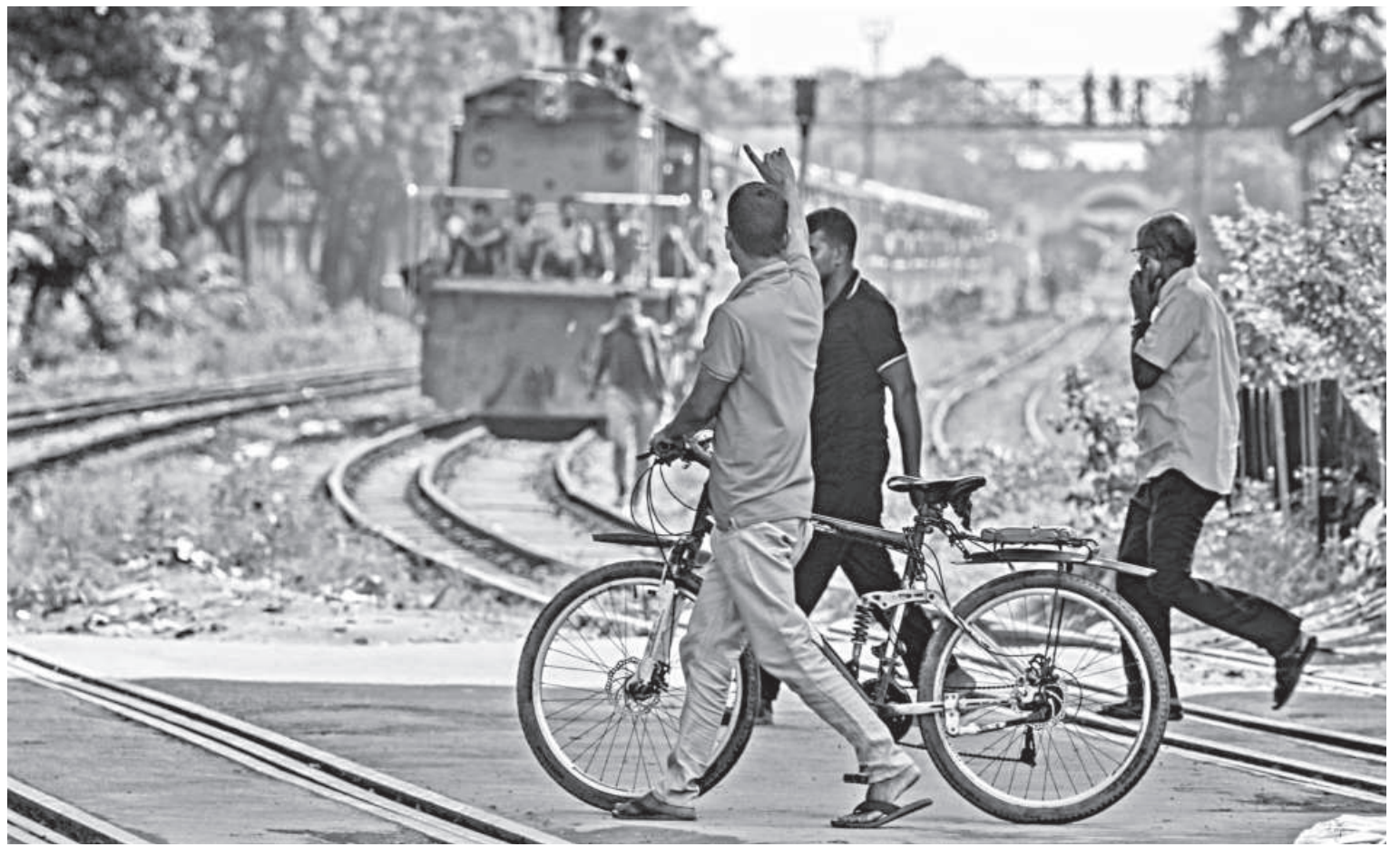
DEATH OF CHILD Murder case filed, aunt arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Police have arrested the aunt of six-year-old Taiba, whose body was recovered from a neighbour's septic tank in Shariatpur's Vedarganj upazila two days after she went missing.

Taiba's father filed a case with Sakhipur Police Station on Saturday, accusing several unidentified individuals. That night, police detained her aunt Ayesha Akhter for questioning, said OC Obaidul Haque of the station. Based on her confessional statement, she was formally arrested yesterday and produced before the court, he added.

Meanwhile, locals staged a sit-in in front of Sakhipur Police Station demanding justice. Students from Taiba's school also formed a human chain on Sakhipur Bazar road, seeking punishment for the accused.



People casually stroll in front of a moving train at Khilgaon level crossing, a known high-accident-risk intersection in Dhaka, disregarding the danger. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FLOATING JUTE MARKET

A century-old heritage from Jamuna shoals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

In the remote shoal of Natuapara under Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj, a floating jute market comes alive on the Jamuna river after the harvest in late monsoon.

According to locals, this market has been operating for over a century.

"This floating jute market started in around 1915. Due to the easy river routes, traders and farmers from remote areas used to arrive here by boats to trade raw jute after harvest. The tradition has continued for over a hundred years," said Rashed Rehman, an author and local resident.

Visiting the market recently, this correspondent observed hundreds of boats, either loaded with jute or with traders on board, anchored side by side over around a hundred yards to form a floating marketplace near the riverbank.

Bustling trade continued from dawn until late morning, with hundreds of buyers and sellers thronging the spot.

Many were seen coming not only from Kazipur, but also from Jamalpur's Sarishabari and Madarganj, Tangail's Bhuapur, Bogura's Dhunot and Sariakandi, as well as from Sherpur.

On the riverbank, many were also seen bringing jute loaded on horse-drawn carts – the only mode of transport in the shoal areas.

"I cultivated jute on four bighas of land. This year I'm getting a fair price," said Abul Kalam, a farmer from Bogura's Sariakandi.

the quality we want. Moreover, transport is easy for both farmers and traders."

The market's leaseholder, Abdul Latif Sarkar, said, "The market runs between August and November. Around 8,000-9,000 maunds of jute are traded daily. Everything



is done in cash, and security is ensured."

According to Kazipur upazila agriculture officer Shariful Islam, jute was cultivated on 14,650 hectares of land this year. Since the weather was favourable, the district has witnessed a bumper harvest.

Kazipur and Sirajganj Sadar upazilas emerged as the leading producers, with jute grown on 4,250 hectares and 3,050 hectares respectively.

Ex-minister, 7 others sued over extortion

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, his wife Rukmila Zaman and six others on charges of extorting Tk 42 crore from a businessman through intimidation.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Md Rubel Hossain filed the case at the ACC headquarters, said a press release.

The other accused are: Md Kamruzzaman, former UCBL director; Md Abdul Aziz, AGM of Rukmila's company Armit and also owner of Imperial Trading; Mohammad Jahangir Alam, owner of Classic Trading; Mohammad Mishbahul Alam, an employee of Armit and owner of Model Trading; Syed Nurul Islam, owner of Crescent Traders; and Md Farid Uddin, owner of Radius Trading.



In the Court of Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka

Present: **Md. Sabbir Faiz**
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka

Permission Petition No. 948/2025

[Ref: G.R Case No. 74/2016, arising out of Motijheel P.S Case No.13, dated 15.03.2016]

01
18.09.2025

The Investigating Officer has submitted an application seeking confiscation of the illegally laundered amount of USD 81 (Eighty-One) million transferred to Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Philippines.

Upon careful review of the evidence collected thus far in this case, together with the Mutual Legal Assistance Request (MLAR) received from the Republic of the Philippines, it has been established beyond reasonable doubt that the hacker illicitly transferred USD 81 million from the reserves of Bangladesh Bank, maintained at the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) of New York, into accounts at Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Philippines.

It is evident that certain senior officials of RCBC, along with Maia Santos Deguito, the branch manager of RCBC's Jupiter Street Branch, and her associates, were complicit in the commission of this offense by opening five fictitious bank accounts. Through four of those accounts, the laundered funds were illicitly funneled.

The Philippine courts have already convicted and sentenced the culpable RCBC officials for their role in this crime, while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) (Philippine Central Bank) has imposed substantial monetary penalties upon RCBC for its liability in the matter. Furthermore, RCBC, acting on its own accord, remitted approximately USD 68,000 to Bangladesh Bank's FRB accounts on 16 February 2016, thereby expressly acknowledging that the funds in question rightfully belonged to Bangladesh Bank. This admission demonstrates RCBC's direct involvement in money laundering activities.

In these circumstances, considering that the misappropriated funds represent the hard-earned foreign currency reserves of the people of Bangladesh, and that these funds were illicitly siphoned through RCBC's accounts, it is imperative, in the interest of justice, that this Court, under Sections 17(2) and 17(7) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015), issue an order for the confiscation of USD 81 million from RCBC. Such confiscation is necessary to secure the repatriation of the said funds to Bangladesh and to restore them to the public treasury.

Accordingly, this Court, in exercise of the powers conferred under Sections 17(2) and 17(7) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015), hereby orders the confiscation of USD 81 (Eighty-One) million from Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Philippines. The said amount, upon realization, shall be repatriated to Bangladesh and deposited into the public treasury for the benefit of the State.

Let a copy of this Order be transmitted to the relevant authorities mentioned below for immediate execution and compliance. Dictated and Corrected by me.

Sd/-
Metro. Senior Special
Judge, Dhaka.

Sd/-
(Md. Sabbir Faiz)
Metro. Senior Special Judge,
Dhaka.

Memo Number: ১৩২৪১/২৫

Date: ১৮/৯/২৫ইং

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to (Not according to seniority):

- Investigating Officer, Md Farhad Kabir, BP 8714166248, Additional Special Superintendent of Police, Financial Crime, Criminal Investigation Department, Dhaka
- President and CEO, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, The Philippines.
- Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A. Mabini St. cor. P. Ocampo St., Bgy. 719, Makati, Manila, Philippines 1004.
- Executive Director, Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Secretariat, The Philippines.
- Secretary and Head, Department of Justice, The Philippines.
- Ambassador, Embassy of the Philippines, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Ambassador, Embassy of Bangladesh, Manila, The Philippines.
- Attorney General, Bangladesh.
- Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Appropriate other relevant authorities.

Md. Sabbir Faiz
Metro. Senior Special Judge, Dhaka

Rights groups decry

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in a statement called such behaviour a violation of fundamental rights.

It said creating a conflicting situation to avoid justice for the abuse of a teenager is disgraceful and unacceptable.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad demanded an end to the violence in Khagrachhari, calling on the government to arrest the criminals, provide compensation to affected people, and ensure proper treatment for the injured.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi demanded compensation and rehabilitation for the victim families affected by the attacks, along with proper medical care. Its leaders described the incident as barbaric, inhuman, and a severe violation of human rights, calling for the immediate arrest of those involved and exemplary punishment.

In another statement, 84 women's rights activists under the banner of "Naribadi" demanded an immediate trial and punishment for those involved in the rape incident.

They said seven indigenous women in Khagrachhari have been victims of rape in the past year. Each time, they said, victims and protesters demanding justice faced attacks, delays in case proceedings, and state non-cooperation.

The statement was signed by Dhaka University teacher Dr Moshahida Sultana, anthropologist Sayema Khatun, and journalist Saydia Gulrukh, among others.

Meanwhile, the Left Democratic Alliance said failure to arrest and bring the criminals to trial quickly would seriously damage public trust in the country's judicial system.

Ganosamhati Andolon called for an investigation into "the role of the army and police" in the incident and urged appropriate action.

Gonotantik Adhikar Committee leaders said the interim government is not showing sensitivity or responsibility in restoring a democratic environment in the hills, while Tripura Students Forum, Bangladesh demanded proper treatment for the injured indigenous people.

সেনা জীভা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড (এএসসিবি), সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি অর্থ বৎসর ২০২৫-২০২৬

১।	দরপত্রের নাম	১।	সেনা জীভা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড (এএসসিবি), সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
২।	কালের নাম	২।	ক। সেনা জীভা দলের খেলায়াদানের জন্য খাদ্য সামগ্রী ক্রয় (সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা করা হবে)।
৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের মূল্য	৩।	প্রয়োজনীয় নাদ অর্থ প্রদান পূর্বক সিডিউলে সেনা জীভা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড, সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর এর অফিস হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৪।	জামানতের পরিমাণ	৪।	দরপত্র প্রদানকালে মেটে টাকার ২.২% টেন্ডার নিয়ন্ত্রণ জামানত হিসাবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের উন্নয়নমূলক যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ইয়ুজুইট অফিসের ব্যাংক ড্রাক্ট/সে-অর্ডার পত্রি আর্মি স্পোর্টস কর্তৃক প্রেরিত বোর্ড এর অনুমতিসহ জমা করতে হবে।
৫।	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদন পরের সঙ্গে দাখিলকরণে সন্দেহজনক (যেমন: অস্বাভাবিক সস্তায় নিমিত্ত তালিকাভুক্ত সরবরাহকারীসহ উক্ত দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে)।	৫।	ক। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত প্রকারের একক মুদ্রা, মেটে মুদ্রা ও নিম্ন প্যাডে যাকবর্তিত দরপত্র প্রদান করতে হবে। (সকল মুদ্রা বাংলাদেশী টাকায় উল্লেখ অবশ্যক)। খ। হালনাগাদ ন্যায়নুক্রমিত ট্রেন্ডিং লাইসেন্স এর স্বত্বাধিকারী (সত্যায়িত)। গ। 'বে' টিআইএন সনদপত্র (যদিও হালনাগাদ ট্রেন্ডিং প্রদানের সত্যায়িত স্বত্বাধিকারী)। ঘ। সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃক গঠিত ০২ বছরের একই ধরনের প্রত্য সন্মতী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে সরবরাহ করে থাকলে সে বিষয়ে সনদপত্র। ঙ। করিগরী তথ্য (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)। চ। সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃক গঠিত ০২ বছরের একই ধরনের প্রত্য সন্মতী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে সরবরাহ করে থাকলে সে বিষয়ে সনদপত্র।
৬।	দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু ও শেষ তারিখ	৬।	জাতীয় পরিষদ দরপত্র বিক্রয় প্রক্রিয়ার দিন হতে ০৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১০০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৭।	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ	৭।	০৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১১০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এবং উল্লেখিত সময়ের পরে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৮।	দরপত্র ক্রয়/দাখিলের স্থান	৮।	ক। ইন্ডাস্ট্রি, সেনাসদর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস এবং আর্মি স্টেডিয়াম, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। খ। সন্তোষিত ক্রয় কমিটি, সেনা জীভা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড, সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর হবার দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
৯।	দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ	৯।	০৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১১০০ ঘটিকায় সকল দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে) দরপত্র বাস্তবায়ন করা হবে।
১০।	ক্রয় শেষ করার তারিখ	১০।	কার্যক্রম প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১০ দিনের মধ্যে।
১১।	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	১১।	দরপত্র তফসীলে বর্ণিত বিবরণসমূহ অধ্যয়নকরে পালন পূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

বিঃদ্রঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত প্রবাসসম্মতি/সরকারি পরিদপ্তর কমান্ড/বাড়ানা এবং যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আই এল পি আর/সেনা/৬১১

সচিব
সেনা জীভা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড
সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা
সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer
Dholpur, Dhaka
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

Ref. No. 46.207.000.09.23.16.2025

Date: 28/09/2025

Corrigendum-1

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Zone-8, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which was available at e-GP website from 07/09/2025 at 22:01pm. This is notify for all concern that the e-Tender Notice which was circulated vide this office Memo No. 46.207.000.09.23.14.2025 Date: 04/09/2025. Due to unavoidable circumstances the following tender selling and closing date has been shifted as below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	As in Notice		Amendments (1)	
			Last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time	Last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1	Tender ID-1146517 egp/dsc/z-08/25-26/p-02	Repair works of damaged road in Ward No. 66, 67, 68 and 69 under Zone-08	29-Sep-2025 13:00	29-Sep-2025 15:00	12-Oct-2025 15:30	12-Oct-2025 16:30

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

DSCC/PRD/78/2025-26

GD-2121

Md. Maheb Hossain
28/09/2025
Md. Maheb Hossain
Executive Engineer
Zone-08
Dhaka South City Corporation
E-mail: dscxen08@gmail.com



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Faridpur.
Fax: 0631-63256/66367
E-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No/ Package No	Name of works	Last date and time for Tender Security submission	Tender Closing/ Opening Date & Time.
1	1157271, 67/e-GP/FRD/2025-2026	Maintenance of Existing Pavement Repair and Single Bituminous Surface Treatment Work at from Ch: 1+770m to 5+500m, Ch: 9+800m to 11+000m, Ch: 15+000m to 22+350m, Ch: 22+700m to 24+100m and Ch: 24+800m to 25+000m of Faridpur-Hatgazaria Charbhadrason-Sadarpur (Z-8402) Road under Road Division, Faridpur during the year 2025-2026.	22/10/2025 11:00 hour	22/10/2025 11:15 hour

e-Tender details can be downloaded from 28/09/2025 time: 16:45 to 21/10/2025, time: 17:00 of e-GP system portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for pursue.

e-Tenders will be accepted only as stated in above list, accepted tenders will be opened online immediately as stated in above list.

Khalid Saifullah Sardar
25/10/2025
(Khalid Saifullah Sardar)
ID No. 602287
Executive Engineer, (C.C) RHD
Road Division, Faridpur.

GD-2122



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www.tcb.gov.bd

Commercial Section

Invitation for Tender (International) for Purchase of 10,000 M. Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3	Procuring entity name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	26.05.0000.016.09.584.25.2532.
8	Date	28-09-2025

KEY INFORMATION
9 Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)

FUNDING INFORMATION
10 Budget and source of funds: TCB's own fund.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
11 Package No.: TCB/Imp-10/Red Lentil/2025-26.
12 Package name: Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.
13 Tender invitation/publication date: 29-09-2025

14 Tender documents last selling date and time: 14-10-2025 17:00pm
15 Tender closing date and time: 15-10-2025 12:00pm
16 Tender opening date and time: 15-10-2025 12:15pm

17 Name & address of the office(s):
-Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.
-Receiving tender document: In front of TCB's reception (2nd Floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
-Opening tender document: Board Room, TCB.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
18 Eligibility of tenderer: Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.
19 Brief description of goods: Import of 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M.Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil packed in export standard/export worthy new and sound poly lined jute or polypropylene bag or HDP bag of 25/50 (Twenty Five/Fifty) kg bag (Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 2,000 M. Ton.).
20 Price of tender document: Price of Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).

Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security amount (USD/BDT)	Shipment schedule
1	Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram/ Mongla Port by Sea or CPT Benapole/ Bangla Hili/ Darshana/ Sonamajid/ Bhomra/Teknaf by rail/ truck.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: USD 186700 (US Dollar One Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred) or BDT 2,27,40,060 (BDT Two Crore Twenty-Seven Lac Forty Thousand Sixty) Only. in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee from a foreign Bank must be endorsed by any local scheduled Bank. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. [N. B: In case of partial quantity, tender security will be fixed proportionate to the offered quantity.]	Entire quantity of Goods is to be within shipped within 31.01.2026

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
22 Name of official inviting tender: Md. Golam Khorshed
23 Designation of official inviting tender: Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24 Address of official inviting tender: Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
25 Contact details of official inviting tender: Telephone No. 02-8180060, Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail tcb@tcb.gov.bd, tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd

26 **Special Instructions:**
a. All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document.
b. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/ in part without assigning any reason.

Md. Golam Khorshed
25/9/25
Md. Golam Khorshed
Deputy Secretary
Additional Director (Commercial)
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

GD-2118

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Environment
Establishment of Mymensingh Divisional Laboratory and Improvement of Dhaka Laboratory of Department of Environment (DoE) for Environmental Monitoring & Climate Change Impact Assessment
Poribesh Bhaban New Building, 10th Floor, Room: 1103)
E/16 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change		
2	Agency	Department of Environment		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director		
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Rent 2 Microbuses (details are mentioned in the tender schedule)		
7	Invitation Ref No	22.02.0000.040.14.12.25-18		
8	Date	28/09/2025		

KEY INFORMATION
9 Procurement Method: Open Tendering Method (OTM)

FUNDING INFORMATION
10 Budget and Source of Funds: BCCTF through MoEFCC
11 Development Partners (if applicable): Not Applicable

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
12 Project / Programme Code (if applicable): Not Applicable
13 Project / Programme Name (if applicable): "Establishment of Mymensingh Divisional Laboratory and Improvement of Dhaka Laboratory of Department of Environment (DoE) for Environmental Monitoring & Climate Change Impact Assessment" Project

14 Tender Package No.: SD-04
15 Tender Package Name: Supply of Vehicle on rental basis

16 Tender Publication Date: 28 September 2025
17 Tender Last Selling Date [up to the day prior to the day of deadline for Submission]: 16 October 2025 5:00 PM

18 Tender Closing Date and Time: 19 October 2025 12:00 PM
19 Tender Opening Date and Time: 19 October 2025 12:30 PM

20 Name & Address of the office(s):
- Selling Tender Document (Principal): Office of the Project Director, "Establishment of Mymensingh Divisional Laboratory and Improvement of Dhaka Laboratory of Department of Environment (DoE) for Environmental Monitoring & Climate Change Impact Assessment", Paribesh Bhaban (10th Floor, Room No.1103), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
- Selling Tender Document (Others):

NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS
- Receiving Tender Document
- Opening Tender Document

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
22 Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer: Details are mentioned in the Tender schedule
23 Brief Description of Services: Details are mentioned in the Tender schedule
25 Price of Tender Document (Tk): 1000/- (One Thousand) taka only.

Pckge No.	Identificati on of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
26	SD-04 Supply of Vehicle on rental basis	Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban (10 th Floor, Room No.1103), E-16 Agargaon, Dhaka-1207	75,000/- (Seventy Five Thousand taka only)	12 Months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
30 Name of Official Inviting Tender: Dr. Sonia Afsana
31 Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Project Director
32 Address of Official Inviting Tender: Establishment of Mymensingh Divisional Laboratory and Improvement of Dhaka Laboratory of Department of Environment (DoE) for Environmental Monitoring & Climate Change Impact Assessment", Paribesh Bhaban (10th Floor, Room No.1002), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 02-2222218293 < Fax No. > sonia.afsana@yahoo.com

33 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: < Fax No. > sonia.afsana@yahoo.com
34 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings

Dr. Sonia Afsana
Project Director

GD-2115

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Narayanganj Road Division

Narayanganj

Phone: 7693468

E-mail: eenary@rhd.gov.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridge/ Road Transport and Highway Division
2	Agency	Roads and Highways Department
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable
5	Procuring entity district	Narayanganj
6	Invitation for	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for 3rd Shitalakhya Bridge at 12th km of Madanpur-Madanganj-Sayedpur (R-113) Road for 3(Three) years under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025
7	Invitation Ref No.	35.01.6700.451.07.000.25-3632 (Re-Tender)
8	Date	28-09-2025

KEY INFORMATION
9 Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM)

FUNDING INFORMATION
10 Budget and source of funds: GOB
11 Development partners (if applicable): None

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
12 Project/program code (if applicable): None
13 Project name (if applicable): None
14 Tender Package No.: 01/Manual/PSN/NRD/2024-2025

15 Tender package name: Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for 3rd Shitalakhya Bridge at 12th km of Madanpur-Madanganj-Sayedpur (R-113) Road for 3(Three) years under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025

16 Tender publication date: 28-09-2025
17 Tender last selling date: 14-10-2025 and 04.00pm (BST)
18 Tender closing date and time: 15-10-2025 and 12.00pm (BST)
19 Tender opening date and time: 15-10-2025 and 03:30pm (BST)

20 Name & address of the office(s):
-Selling tender document (principal): Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj
- Selling tender document (others): (i) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Administration & Establishment, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dhaka (iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Munshiganj (iv) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narsingdi.

No conditions apply for sale, purchase, or distribution of tender documents
- Receiving tender document: (i) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj.

-Opening tender document: Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

21 Eligibility of tenderer: As per TDS

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
22 Brief description of services: Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for 3rd Shitalakhya Bridge at 12th km of Madanpur-Madanganj-Sayedpur (R-113) Road for 3(Three) years under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025

23 Price of tender document (Tk): 5000.00

Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
01/Manual/PSN/NRD/2024-2025	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance	3rd Shitalakhya Bridge at 12th km of Madanpur-Madanganj-Sayedpur (R-113) Road	32.00 (thirty-two lakh)	36 months

PROCURING DETAILS
24 Name of official inviting tender: Abdur Rahim
25 Designation of official inviting tender: Executive Engineer, RHD
26 Address of official inviting tender: Narayanganj Road Division, Narayanganj
27 Contact details of the official inviting tender: Phone: 7693468, E-mail: eenary@rhd.gov.bd, eenarayanganj@gmail.com

28 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tender at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. This notice will be available on the RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and on the CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd

Abdur Rahim
ID No. 602227
Executive Engineer, RHD
Narayanganj Road Division

GD-2120

“



I no longer have a visa to travel to the United States. I don't care. I don't need a visa ... because I'm not only a Colombian citizen but a European citizen, and I truly consider myself a free person in the world. Revoking it for denouncing genocide [in Gaza] shows the US no longer respects international law.

GUSTAVO PETRO
Colombia president
after US revoked his visa



A damaged building and vehicles in a residential neighbourhood on the outskirts of Kyiv after it was hit by a Russian drone and missile strike yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Gaza flotilla sails again amid threats

REUTERS, Rome

An international aid flotilla that paused for several days in Greek waters for repairs has set sail again for Gaza, where activists aim to challenge Israel's naval blockade and deliver aid to the Palestinian territory.

Organisers yesterday said that Greek vessels had now joined their enterprise, meaning that the flotilla, which counts some 47 civilian boats, was "complete".

"Brothers and sisters in Gaza, we sail with hope in our hearts. Your resilience is our compass, your struggle is our struggle. Together, we will break the silence of the siege," the Global Sumud Flotilla wrote on social media.

Around 40 Italians are aboard the flotilla alongside activists from dozens of other countries, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg. They hope to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza in the coming week.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani yesterday repeated a proposal made last week for the flotilla to take the aid to Cyprus for eventual distribution in Gaza by the Roman Catholic Church. The flotilla rejected the suggestion.

"We have always said ... that it is dangerous to approach Israeli waters. We don't know what might happen. Forcing the blockade is dangerous," Tajani told reporters.

The flotilla was struck on Wednesday in international waters off Crete by drones armed with stun grenades and irritants, which caused damage but no injuries.

Israel did not comment on the incident. It has previously said it will use any means to prevent the boats from reaching Gaza.

Return of UN sanctions 'unjustifiable': Iran

Vows 'firm and appropriate' response to 'illegal' measures

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday condemned as "unjustifiable" the reinstatement of United Nations sanctions over its nuclear programme, after the collapse of talks with Western powers and Israeli and US strikes on its nuclear sites.

The measures, which bar dealings linked to the Islamic republic's nuclear and ballistic missile activities, took effect overnight after Western powers triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism under the 2015 nuclear accord.

"The reactivation of annulled resolutions is legally baseless and unjustifiable... all countries must refrain from recognising this illegal situation," the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will firmly defend its national rights and interests, and any action aimed at undermining the rights and interests of its people will face a firm and appropriate response," it added.

The return of the sanctions ends months of tense diplomacy aimed at reviving nuclear talks derailed since June, when Israeli and US forces bombed Iranian nuclear facilities.

Despite the reimposition, Western leaders stressed channels for dialogue remained open.

Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat, on Sunday said the reimposition of sanctions



Western leaders say channel for dialogue remains open

Rubio calls on Iran to engage in direct talks with US

Russia says sanctions invalid; Israel hails move

"must not be the end of diplomacy", adding that "a sustainable solution to the Iranian nuclear issue can only be achieved through negotiations".

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged Iran to "accept direct talks, held in good faith".

He also called on UN member states to "immediately" implement sanctions to "pressure Iran's leaders to do what is right for their nation, and best for the safety of the world".

The British, French and German foreign ministers said in a joint statement they would continue to seek "a new diplomatic solution to ensure Iran never gets a nuclear weapon".

They also called on Tehran "to

refrain from any escalatory action".

Iran had allowed UN inspectors to return to its nuclear sites, but President Masoud Pezeshkian said the United States had offered only a short reprieve in return for handing over its whole stockpile of enriched uranium, a proposal he described as unacceptable.

An 11th-hour effort by Iran allies Russia and China to postpone the sanctions until April failed to win enough votes in the Security Council on Friday, leading to the measures taking effect at 3:30am in Tehran (0000 GMT) on Sunday.

Russia has long contended that it would not enforce the sanctions, considering them invalid.

The sanctions "finally exposed the West's policy of sabotaging the pursuit of constructive solutions in the UN Security Council, as well as its desire to extract unilateral concessions from Tehran through blackmail and pressure," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

Iran has long contended that it is not seeking nuclear weapons. Newspapers in the Islamic republic gave contrasting reactions to the reimposition of the sanctions. The ultraconservative newspaper Kayhan, which opposes any dialogue with the United States, suggested the sanctions would likely have been imposed even if Iran had engaged in negotiations.

The reformist daily Ham Mihan wrote: "The big question is whether Russia and China will maintain their position".

China former minister gets death for graft

AFP, Beijing

China's former agricultural minister was sentenced to death yesterday on corruption charges, with a two-year reprieve, a court statement said.

Tang Renjian accepted cash and property bribes totalling more than 268 million yuan (\$38 million) between 2007 and 2024, the People's Court of Changchun in northeast Jilin province said in a statement.

The court ruled that the bribes "caused particularly severe losses to the interests of the state and the people, and therefore warranted the death penalty", adding that Tang had confessed to his crimes and expressed remorse.

Tang's sentencing is the latest in President Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-graft campaign that has brought down several high-level figures.

Supporters of Xi's anti-corruption drive say the campaign promotes clean governance, but critics argue it provides the president with the power to purge political rivals.

Tang previously served as governor of the northwestern province of Gansu, as well as the vice chairman of southern autonomous region Guangxi.

Deep roots of rage as Ladakh seeks self-rule

AFP, Leh

India's remote high-altitude desert region of Ladakh has been in turmoil since four people were killed in violent protests demanding greater political autonomy for the Himalayan territory.

Growing resentment with New Delhi's direct rule over the territory, and fears of losing livelihoods boiled over on Wednesday as crowds took to the streets in the main city Leh, torching a police vehicle and the offices of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Initially police said five people had died but later revised the toll to four.

The sparsely populated region, home to some 300,000 people, borders both China and Pakistan and is a strategic enclave for India. Around half of Ladakh's residents are Muslim and about 40 percent are Buddhist.

Why are people protesting?

Modi's government split Ladakh off from Indian-administered Kashmir in 2019, imposing direct rule on both after cancelling the region's partial autonomy.

Since then, resentment has been growing in Ladakh, with concerns about losing traditional livelihoods, land rights, and cultural identity. Residents say the end of semi-autonomy stripped them of protections over land, jobs, and resources.

Who is leading the demonstrations?

The Apex Body Leh, led by veteran leader Chering Dorjay, has become the main voice of the protesters.

"We have been used like slaves," Dorjay, 77, said, vowing to continue the struggle in the days to come.

Wednesday's demonstrations were also organised in solidarity with prominent activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on hunger strike for two weeks. New Delhi blamed the unrest on "provocative speeches" by Wangchuk who was detained by police on Friday.

What are the core demands?

The protesters are demanding protection of land rights and to stop outsiders from buying property in Ladakh. They also want constitutional autonomy under the "Sixth Schedule" of India's constitution, which would allow a local legislature to make laws on land use and jobs.

Why is land a sensitive issue?

The government has announced large-scale solar projects and industrial plans in Ladakh that require thousands of acres of land.

Locals fear this will endanger grazing grounds critical for pashmina goat herding, already under pressure from climate change and military buffer zones established with China.

"The danger to this centuries-old



livelihood undermining lives of thousands of pashmina goat herders is another issue now," Dorjay said.

How do Ladakhis view relationship with India?

Unlike in Kashmir where opposition to Indian rule runs deep, Ladakhis have historically aligned with India, backing its troops in past conflicts with Pakistan and China.

But many now say they feel betrayed.

"For 70 years we have helped protect India's borders," Haji told AFP. "Now we want ourselves to be protected."

Beaten, shot and burned

FROM PAGE 16

For over an hour and a half, harrowing images rolled across a large screen, leaving the courtroom in stunned silence. Parents of July uprising victim Golan Nafiz, present in the courtroom, broke down in tears while all eyes were glued to the screen with a heavy pall of grief.

The documentary, prepared by the International Truth and Justice Project based on forensic analysis of 400 video clips, captured one chilling scene after another from the Jatrabari massacre.

Policemen were seen firing point-blank at two young men crouching for safety behind a pillar beneath the Mayor Hanif Flyover. One collapsed instantly. The other, clutching his chest, tried to stumble forward when a policeman struck him with his rifle.

Elsewhere, two youths were cornered in an alley and beaten with rifle butts and sticks before targeted shots struck them down. Their lifeless bodies were soon left sprawled on the ground.

At least 19 were killed, including 18-year-old Yasir Sarker, Hubayed Ahmed, Md Liton, and Miraz Hossain. Many more were wounded.

The footage also traced how the quota reform movement transformed into a nationwide uprising after the killing of Abu Sayed, a Begum Rokeya University student, on July 16. It captured Sheikh Hasina branding protesters as descendants of "razakars", a remark that ignited fresh fury on the streets.

Other atrocities flashed across the

screen: the burning of five dead and one still alive protesters in a police van in Ashulia, the Chankharpool killing of six demonstrators, the murder of Golan Nafiz at Farmgate, and the shooting of Amir Hossain as he clung desperately to a ledge in Rampura. One clip even showed sound grenades being fired from helicopters hovering above.

Later, the tribunal began recording the statement of Investigation Officer Additional SP Md Alamgir, the final prosecution witness in the case. So far, 53 witnesses have testified.

The tribunal also accepted as corroborative evidence a statement from the late intellectual and political activist Badruddin Umar, who had passed away before he could testify.

In the case against Hasina, the investigating officer, Md Alamgir, in his deposition, mentioned evidence he seized during the investigation, including the bullets taken out from the bodies of wounded protesters, and video footage of the police firing. The court recorded his deposition. The remaining part of his deposition will resume today.

Meanwhile, ICT-1 disposed of a case against former minister and JSD president Hasanul Haq Inu after prosecutors said formal charges had already been pressed against him before ICT 2 in a similar case.

In court, Inu's lawyer, senior advocate ZI Khan Panna, sought permission to consult his client, which was granted.

Speaking to journalists afterwards,

he expressed deep frustration. Referring to Inu's audio conversation with Hasina, ZI Khan yesterday said Inu had asked the former premier to arrest protesters but also directed that they be released the next day, cautioning against opening fire under any circumstances and instead creating fear by using sound grenades.

"This does not mean he was insisting on killings. Such acts are carried out by those in power," ZI Khan told journalists after leaving the courtroom.

Replying to a question, he said that if his client is proven to have been involved in any killing, he should face punishment. "But it has to be proved," he stressed, adding that he himself has always opposed both killings and the death penalty.

"That is why I never came to this tribunal during the Awami League's tenure. Whether an individual is hanged rightfully or wrongly - I am not in favour of it. The civilised world rejects the death penalty..."

Responding to another query, the senior advocate said, "There are lapses everywhere in this country. I cannot even be sure if I'll reach home safely from here."

He further alleged that no cases were filed against those who created mobs and attacked the participants of a roundtable he organised at the Dhaka Reporters Unity last month. "Instead, the victims were sued. How can I respect this law and this administration?"



World's highest bridge opens in China

AFP, Beijing

The world's highest bridge opened to traffic in China yesterday, state media said, capping an engineering feat three years in the making.

The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge towers 625 metres above a river and vast gorge in the country's rugged southern province of Guizhou, also home to the 565-metre Beipanjiang Bridge that is now the world's second highest.

Live drone footage broadcast by state media showed vehicles traversing the immense structure, its support towers partially engulfed in clouds.

State news agency Xinhua said Wednesday that nearly half of the world's 100 highest bridges are located in Guizhou.

The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge took more than three years to complete, Xinhua reported. Its 1,420-metre main span makes it the "world's largest-span bridge built in a mountainous area", it added.



STAMPEDE AT INDIA RALLY Case filed against actor Vijay's party

REUTERS, Chennai

Police in India registered a criminal case against leaders of Tamil actor Vijay's political party after a stampede at his rally killed 39 people, a senior police official said yesterday.

The dead included children and more than 50 people were injured in Saturday's stampede in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, where Vijay was campaigning for his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam party ahead of state elections early next year.

Tamil Nadu police filed the case, the first step toward potential charges, "against TVK party senior leaders Bussy Anand, Nirmal Kumar and V.P. Mathiyalagan, and the investigation is under way," senior police official V. Selvaraj told Reuters. "TVK originally sought permission for a gathering of 10,000 people, but the actual crowd was more than double," he said.

Vijay, one of Tamil cinema's most bankable actors for three decades, has drawn massive crowds since launching his party last year.

DON'T MISS A BEAT

START SAVING YOUR HEART TODAY

Today is World Heart Day, a global reminder of the urgent need to fight cardiovascular disease (CVD), the world's leading cause of death. Every year, over 6.5 million people die prematurely from heart disease, and 75% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. In Bangladesh, the situation is even more alarming; on average, a person suffers a first heart attack nine years earlier than someone in the West.

WHY IT MATTERS

Globally, one in three heart attacks occurs in people under 70. In just the last decade, heart disease has doubled, overtaking cancer in long-term mortality and morbidity. Conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes are often silent but deadly. This is quietly fueling this crisis. Shockingly, only one in five people with hypertension is aware and

Miss a Beat," calls us to act:

1. As individuals, we can make heart-smart lifestyle choices.
2. As governments, by ensuring equitable access and policy support.
3. As a global community, by demanding action at the UN's High-Level Meeting this year to prioritise CVD.

WHAT CAUSES HEART ATTACKS?

The most common and devastating form of heart disease is a heart attack (myocardial infarction). It occurs when fatty deposits (atherosclerosis) block an artery, cutting off oxygen and killing heart cells.

KEY RISK FACTORS INCLUDE:

- Diabetes – poorly controlled blood sugar accelerates artery blockage.
- High blood pressure – damages artery walls



PROF. DR. MOEEN UDDIN AHMED

“In Bangladesh, the situation is even more alarming: on average, a person suffers a first heart attack nine years earlier than someone in the West.”

controlled through treatment. Raising that to even one in two could prevent 130 million early deaths.

The good news? Up to 80% of these deaths are preventable through healthy choices, early screening, and better access to healthcare.

This year's World Heart Day theme, “Don't

and speeds up plaque buildup.

•High cholesterol – excess LDL (“bad” cholesterol) and triglycerides raise risk, while HDL (“good” cholesterol) protects the heart.

•Obesity – linked to high blood pressure, diabetes, and abnormal cholesterol.

•Sedentary lifestyle – lack of activity worsens

weight, sugar, and fat control.

•Family history – early heart disease in close relatives increases risk.

•Metabolic syndrome – a dangerous mix of a large waistline, high blood sugar, low HDL, high triglycerides, and borderline high blood pressure.

•Stress and substance abuse – chronic mental strain and recreational drugs can trigger heart attacks.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HEART

Prevention is simple but powerful. Small daily changes add up to long-term protection.

1. Eat smart – Choose fresh, unprocessed foods, five servings of fruits and vegetables daily, whole grains, nuts, and meals low in sugar, salt, and saturated fats.

2. Stay active – Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five days a week. Take the stairs, walk short distances, and move more throughout your day.

3. Maintain healthy weight – Keep your BMI at 24 or below and avoid central obesity.

4. Quit tobacco and alcohol – Even second-

hand smoke is dangerous. The risk of heart disease halves within a year of quitting. Ideally, avoid alcohol altogether.

5. Manage stress – Chronic stress harms the heart, especially in women. Exercise, relaxation techniques, and leisure help.

6. Know your numbers – Track blood pressure, sugar, cholesterol, BMI, and waist-to-hip ratio. Awareness is the first step to prevention.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Heart disease is not inevitable. In fact, it is preventable. By adopting healthier habits and staying vigilant through regular screenings, we can save millions of lives.

Your heart is your life's rhythm. Don't miss a beat. Start protecting it today.

The writer is Prof. Dr. Moeen Uddin Ahmed, MBBS, MD (Cardiology), Senior Consultant in Clinical & Interventional Cardiology at Unico Hospitals PLC.

World's No.1 Silent Killer



PROFESSOR KHONDKAR ABDUL AWAL (RIZVI)

President, National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh

“Adopt a healthy lifestyle, manage stress, and protect your environment because your heart health depends on it.”



PROFESSOR FAROOQUE AHMED

Chief Consultant Cardiac Surgeon
National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute

“Prevention is better than cure. Avoid unhealthy habits before they place you on the operating table.”

On World Heart Day, Bangladesh's health leaders are spotlighting the urgent need for awareness about cardiovascular disease (CVD), the country's most critical health challenge. The Daily Star sat with the doctors to discuss the importance of prevention versus cure.



PROFESSOR FAZILA TUN-NESE MALIK

Chief Consultant Cardiologist
National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute

“You've got only one heart, take care of it.”



PROFESSOR TAWFIQ SHAHRIAR HUQ

Senior Consultant Cardiologist
National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute

“Never ignore symptoms like fatigue, palpitations, or breathlessness. Consult a doctor, not friends or neighbors.”

Professor Khondkar Abdul Awal (Rizvi), President of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, emphasizes the importance of the day. He reminds us that heart disease and stroke remain the world's leading killers, claiming 20 million lives globally each year, with nearly 200,000 deaths in Bangladesh alone.

“Non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and cancer now account for 70% of all deaths in Bangladesh,” he explains. “But there is a silver lining; most heart conditions are preventable.”

Prevention rests on several key pillars: eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, managing stress, and maintaining a clean environment.

At the same time, he highlights systemic challenges. Bangladesh spends only 1% of its GDP on healthcare, among the lowest in the

region. Even these limited funds are often underutilized.

With 70% of healthcare delivered by the private sector, he calls for the establishment of a national health insurance system to protect citizens from catastrophic medical costs.

This year's global theme, “Don't miss a beat,” stresses the need for vigilance at every stage of heart health.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO NATIONAL PROGRESS

Looking back at the country's medical journey, Professor Dr. Farooque Ahmed, Chief Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, recalls how limited resources once were. “In 1981, on average, about 160 to 180 heart surgeries were performed annually in Bangladesh,” he says. “Last year, the number surpassed 18,500.”

Despite this impressive growth, the demand is still unmet. At least 25,000 surgeries are required each year to serve Bangladesh's population adequately.

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

Professor Dr. Fazila Tun-Nesa Malik, Chief Consultant Cardiologist, challenges the misconception that heart disease is primarily a “man's disease.” She emphasises that women face unique risks, particularly after menopause.

“Before menopause, estrogen protects women by maintaining healthier cholesterol levels, glucose metabolism, and arterial flexibility,” she explains. “After menopause, estrogen levels drop, and women's risk of cardiovascular disease rises sharply, becoming equal to men's.”

Another challenge is that women often experience atypical symptoms of heart disease, like fatigue, palpitations, or shortness of breath, rather than the classic chest pain. This leads to delayed diagnosis and treatment. Pregnancy-related heart complications add further risk.

Dr. Malik describes a heart attack as a sudden blockage in a heart artery caused by a blood clot. “The priority is to restore blood flow as quickly as possible,” she stresses. In Bangladesh, where specialised facilities may be limited, she advocates for a ‘pharmacoinvasive strategy’ giving clot-busting medication immediately at the nearest clinic before transferring the patient to a cardiac center.

NEW FRONTIERS AND UNSEEN CHALLENGES

Dr. Tawfiq Shahriar Huq, Senior Consultant

Cardiologist, draws attention to two under-discussed but urgent issues.

The first is the growing incidence of heart disease among young Bangladeshi migrant workers. “These men and women often endure physically strenuous labour, poor diets, and intense stress from family separation,” he explains. “Most have no access to healthcare abroad, and their visas rarely cover health insurance.”

The second issue is congenital heart disease in children. Dr. Huq reveals that an estimated 300,000 Bangladeshi children are born with heart defects each year. Due to a lack of awareness and the limited availability of specialised pediatric cardiac care, many of these cases end in preventable deaths.



Don't Miss a Beat.
Act Now. It Could Save Your Life.

Beat Hypertension
Live Longer

Tems A
Telmisartan & Amlodipine Tablet

ARNIS
Sacubitril & Valsartan Tablet

*Prescription only medicine

A father and son's approach to tackling a health crisis

DR. CHOWDHURY H. AHSAN and CHOWDHURY TASNIF AHSAN

As father and son, we represent two connected fields of medicine. Dr. Ahsan, a Professor of Cardiology, has spent decades treating heart disease, while Tasnif, a Johns Hopkins graduate, works as Director of Value-Based Care at Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada. Our paths converge around a devastating "triad" of diseases: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), and Diabetes Mellitus (DM). Together, they form a destructive cycle that is claiming lives worldwide, especially in low- and middle-income countries like Bangladesh.

On this World Heart Day 2025, themed "Don't Miss a Beat," we share insights and an action plan to break this cycle.

WORLD HEART DAY: ORIGINS AND CONTEXT

World Heart Day began in 2000 through the World Heart Federation and WHO, with the goal of raising global awareness about heart health. Today, it is more relevant than ever. CVD, CKD, and diabetes are soaring in Bangladesh, driven by rising obesity, high blood pressure, and poor access to healthcare. Weak health systems, delayed treatment, and lack of awareness compound the burden.

THE VICIOUS CYCLE

These three diseases do not act in isolation.

They feed into each other.

- Diabetes damages the kidneys by injuring their delicate blood vessels (glomeruli), making it the leading cause of chronic kidney disease and kidney failure.

- CKD fuels cardiovascular risk by raising blood pressure and leaving toxins in the blood, greatly increasing heart attack and stroke risks.

- Heart disease can worsen kidney function by reducing blood flow and increasing pressure in the kidneys, leading to progressive damage and failure.

This cycle is especially lethal in South Asians, who have a higher genetic risk of diabetes and heart disease. Patients caught in it face sharply increased chances of disability and premature death.

THE "4 D'S" FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

We believe the fight against this triad rests on four pillars:

1. Diet & Exercise
A balanced diet low in processed foods, sugar, and sodium controls blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Even 30 minutes of brisk walking daily can improve heart health and insulin sensitivity. Lifestyle improvement is the foundation of prevention.

2. Discipline
Knowledge means little without action. Discipline is taking medicines regularly, checking sugar levels, and choosing healthier

meals daily. Consistency is what turns medical advice into real results.

3. Drugs
We are in a breakthrough era. Newer medications such as SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP-1 agonists do more than control sugar; they protect both heart and kidneys, slow disease progression, and reduce mortality. Alongside standard blood pressure and cholesterol medicines, they represent a paradigm shift in treatment.

4. Dialogue
No patient fights this alone. Success requires ongoing dialogue with family and care teams—primary doctors, cardiologists, nephrologists, and dietitians. Coordinated, patient-centered care ensures treatment fits both medical needs and lifestyle.

A CALL TO ACTION

Globally, CVD kills 18 million people each year—more than all cancers combined. CKD affects over 850 million adults, often silently, with heart disease as their leading cause of death. In Bangladesh, where diabetes and hypertension are rising rapidly, the consequences are stark.

The economic and human toll demands national strategies: prevention programs, early screening, affordable access to modern drugs, and integrated care models. Investing in awareness campaigns and primary care capacity is far cheaper than the cost

of dialysis, heart failure admissions, and premature deaths.

OUR "3-D" BLUEPRINT FOR BANGLADESH

For long-term impact, we propose three interconnected commitments:


1. Diet & Exercise – Reclaim balanced eating and daily activity. Cut excess rice, sugar, and fried foods; embrace whole grains, fish, lentils, and fresh vegetables. Movement, especially walking, climbing stairs, remains the cheapest, most effective prescription.

2. Discipline – Build a culture of accountability. Medication adherence, routine check-ups, and daily lifestyle choices are the real frontline defense.

3. Drugs – For those already diagnosed, modern medicine offers more than symptom control, new therapies protect organs and save lives. Adhering to prescribed drugs for diabetes, blood pressure, and cholesterol sharply lowers the risk of heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure. On this World Heart Day, the message for Bangladesh is clear: the threat is real, but preventable. By embracing the "3-D" approach of Diet, Discipline, and Drugs, we can safeguard our families and build a healthier future, one heart at a time.

A MESSAGE OF URGENCY AND HOPE

The CVD-CKD-diabetes triad is not destiny.




DR. CHOWDHURY H. AHSAN

On this World Heart Day, the message for Bangladesh is clear: the threat is real, but preventable.

With prevention, discipline, and the right therapies, the cycle can be broken. On this World Heart Day, let us commit to protecting ourselves and our families, one step and one beat at a time.

Dr. Chowdhury H. Ahsan, MRCP, MD, PhD, FSCAI, Professor of Medicine, Director of Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Chief of Cardiology, University Medical Center, Las Vegas.

Chowdhury Tasnif Ahsan, MS (Duke), MBA (Johns Hopkins), Director of Operations and Finance, Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas.



DR. JAGAT NARULA,
President of World Heart Foundation

The theme for World Heart Day 2025 is "Don't Miss a Beat" There are risk factors that have cumulative effects that lead to adverse cardiovascular events. We need to recognize them, address them and prevent bad outcomes. Dr Jagat Narula, President of World Heart Foundation sums it up:

"Let us be risk-averse. And, yes, I have heard people blaming age as an inevitable cause of heart disease, but age reflects length of exposure to unhealthy choices. Let us age well. Don't Miss a Beat"




Care, as unique as you




**With Love & Care
LIFE BEATS
EVERYWHERE**


1 in 5 people in Bangladesh dies from heart disease, and even relatively young individuals are at risk. Reducing this risk requires awareness and proper heart care.

On this World Heart Day, let us pledge to protect every heartbeat so that life thrives in good health. On behalf of Unico Hospitals PLC, we extend our warm wishes to everyone on World Heart Day.

1 IN 5 PREMATURE DEATHS ARE CAUSED BY CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE.

DON'T MISS A BEAT.



BEACON
Light for life

“I wanted to try out my luck for three months, and then get back to my studies. As it was probably written in fate, those ‘three months’ never really ended!”



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

‘It doesn’t feel like I’ve been here for 26 years’: SHAKIB KHAN

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It was an otherwise unremarkable evening at The Daily Star – the newsroom not particularly abuzz with headlines as of yet. At least it was, before an entourage of 20+ people burst onto the scene, drawing eyes from the lobby. A towering figure got out of his classic white car, adorned with a suave green suit and an expensive-looking timepiece. His aviators reflected the dwindling sun onto the onlookers’ eyes. Shakib Khan had dropped by, to the surprise of many in the building. Accompanying him was his team – everyone from photographers and image consultants to makeup men and journalists.

“It’s been a while, huh?”, said Shakib, as he took the lift to the seventh floor. Affectionately called the ‘megastar’ by his fans, he has undoubtedly been the flagbearer of Bangla cinema for the better part of his 26-year career. In recognition of this, Blender’s Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards conferred to him the Silver Jubilee of Cinematic

Excellence Award, which was to be handed over to him on the day of the event. “I apologise that I couldn’t make it to the event,” said Shakib, in conversation with The Daily Star’s Editor & Publisher, Mahfuz Anam. “My son was so sick, that he had to be hospitalised. I had to immediately fly back to the USA.”

The cameras rolled, even in conversation. “I was just an eager teenager, stumbling on to a film set. I was discovered because I probably looked handsome at the time,” jested the artiste. “I wanted to try out my luck for three months, and then get back to my studies. As it was probably written in fate, those ‘three months’ never really ended!”

As jam-packed as the conference room on the seventh floor was, the view outside was of more intrigue. People eager to click a selfie with the person they’d seen on the silver screen, someone who has successfully rejuvenated his career in the last decade or so. “I know it might sound cliché, but I owe every single thing I have to the fans. Without them, I

would not be where I am right now – no one in my line of work would.”

Shakib also credited his co-stars for supporting him throughout his career. “Every director that I’ve worked with, and every other artiste with whom I’ve shared the screen with – I am grateful to them,” he said, in a visibly reflective mood.

Before moving on to a photoshoot, Dhallywood’s ‘King Khan’ had a request for the journalists at The Daily Star, “Our film industry is a treasure-trove of possibilities. Even foreigners are watching subtitled Bangla films with utmost eagerness. Please, talk about our dwindling halls, and how our infrastructure needs to improve. We need to raise our voices.”

After the small-ish formal ceremony concluded, the Taandob star took the time to indulge his fans waiting to take a picture with him, before finally having to leave because of prior commitments. “I promise, I’ll be back to try some of the ‘famed’ canteen food of yours,” smiled Shakib Khan.



Family launches website to preserve Prabir Mitra’s legacy

A website dedicated to preserving the life and work of late film actor Prabir Mitra has been launched by his family, announced at a memorial held at the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation.

The site, actorprobirmitra.com, will feature photos, film credits, and archival material to introduce future generations to Mitra’s career.

Prabir Mitra, who died on January 5, appeared in more than 300 films, including Titash Ekti Nadir Naam, Fariyad, Rokto Shopoth, and Fakir Majnu Shah, and won a National Film Award for Boro Bhalo Lok Chhilo.

The acclaimed actor’s debut came with H Akbar’s Jolchhobi in 1971. His son Mithun Mitra said the archive aims to preserve his father’s legacy, offering researchers and fans access to a lasting record of his contributions.

SELENA GOMEZ marries Benny Blanco

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco are officially married. The couple, who began dating in 2023, exchanged vows in California on September 27.

For the ceremony, Selena chose a white halter-style gown adorned with floral details, while Benny Blanco donned a tuxedo paired with a bow tie. Both ensembles were specially designed by Ralph Lauren. Sharing the moment on Instagram, Selena captioned her

post with “9.27.25” Benny responded to the post by writing, “My wife in real life.”

The singer’s wedding album featured intimate moments, including a photo of her sitting on the ground with Blanco resting his head on her lap, and another of her adjusting his bow tie before giving him a kiss. The post’s comment section was soon flooded with congratulatory messages from fans and celebrities.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?

‘Oitijher Poth Dhore: Pujoy Puran Dhaka’

Heritage Walk Dhaka offers participants an immersive journey through Puran Dhaka’s rich history, architecture, and culture. Coinciding with *Sharadiya Durga Puja*, the walk explores bustling Shankhari Bazar and Tantibazar, festive pandals, colonial landmarks, and zamindari relics—blending tradition, cuisine, and celebrations into a vivid portrait of the city’s secular spirit.

Date: Wednesday | October 1, 2025



Time: 8:40 am- 3pm

Venue: Old Town, Dhaka

NEWS

Yunus calls for national unity

FROM PAGE 16 Investment Development Authority (BIDA) jointly organised the event titled “NRB Connect Day: Empowering Global Bangladeshis”, which included different engagements, including a plenary session, the launch of a new digital app, and diaspora engagement.

NRBs shared their perspectives, raised concerns, contributed ideas, and helped shape initiatives that strengthen their connection to Bangladesh.

BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun highlighted Bangladesh’s economic progress over the past 15 months since the July Uprising and outlined government initiatives to create an investment-friendly environment.

The chief adviser launched a mobile application named Shubheccha, designed to provide NRBs with essential services, guidance, and investment opportunities.

Yunus lauded the invaluable contributions of NRBs, mentioning that their remittances have been central to strengthening the country’s economy.

“Our economy had totally collapsed. Nothing was left. The economy kept drifting from bottom to bottom. Who has helped the economy bounce back? It was remittance. Remittances gave birth to a new Bangladesh,” he said.

“Look at the Bangladesh map in a different way. Bangladesh is truly spread all over the world. There is no distance between us. You [NRBs] are very much part of Bangladesh,” he said.

The chief adviser emphasised that they can play a vital role in advancing the changes ushered in by the July uprising through their respective contributions.

“My confidence grew when I saw political leaders agreeing to join us on this visit,” Yunus added, expressing strong optimism about Bangladesh’s future.

Speaking at the event, Fakhruul praised Yunus, saying he saw in his words the reflection of the late President Ziaur Rahman’s dream of a democratic, developed, and corruption-free Bangladesh.

“Two days ago, at a US-Bangladesh business forum, when our respected and globally acknowledged Professor Yunus was speaking, I repeatedly felt as if I was listening to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, the proclaimer of our country’s independence,” he said.

Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Syeed Abdullah Muhammad Taher reiterated his party’s commitment to building a corruption-free Bangladesh and urged the NRBs to actively participate in nation-building efforts.

National Citizen Party leader Akhtar Hossen spoke of taking a strong

position on ensuring NRB voting rights and hoped to play a significant role in rebuilding Bangladesh.

NCP leader Tasnim Jara described the present situation as a “very critical moment,” saying that while differences of opinion will remain, the country must never return to old violence.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, Law Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul, Special Envoy on International Affairs Lutley Siddiqi, National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman, BNP leader Humayun Kabir, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami US Spokesperson Mohammad Nakibur Rahman also spoke at the event.

During a meeting with Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anaclaudia Rossbach, Yunus called on UN-Habitat to expand its presence in Bangladesh to help develop sustainable and affordable housing solutions for communities frequently impacted by climate-induced disasters, said Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

Rossbach confirmed UN-Habitat’s interest in attending the upcoming Rohingya conference and responded positively to an invitation from Housing and Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan to visit the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh in the coming months.

Country in urgent need of law

FROM PAGE 16 of good laws, policies, and practices. He accused BNP and Jamaat-aligned forces of using delays in government policy as a political tool to portray the administration as ineffective.

He also criticised disputes over BNP-Jamaat men’s administrative appointments, saying promises of reforms are often short-lived. “Non-cooperation started from December.”

On reforms, he said, “From my end, I am trying. At least we want to move forward with the wage board, journalism protection law, and media commission. We want media houses to prepare a code of conduct by November.”

He acknowledged bureaucratic and political hurdles and said the ministry is focusing on short- and medium-term measures while flagging longer-term reforms.

Of 23 reform recommendations given by the Media Reform Commission, 13 short-term measures were selected, including circulation thresholds, advertising rates, and wage guidelines.

“We won’t weaponise laws against the media. But we cannot allow anyone to simply call themselves a journalist without accountability. Freedom of expression without responsibility is dangerous.”

Mahfuj reiterated his pledge that no media house would be closed during his tenure.

“There are three concentrated centres of power – bureaucracy, business, and media owners – and vested interests are deeply embedded. You cannot transform the whole ecosystem overnight.”

He appealed to journalists to adopt self-regulation and professional ethics and supported UNESCO-led efforts to develop a code of conduct.

Kamal Ahmed, head of the Media Reform Commission and consulting editor at The Daily Star, criticised the government’s delay in implementing proposed reforms.

He urged the establishment of an independent media commission and laws to protect journalism and journalists, saying press freedom cannot be ensured and journalists’ rights cannot be safeguarded without them.

Ahmed expressed frustration that despite months of proposals and calls for public consultation, no clear progress has been made.

“We expected an explanation for

why there is a delay, especially six months after our report,” he said, adding, “Without action, promises of reform will remain empty words.”

He also urged the government to publish draft laws for public feedback and stressed the need for financial security for journalists for independent journalism to survive.

He highlighted gaps in existing laws, adding, “Without proper implementation, the reforms will be ineffective.” He warned that self-regulation must not become censorship and called for a legally backed framework to protect press freedom.

Prof SM Shameem Reza, of Dhaka University’s journalism department, urged independent research into why public trust in the media is declining in Bangladesh.

He said no serious, impartial study has been conducted. “Such research should be carried out by independent bodies, not media owners, to ensure objectivity, and should include the experiences of rural journalists in the reform process.”

BNP Media Cell Convenor Moudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel stressed the need for self-reflection and moral responsibility in journalism to protect its role as the “fourth pillar” of the state.

He voiced concerns over growing social media influence, where accountability is absent, and over how mainstream media follow social media trends without verification, threatening credibility.

Pavel said the media should prioritise truthfulness and not become a propaganda tool, especially during elections. He called on media houses to maintain independence, adopt codes of conduct, and deliver accurate information to the public.

He urged journalists to hold political parties accountable to voters and warned that without ethical reform, journalism would fail to reflect public aspirations and instead be exploited for political manipulation.

Advocate Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair, assistant secretary general of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, stressed comprehensive media reforms and stronger political commitment to press freedom.

“Despite discussions, there has been little progress,” he said, urging all stakeholders to take ownership of reforms. He called for political parties

to include clear commitments in their manifestos and warned about new trends of online activism and targeted criticism threatening press freedom.

Jubairul Hasan Arif, chief joint organiser of Chattogram’s National Citizen Party, said Bangladesh needs both theoretical and practical reforms to strengthen media independence.

He welcomed the Media Reform Commission’s proposals, especially laws to protect journalists, regulate cross-ownership, and establish the “One House-One Media” policy.

Arif urged the establishment of an independent wage board and called on political parties to state their positions on independent media and consider forming a civil society group for regulation.

Sohrab Hossain, a former senior journalist at Prothom Alo, expressed concerns over press freedom, saying that 266 journalists face charges of murder or attempted murder, with around 16 in prison. “In many cases, no formal charges have been filed even after a year.”

He described this as a continuation of repressive practices and a form of persecution, and stressed the need for regulatory frameworks. He urged political parties to commit to protecting press freedom in their manifestos.

When The Daily Star’s Senior Reporter Zyma Islam reiterated the number of cases against journalists, M Abdullah, former president of a section of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, strongly disputed the claim of 266 journalists currently charged with murder.

“The figure is baseless.... No credible evidence exists. While harassment, imprisonment, and violence occur, there is no reliable record of such a large number of murder or attempted murder cases.”

He added that a review committee under the information ministry found only 72 cases, mostly outside Dhaka and arising from personal disputes, not political persecution. Mahfuj Alam endorsed Abdullah’s statement.

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Nazmul Haque Pradhan, Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan, Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan, and AB Party Joint General Secretary Nasreen Sultana Mily also spoke at the event.

Israeli strikes kill 77 more in Gaza

FROM PAGE 16 first time ever. We will get it done,” Trump said in a Truth Social post that was issued as he rode in his motorcade to his suburban Virginia golf club.

Trump said on Friday talks on Gaza with Middle Eastern nations were intense and that Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants were aware of the discussions, which he said would continue as long as required.

Vance described himself as “cautiously hopeful” about reaching a deal.

“I feel more optimistic about where we are right now than where we have been at any point in the last few months, but let’s be realistic, these things can get derailed at the very last minute,” he said.

He said the plan has three main components: Returning all hostages,

ending the Hamas threat to Israel, and escalating humanitarian aid in Gaza.

“So I think we’re close to accomplishing all three of those objectives,” Vance said.

When international leaders gathered at the United Nations in New York this week, the US unveiled a 21-point Middle East peace plan to end the nearly two-year-long war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

That plan calls for the return of all hostages, living and dead, no further Israeli attacks on Qatar and a new dialogue between Israel and Palestinians for “peaceful coexistence,” a White House official said.

A Hamas representative said on Saturday that the group had not seen the US plan.

The Civil Emergency Service in Gaza said late on Saturday that Israel

had denied 73 requests, sent via international organisations, to rescue injured Palestinians in Gaza City.

Israeli authorities had no immediate comment. The military earlier said forces were expanding operations in the city and that five militants firing an anti-tank missile towards Israeli troops had been killed by the Israeli air force.

Over the past 24 hours, the air force had struck 140 military targets across Gaza, including militants and what it described as military infrastructure, the military said.

The World Food Programme estimates that between 350,000 and 400,000 Palestinians have fled Gaza City since last month, although hundreds of thousands remain. The Israeli military estimates that around a million Palestinians were in Gaza City in August.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Human rights reforms cannot wait

NHRC must be revived and reformed urgently

We share the concerns raised at a citizens' dialogue in Dhaka about the interim government's inaction on critical steps needed to promote and protect human rights. Foremost among these are the long-overdue reconstitution of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and amendments to the NHRC Act to ensure the body's independence and authority to hold both civil and military security agencies accountable. Equally troubling has been the government's disregard for repeated calls from national and international rights groups to disband the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), accused of crimes against humanity including enforced disappearances.

It may be recalled that the recent fact-finding report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on violations related to the July-August 2024 protests recommended amending the NHRC Act of 2009 to bring the commission into full compliance with the Paris Principles, thereby strengthening its independence and restoring public confidence in it. This was not the first time the OHCHR urged reforms to make this institution capable of promoting and protecting citizens' rights; rather, this was a repetition of its observations made in the last two Universal Periodic Reviews. The Paris Principles, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993, set minimum standards for national human rights institutions, including broad mandates, independence, and pluralism.

According to a report published in this daily, the interim government has finalised a draft ordinance in line with the Paris Principles. While this development offers cautious optimism, we urge the government to move swiftly towards enactment and implementation, well before the country enters an election phase. The OHCHR has further recommended that any amended law must ensure an independent commission, with members appointed through a transparent and participatory process involving genuine engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

Bangladesh first established the NHRC in 2008, under pressure from civil society organisations and development partners, amid rising cases of rights violations and denial of justice. The commission was initially set up by the then caretaker government and later reconstituted under the Awami League government, which unfortunately weakened the institution, reducing it to what many describe as "a rehabilitation centre" for retired bureaucrats.

Civil society leaders also continue to warn that surveillance persists and that key security agencies—including the DGF, NSI, and NTC—have been excluded from any reform agenda. This is deeply inconsistent with the government's stated commitment to democratic reform and the rule of law. In this context, we stress the importance of adopting the OHCHR's recommendation that the commission's mandate explicitly include investigating allegations against military, police, paramilitary and intelligence agencies. It is troubling to see violations of human rights continuing with impunity to this day. Hence, the government should urgently reconstitute the NHRC.

Finally, provisions must be made to equip the NHRC with adequate financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively, impartially, and independently. Without these guarantees, reforms will remain cosmetic, and the people's faith in democratic governance will continue to erode.

Pollution is killing our children

Comprehensive strategy needed to prevent further damage

Unicef's new handbook on Children's Health and the Environment reminds us of a devastating cost of environmental pollution: the lives of our children. It highlights some grim facts—in 2021, air pollution caused more than 235,000 deaths, 19,000 of them children under five. Between 2018 and 2021, Dhaka repeatedly ranked as the second most polluted city in the world, while in 2023 Bangladesh was ranked the most polluted country globally.

Multiple sources of pollution are currently putting our children at risk. Because their organs and immune systems are still developing, children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, which at high levels can cause pneumonia, asthma, childhood leukaemia, and neurodevelopmental disorders. Noise pollution also harms children, leading to hearing loss. The risk is particularly grave in Dhaka, one of the noisiest cities in the world, but other major cities do not lag far behind.

Another serious health threat comes from e-waste. According to a study by Buet, an estimated 2.81 million tonnes of e-waste are generated annually in the country, a figure projected to rise to 4.62 million tonnes by 2035. Children living near e-waste recycling sites are exposed to toxic air that can impair lung function, damage the immune system, affect growth, and even alter DNA. Exposure of expectant mothers to such toxins is linked to stillbirths and premature births.

Given this reality, it is reassuring to learn that the interim government has taken some steps to reduce air pollution. For instance, the Department of Environment (DoE) conducted drives across the country, shutting down 462 brick kilns and imposing heavy fines on others. It has ordered a halt to brick-making in Savar, one of the most polluted areas, from September—allowing only kilns that use cleaner technology to operate. The DoE also reported 598 mobile courts and 1,363 cases filed against polluters, including vehicles, brick kilns, steel mills, hazardous waste disposal units, lead-acid battery recycling factories, tyre pyrolysis plants, and charcoal factories. The list goes on.

While these initiatives are commendable, their outcomes remain far from satisfactory. The DoE and other relevant state agencies must enforce all existing environmental laws, including removing unfit vehicles from the streets, implementing no-honking zones, enforcing stricter construction rules to curb dust pollution, and ensuring cleaner technologies in brick kilns. The government should also expand public awareness campaigns on the dangers of pollution and the importance of adopting cleaner practices. All this must be done as part of a coordinated, long-term strategy involving the government, civil society, and international partners. We must protect not only today's children but also future generations from this entirely preventable crisis.

The interim government's troubling continuity



Anu Muhammad
is a former professor of economics at
Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

When the interim government took office in the aftermath of the mass uprising last year, the people of Bangladesh hoped to see a genuine change in perspective—a visible shift in certain areas. For instance, we expected a transition from irregularities in government administration to a system governed by rules; from secrecy and opacity to transparency and accountability. We hoped for financial discipline in place of corruption and waste. We expected institutional initiatives for the protection of human rights instead of continued violation. We also believed this government would refrain from entering into agreements that conflict with national interests, as previous governments had done, and that it would seek to create policies or institutional frameworks to prevent such harmful deals in the future.

But it is unfortunate that, after more than a year, in almost every single area where we expected betterment, this government has demonstrated not merely incompetence but something that cannot even be explained as inefficiency. It is not clear whether this government is truly serious about these issues, or if it simply lacks the intention to address them. Perhaps that is why we continue to see widespread human rights violations, violence, financial irregularities, waste of resources, and corruption.

Even more troubling is the fact that the government seems more focused on areas where it should not be undertaking any initiatives, such as making agreements that are not aligned with the country's interests. A major example of this is the case of the Chattogram port. During Sheikh Hasina's regime, an initiative was taken to hand over the port's main terminal to DP World, a state-owned company from the UAE. We heard that Hasina faced certain complications and needed to make compromises with Abu Dhabi, which served her specific political interests. The project was pushed via irregular means, without any tender or public consultation.

Naturally, we expected that once the interim government took power, it would begin by investigating why such a serious breach of public interest had taken place under the previous regime. The long-discussed reforms related to Chattogram port should have focused on expanding

the domestic capacity for port management, including improvement of customs process and bureaucracy. That would have been the logical and expected course of action for this government.

Instead, there is now a striking insistence that the port's operations must be handed over to DP World. In other words, the "Sheikh Hasina project" must be implemented.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Port workers, political groups, and experts have raised objections, backed by analysis and argument, and articles have been published in newspapers arguing against it, yet the government has offered no response or explanation. The chief adviser has made it clear that the port's operations must go to a foreign company.

It is remarkable that some of the government's current advisers, who once spoke eloquently about rules, regulations, and transparency before assuming office, are now supporting this move. They have not explained why a project conceived during the Hasina era must be implemented without a tender. A responsible official even mentioned making it "like the Singapore model." Yet, there is no example in Singapore of handing over national assets in such an opaque manner, without a tender, to a foreign entity. This government claims to be

emulating the Singapore model, but its actions are the opposite: instead of building national capability, it is intent on transferring it to foreign companies, whereas, Singapore's state-owned national institutions are highly competent. It seems that the interim government is incapable of seeing any prospect for Bangladesh to develop its own capability as other countries have.

Several other questionable activities are unfolding in the Chattogram area. For instance, we have been witnessing corporate lobbies moving around and recent joint military exercises by Bangladesh and the US. These developments are raising questions due to the government's lack of transparency. Similar exercises took place during Hasina's regime, and many secret standing agreements

disaster if the project becomes operational. The government offers no explanation as to why such a dangerous project is still proceeding. Instead, it appears eager to continue with these projects and even sign new agreements.

This troubling tendency is evident elsewhere, too: in the fragile law and order situation amid rising mob violence; in the dominance of looters and grabbers seizing small parks, playgrounds, and rivers; in hill cutting; and in the extraction of sand and stones from rivers. Harmful projects identified by experts are continuing unabated, such as the construction of a Dhaka Elevated Expressway ramp at Panthakunja Park and Hatirjheel. The project risks damaging the park's biodiversity and harming Hatirjheel. Despite countless arguments, expert

since 1990s remain unexplained.

Furthermore, the government has failed to review, amend, cancel or even question the harmful or environmentally destructive projects initiated by the previous government. Take the Rampal coal-based power plant, for example, a project that poses grave threats to the Sundarbans and will significantly worsen climate change impacts across Bangladesh. It was widely expected that this project would be reviewed and scrapped. Yet, the interim government has taken no action whatsoever.

The agreement with India's Adani Group is another highly damaging contract, and again, the government shows no sign of withdrawing from it. Regarding the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, media reports, citing international surveys, have warned that due to inadequate institutional preparation, insufficient training, and questionable equipment quality, Bangladesh could face a catastrophic

opinions, a public hearing, and a sit-in that lasted more than 160 days, the government has refused to amend the project.

When the High Court issued an order halting all construction following a writ petition, the government not only challenged the order but also sided with the company to resume work. The company continues construction in defiance of the High Court's order. This means the government is directly opposing the public and siding with corporate interests.

This is deeply troubling and serves as an example of how the expectations of the people have been betrayed again. It is profoundly objectionable. The people had hoped that this government would break with the past tendencies and chart a new course. In the face of this failure, the people must surveil the government's work and raise their voice when necessary. This is the only way forward now.

From Dhaka to Denmark: A united front against food waste

Christian Brix Møllern
is ambassador at the Embassy of Denmark in
Bangladesh.

Maria Stein Knudsen
is sector counsellor of Food and Agriculture at
the Embassy of Denmark in Bangladesh.

CHRISTIAN BRIX MØLLERN and
MARIA STEIN KNUDSEN

In Dhaka's bustling markets, trade begins at dawn. Sacks of rice are carried on shoulders through the crowds, mangoes are loaded onto trucks, and fish are sold on ice blocks already melting in the sun. But as the day draws to a close, the scene is all too familiar: fruit too soft to sell and fish no longer fresh to eat. Food that could have fed families is wasted. But food waste does not only happen at the market. Households and restaurants also waste perfectly edible food.

In Bangladesh, the greatest losses occur early due to the lag of infrastructure and technology. Rice is lost during production and handling, and mangoes and lentils spoil mainly during transport and storage. Fish, the country's primary protein source, deteriorates rapidly without cold chains.

We recognise the problem also in Denmark, where food is wasted at alarming levels. According to Food

Nation, approximately 2,000 tonnes of food are discarded every day in Denmark. If we include all stages of the supply chain—from production to processing—the total food waste reaches over 1.2 billion tonnes per year.

To combat this, both public and private sector actors in Denmark have taken action. For example, supermarket giants have made their Food Loss and Waste (FLW) data public. Additionally, with the recent launch of Denmark's first food waste strategy, the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries is taking a significant step toward addressing this enormous loss.

A recent report by the World Bank—Bangladesh Food Loss and Waste Diagnostic—puts numbers to what many witness every day. It shows that nearly 34 percent of Bangladesh's key foods are lost: rice by 23 percent, lentils 27 percent, mangoes 29 percent, and fish as much as 36 percent. Which means more than one in three fish never reaches a plate. It is not merely a statistic; it represents lost livelihoods, diminished access to nutrition, and added strain on our climate.

At the same time, household food waste is on the rise. According to the UN's Food Waste Index Report 2024, a Bangladeshi wastes 82 kg of food per

year at home; in total, this amounts to 14.1 million tonnes of household food waste annually in Bangladesh.

The crisis will not go away by itself, and climate change worsens the problem. The rising of soil salinity, flooded fields, and cyclones along the coast damage both harvests and storage capacity. The effects ripple outward: farmers lose income, consumers face higher prices, and greenhouse gas emissions rise from the food that goes to waste.

A global problem requires global solutions. Denmark and Bangladesh have a strong government-to-government cooperation in food and agriculture, supporting food safety and sustainable and efficient food production in Bangladesh. The joint work includes raising awareness, giving technical support, and transferring innovation and technology.

Raising awareness is key when it comes to reducing FLW through campaigns and other relevant activities. Denmark is collaborating with partners such as the World Food Program, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, World Bank, and Bangladesh's Centre for Policy and Dialogue for discussions aimed at creating global change.

Danish and Bangladeshi experts

can together provide advice on policies, regulations, and standards to reduce food loss, including incentives for private sector compliance and reporting.

The Danish food cluster supplies solutions such as cold chain technologies, storage systems, and digital platforms that connect producers directly with buyers. The Danish Embassy is facilitating new contacts and cooperation projects between Bangladeshi and Danish companies to help reduce food loss at the farm, transport, and retail levels.

Through such cooperation, both countries can not only reduce food waste locally but also contribute to global solutions for food security, resource efficiency, and sustainability. That way, everyone can be a winner.

Reducing food loss and waste enhances sustainability, strengthens global competitiveness, creates jobs, saves money, and reduces environmental impact. It is one of the most direct and cost-effective ways to feed more people using fewer resources while lowering emissions.

The harvests lost today do not have to mean a lost future tomorrow.

Adiba Ibnat, Jfreet Taheca, Nusrat Islam, and Tanha Islam also contributed to the article.

Spot the scam: How fraudsters prey on fear, trust, and greed



Mamun Rashid
is the chairman at Financial Excellence Ltd and founding managing partner of PwC Bangladesh.

MAMUN RASHID

Nowadays, we almost routinely hear that someone close to us has been scammed. What once sounded like rare and distant stories now happen in our own circles. Many of us have already picked up that unexpected phone call from a so-called police officer or bank representative. Some of us, or people we know, have lost money to these fraudsters. They employ a variety of methods, but all of them prey on the same things: our trust, fear, and our small mistakes.

It often starts with a phone call. In many cases, the caller claims to be a police officer and accuses you of being involved in a crime. They pressure you, create panic, and ask for your personal details to clear your name. Sometimes, the caller pretends to be from the department that handles fraud in your bank, saying your account will be frozen unless you share the one-time password just sent to your phone. Once they get it, they can take control of your account. The danger does not stop there. With access to your accounts, these scammers can message your closest friends in your exact style of writing, convincing them to send money urgently. Some friends double-check and avoid the trap, but many others fall for it. In this way, the scam spreads like a chain, moving from one victim to another.

Beyond individuals, there are chilling reports of entire villages abroad where scamming has become a community profession. Warehouses in countries like India

and China are said to house rows of people working day and night to call strangers across the world and trick them out of their savings. The thought that such fraudulent industries could also be quietly taking root in Bangladesh should make us all stop and think. If this is happening here, then the authorities must act quickly. Shutting these operations down before they grow too large is not only about protecting personal safety; it is a matter of national security.

Phone calls are only one channel. Phishing attacks have become a daily nuisance. Fake emails and text messages arrive, designed to appear as if they came from your bank, mobile operator, or even government offices. Caller IDs are faked to appear legitimate. Links inside these messages take you to websites that look official but are only traps meant to steal your passwords, One-time passwords (OTPs), and bank details. Then there are scams that play on greed or desperation. Ponzi schemes are a classic example. They promise unbelievable returns, something banks or the stock market could never deliver. At first, they pay just enough to build trust. Then they disappear, taking everyone's money with them. Fake job offers target young people desperate for work. They collect fees for jobs that do not even exist. In the digital economy, e-commerce scams are another growing problem. Shoppers are lured with impossibly low prices, asked to pay in advance, and then

left empty-handed. Recently, the website of a popular online travel agency in Dhaka suddenly became inaccessible and the owner allegedly fled the country, leaving thousands of unsuspecting customers who paid for flight bookings at significant financial risk. Every such case makes it harder for ordinary people to trust online services.

Sometimes, we ourselves open the door to danger without realising it. Installing

something as simple as plugging in a free USB stick found at a desk could infect your system with malware. These small actions may seem harmless, but they can open the gates to bigger attacks.

The good news is that protection is possible. It starts with awareness. We do not need to live in fear, but we must learn to be cautious. Simple steps can make a big difference. Strong passwords are essential.

bank accounts and financial services through official apps or websites, never through links sent over SMS or email. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions. When shopping online, do your homework. Look up reviews from real customers, verify the company's legitimacy, and use secure payment methods. If a deal looks too good to be true, it almost always is.

The truth is, scams will never fully stop. Criminals will always find new ways to try to trick people. But one thing never changes: their success depends on catching us off guard. The moment we slow down and question the request, their power crumbles. Verifying through proper channels, a quick call to the bank, checking a website's official address, or simply pausing to think can save us from major losses. Awareness is not something to keep to ourselves. Talking about scams openly with family, friends, and colleagues makes everyone stronger. The more people know what to watch out for, the harder it becomes for scammers to succeed.

Scamming is not just an individual problem anymore; it has become a social and national issue. If fraudulent networks are allowed to grow in our country, they will harm not only individuals but also the economy and the reputation of Bangladesh as a whole. Authorities must take this seriously, shutting down organised fraud and punishing those who profit from it. At the same time, businesses need to invest in stronger security systems, and schools should teach digital safety as a basic life skill. But while systems and policies are important, nothing is more powerful than ordinary people staying alert. In the end, our strongest defence is our own caution, our willingness to share knowledge, and our refusal to let panic or greed blind us. Scams thrive in silence and confusion. The more we talk, the more we learn, and the less power they have.



The fewer details people know about your life, the fewer tools scammers have to trick you.

VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK

apps without checking their source, clicking suspicious links, or browsing websites without the small padlock sign next to the URL can silently expose our devices. Social media quizzes that seem like fun often collect personal details such as your mother's maiden name or your first pet's name, the very questions banks use for security checks. Even

So is two-factor authentication, which adds a second layer of security beyond just a password. Never share OTPs with anyone, no matter how urgent or convincing the caller sounds. Be careful about oversharing personal details online. The fewer people who know about your life, the fewer tools scammers have to trick you. Always access

Why we should think twice before adopting PR system



Kollok Kibria
is an advocate, human rights activist, and political analyst. He can be reached at kollokibria@gmail.com.

KOLLOK KIBRIA

Every vote tells a story of hopes, frustrations, and dreams that shape a nation's future. In Bangladesh, where democracy is still young and fragile, the debate over proportional representation (PR) raises questions about political culture and the bond between voters and their representatives. While PR promises fairer representation and greater inclusivity, it also risks weakening the direct connection between citizens and local leaders—a link built on trust, accountability and shared struggles.

Bangladesh faces a crucial question: will changing its electoral system strengthen democracy or create new challenges? With elections approaching, Jamaat-e-Islami and some other parties are currently demanding the PR system in parliament. Their support base is deemed scattered or too weak to win individual seats, but under PR, even a small national vote share could

secure parliamentary representation. It is a backdoor strategy dressed up as electoral reform. Given the way it works, it risks turning parliament into political islands rather than a space for community-rooted representatives.

Under the PR system, instead of voting for individuals in local constituencies, citizens vote for political parties. Seats in parliament are then distributed according to the total national vote share each party receives. So, if a party wins 10 percent of the vote, it gets 10 percent of the seats. Sounds democratic, right? But democracy is not just about mathematical fairness. It is also about relationships—the bond between a voter and their representative. It is about accountability, knowing exactly whom to blame when things go wrong, and whom to thank when they go right. It is about being able to walk into the office of your local

MP and say, "We have a problem with our school," or, "The floodwaters haven't gone down in weeks; what are you doing about it?"

If the PR system is adopted, this bond, however fragile in a country like Bangladesh, will be broken. MPs will no longer be individuals who have fought for and earned the trust of their local communities. Instead, they will be nameless, faceless entries on a party list, selected not by the people but by party leadership behind closed doors. Is that the kind of democracy we want? A parliament filled with representatives chosen by the party instead of the locals?

But let us not pretend this benefits only smaller parties. In a fragmented parliament where no party commands an absolute majority, ruling parties could form tactical alliances with fringe groups, offering them token representation in exchange for blind support. It is a cynical arrangement that favours the consolidation of power, not democratic diversity. This is no longer a distant reality, given the political upheavals we have seen since the July uprising. Rather than weakening authoritarian tendencies, PR may inadvertently strengthen them by making coalition politics the norm, where ideological compromise and patronage replace accountability and public service.

In such a system, the public's ability to remove underperforming MPs or parties becomes extremely limited. When seats are

controlled through closed lists and coalition deals, voters lose their most fundamental democratic tool: the power to reward or punish representatives at the ballot box.

Supporters of proportional representation argue that it will eliminate the "waste of votes" and promote greater inclusivity. But what kind of inclusivity are we really talking about? Are we ready to grant parliamentary legitimacy to those who have repeatedly failed to win constituency seats, even before the Awami League monopolised power since 2008?

And what about independent candidates? Under a PR system, they cannot stand for election without joining a political party. Yet some of the finest candidates for a constituency might not want to join any party, and a system that bars them risks depriving voters of strong, independent voices.

It is not that PR systems are inherently undemocratic. In parts of the world such as Scandinavia or Western Europe, they function reasonably well. But those countries have something we do not: strong civic institutions, politically aware voters, and a political culture rooted in consensus and responsible coalition-building.

Bangladesh's political DNA is very different, shaped by deep polarisation, volatile elections, and a strong centralisation of party control. Article 70 of the constitution already prevents MPs from voting against

their party line, even when it conflicts with the will of their constituents. In a system where elected representatives have little room to act independently, introducing PR would further strengthen party control over parliament. It would not advance democracy. PR risks replacing community-rooted leaders with faceless party loyalists, and citizen-driven politics with headquarters' directives.

We must remember what Bangladesh's democracy was built upon: direct representation, grassroots movements, local accountability, and hard-earned public trust. It was not perfect, but it was tangible.

Democracy is a moral contract between the state and its citizens, forged in blood, ballots, and belief. Bangladesh does not need a system that rewards political opportunism. It needs a system that reinforces political commitment, community-rooted leadership, and public trust. The first-past-the-post model is not perfect—no electoral system is. But the solution to our political dysfunction is not to abandon the people; it is to bring them closer.

We need stronger campaign finance regulation, real-time disclosure of political donations, independent electoral oversight, and internal party democracy. These are the reforms that matter. These are the reforms that strengthen, not weaken, the link between the government and the governed.

CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Taken - (surprised)
 - 6 Like gymnasts
 - 11 Inert element
 - 12 Fleet-based
 - 13 Rooftop spots for helicopters
 - 15 Memorable time
 - 16 Compete
 - 17 "Science Guy" Bill
 - 18 Chops down
 - 20 Charity events
 - 23 Young pigeon
 - 27 Full range
 - 28 Spur on
 - 29 Rat's home
 - 31 Singer Jackson
 - 32 Red-ink entry
 - 34 Outdated
 - 37 Droop
 - 38 Summer sign
 - 41 Pain-reducing mats
 - 44 Christens
 - 45 Defame, in a way
 - 46 Start
 - 47 Kind of question
- DOWN**
- 1 Wheel bar

- 2 Yellowstone beast
- 3 "Frozen" character
- 4 Atlantic catch
- 5 Cutlery
- 6 Little dears
- 7 Ravine
- 8 Infamous czar
- 9 Titled woman
- 10 Otherwise
- 14 Zero
- 18 Disconcerted
- 19 Hunker down
- 20 Empty talk
- 21 Had a nosh
- 22 Near the ground
- 24 Coffee dispenser
- 25 Candle count
- 26 Track action
- 30 Stand up to
- 31 Like gelatin
- 33 Prohibit
- 34 "Dear me!"
- 35 Incline
- 36 River stoppers
- 38 Research settings
- 39 Genesis place
- 40 Capital on a fjord
- 42 Golf need
- 43 Diner dessert

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13					14					
15				16			17			
			18				19			
20	21	22				23		24	25	26
27							28			
29				30		31				
			32		33					
34	35	36		37				38	39	40
41			42				43			
44							45			
46							47			

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

M	E	T	E	S	O	F	A		
F	I	N	A	L	A	D	A	G	E
O	R	A	L	S	D	E	B	R	A
C	A	B	L	E	S	L	E	T	
U	G	L	Y	T	E	P	E	E	S
S	E	E	C	A	R	E	S	S	
			C	O	B	R	A		
S	T	O	O	L	S	S	A	G	
S	T	A	P	L	E	A	U	R	A
O	R	B			S	A	B	L	E
B	I	L	L	S	M	I	L	N	E
S	P	E	A	K	I	D	E	A	S
E	S	P	Y		D	E	N	S	

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

156TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Gandhi's search for HARMONY IN NOAKHALI

PARVEZ RAHAMAN

From the period of his lifetime and particularly in the aftermath of his assassination, Gandhi's philosophies have been the subject of deep scholarly discussion. With renewed interest and a fresh set of questions, historians routinely revisit how he understood the empire, anti-colonial politics, and nonviolence within the context of the Indian nationalist movement. This explains how Gandhi's relevance in the present and historians' interest in the past intertwine irrevocably and permanently. However, one significant aspect of his thoughts that remains relatively unexplored is how he engaged with village communities to unravel the longstanding Hindu-Muslim communal tensions. This is challenging because not everything he wrote and said was included in his collected works, signifying that robust ethnographic work is needed in the regions he visited to retrieve different spectrums of his thoughts as well as collective memories from the people in those districts. Let us return to Noakhali to understand Gandhi.

Just before the colonial departure, Gandhi turned up at the villages—often described as the soul of the nation—that had been burned to ashes due to sectarian violence, particularly in Bengal and Punjab, which resulted in large-scale displacement and ensuing migration to the other side of the newly created border. It unnerved Gandhi more than anything else that riots, a phenomenon that had previously only occurred in cities, were now seeping into villages that were considered sacred and untainted. I will throw some light on the plans and procedures that Gandhi adopted to restore communal harmony, particularly in Noakhali, to stop the pendulum of communal violence that was spiralling out of control.

To secure the trust of Hindus and Muslims whose relations had been broken into pieces with the thrust of repugnance and communal flame, he provided an answer from a rural setting in Noakhali, East Bengal, to the rest of India on how a situation like communal riots should be handled: through placating anger and madness as well as holding together both Hindu and Muslim in one, single, and united community.

The pilgrimage of peace arrived in Noakhali on November 7, 1946, where Hindus were subjected to communal oppression and displacement as a result of the Calcutta Riots, where violence had been inflicted on Muslims. Putting everything aside, he set out on a task that required community engagement and religious tolerance. On top of that, the situation required a personality that people could blame for everything that had gone wrong between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League, yet who could also bring light into the darkness.

As riots simultaneously erupted in Noakhali and in Bihar, Gandhi could only travel to one location at a time. He could easily have visited Bihar, a predominantly Hindu area. And yet, a practising and believing Hindu, Gandhi decided to journey to a Muslim dominated Noakhali to realise where he stood in terms of his nonviolence. This was one of many atypical moves he made throughout his political career. But then again, he understood that a single misstep would jeopardise Hindu and Muslim reconciliation.

Gandhi was at his finest; his time spent listening to Hindus and Muslims in Noakhali enabled him to gain insight into the region and its people. He employed his entourage to navigate the nooks and crannies of the villages. By intermingling with the Muslim community as a Hindu, he felt that such a display



Map of the 47 villages in Noakhali visited by Gandhi.

would deflect the course of communal violence. Gandhi also sought to help Hindus understand and trust him, assuring them that they could return home safely. As a minority, Hindus sought refuge in their relatives' houses and in makeshift camps set up across the Ramganj police station.

Aside from his ongoing work with villagers, he also debunked some of the views that were believed to be responsible for triggering situations like riots. First and foremost, the very idea that he confronted was the collective assumption of retaliation, which received a tacit acceptance as justifiable among both Hindus and Muslims in Bihar and in Noakhali. The twin riots were therefore retaliatory violence and took the shape of revenge on the minority of either community.

A glance at history reveals how much 'revenge' has played a central role in the development of civilisations. Gandhi challenged the notion of retaliation in any form by underscoring that it was cowardice, not bravery, on the part of the goondas (delinquents) who associated with this terrifying act.

While in Noakhali, he pointed to Bihar: "The people of Bihar did and brought disgrace upon themselves and India. They have set the clock of India's independence back," meaning that killing a mere handful of Muslims amid a Hindu majority was the conduct of cowards. He also held that, "If the Bihari wanted to retaliate, they could have gone to Noakhali... But for a thousand Hindus to fall upon a handful of Musselman men, women, and children—living in their midst is no retaliation but just brutality."

Then he turned to Noakhali in a similar fashion and had Muslims understand that resorting to violence against Hindus was not courage but merely joining the crowd. Likewise, the houses that had been laid desolate or those where people had been abducted, forcibly converted, and forcibly married were not supported by any religion. Holding the problem of both communities in one hand, he asked for religious tolerance, peace, and confidence in the other.

The second issue pertained to local Muslims who anticipated that Gandhi would also address their problems, particularly poverty and a poor communication system. Throughout his entire journey, Gandhi met several leading Muslim political personalities, particularly Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy and Shamsuddin Ahmed, with whom he discussed his goals at great length. He, however, felt that no undertakings would bear fruit without the force of ordinary people being at the forefront. To incorporate them into his plan, Gandhi made an emblematic statement: "I have come to stay here with you as one of you... I claim to be an Indian and therefore a Bengali even as I am a Gujrati."

This speaks volumes about who Gandhi was and

how he strove to transcend the religious barriers that hindered communal harmony. If he could reside in a Muslim house, it would be possible for the rest of the Hindus to get along with Muslims. A symbolic exposé was needed, and whatever rhetorical move it may seem, it leaves no confusion about how he stitched the communities back together after riots tore them apart.

Gandhi also drew upon the Khilafat Movement as a historical precedent for Hindu-Muslim alliance and mentioned his prior collaboration with the Ali Brothers for a lasting peace in Noakhali. Muslims, thus, were not adversaries but allies. He engaged with people about their understanding of the Holy Quran and was shocked that so many ordinary people could not relate to it. Gandhi took this as an opportunity to connect with Muslims by teaching the content of the Quran.

Shamsuddin Sahed, for instance, agreed with Gandhi's quoting of a verse from the Quran which emphasised that faith cannot be forced upon anyone. He repeatedly emphasised that nowhere in Islam does it allow such acts as had taken place in Noakhali. To pull them into one integrated community, Gandhi reflected on Hindus' and Muslims' coexistence, their shared memories of the past, and their struggles against colonial mistreatment, and even ruled out any fear that painted Muslims as inherently antagonistic to Hindus. He reiterated that Hindus and Muslims were part of the same community and would continue to be so in the future, regardless of colonial departure or even if a physical border came into being.

Gandhi and Noakhali

Noakhali has become synonymous with Gandhi following his visit to rural villages in East Bengal. I suggest that Noakhali completed Gandhi's life and philosophies, and vice versa. It has been eighty years since Gandhi walked to forty-seven villages in a flood-ridden area. He had been informed about the situation in this area through letters from Manaranjan Chowdhury in 1938 but was unable to act at that time due to other commitments.

Nearly a decade later, he responded to Noakhali and expressed his willingness to stay there forever, hinting that his presence was still necessary for bringing communities together. From then until now, he has remained a subject of discussion and debate among the villagers. People still fondly remember him through his monument erected in Noakhali and learn the history of the Indian colonial struggle from the collections housed in the Gandhi Ashram Trust Museum, a philanthropic organisation established to commemorate Gandhi.

The trust is rooted in his peaceful philosophy immediately after the communal riots, showing how all walks of life welcomed Gandhi with open arms.

The memories are still vivid in the community, passed down through time. He was

seventy-seven years old and went to every site where riots had flared up, forging an alliance between Hindus and Muslims. This took a huge toll on his physical health: while travelling to Chandpur by boat, he became ill but persevered to finish his plan. Moreover, despite the poor rural communication system and the precarious nature of Indian politics, nothing stopped him from testing his nonviolence.

Muslims flocked to him in great numbers. The Muslim principal of Chowmuhani Government College, Taffazzal Hossain, met him and later received a letter from Gandhi. Hossain wrote in his autobiography *Sritikana (Bits of Memories)* that Gandhi was equally saddened by Noakhali as he was by Bihar, due to the sectarian strife in both places. Regardless, whether he went to Noakhali or Bihar, it would not make any difference as long as he addressed the concerns of both places while remaining in one area. Hossain writes that Gandhi was

although some Muslims did not like it and tried to get us into trouble. I met Gandhi at Ramganj, and he listened to me patiently for thirty minutes. He appreciated my views. I realised Gandhi had a clear conception of all people and regions, and his voice was so mild and melodious. I felt elevated while experiencing a man like Gandhi giving me a full thirty minutes of his time. (p.10).

Bimalendu Bikash Ray Chowdhury, 30 November 1991: I was in class five in 1946 in Hajiganj and heard that Gandhi came to Ramganj. I also learned that Nehru came to Feni, and people threw stones at him. To this Nehru responded, "I have been fighting the British and still continue this fight, and you would not be able to scare me by hurling stones." Ray also noted that Gandhi delivered his final verdict on partition while he was in Noakhali. (p.26).

Conclusion

Gandhi understood that bringing Hindus



Collection of Gandhi's personal items on display at the Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali, photographed by the author on June 4, 2022.

and Muslims together would be the final option in a period fraught with violence. To root this out, he came to the devastated villages to find a way to test his doctrine. India was infected with a cancer called riots, which led to an unusual bleeding of the Indian body politic. A high dose of the therapeutic regimen of nonviolence was needed in the initial stage to kill the cancer.

He was searching for an answer to why people still overlooked nonviolence, which had made his life worth living. He believed it was, and always had been, in the Indian villages that the answer would have to be found. He encountered people in the areas who responded enormously to him as the voice of peace and fraternity.

It was a coincidence that a series of events occurred while Gandhi was in Noakhali. From testing nonviolence to the decision of partition, those four months deserve special treatment to understand the spectrums of his thoughts and experiments, including celibacy. However, nothing was more important than successfully conveying his messages on nonviolence to the people, especially when the political landscape of India was dictated by communal hate and violence.

He also used a simple act of depriving himself—a fast. This act worked better to get his voice heard. He could have done those things elsewhere, and yet the rural villages of Noakhali, one of the most inaccessible areas in India, turned out to be the place for Gandhi. He gave his best effort to prevent people from turning on each other in a communal frenzy during the final hours of independence. He believed that it was the last and greatest experiment of a grassroots movement of nonviolence with the village community. If he could rekindle the lamp of neighbourliness in those villages, their example might inspire the whole nation.

Tofael (Panchgaon, Noakhali), 1947: Mohandas Karamchand had spent some days and nights holding prayer and peace meetings, during which he invoked and conveyed messages of harmony, brotherhood, and humanity among all communities. I was a student of class V, and the children of my age glanced at Gandhi sitting on the mat on the dais, with no chair or table, under the winter sky. He was a God-sent saviour and saint. Monk-like, Gandhi's words and talks had enlightened the people who were temporarily swept away by bad elements. I saw the Hindus wearing a lungi instead of a dhoti while going to the Panchgaon Bazar. Gandhi came and won the hearts of the people, and communal harmony was restored. (p.6).

Mahbubur Rahman, 1991: Mahatma Gandhi thanked us for having given shelter to the riot-affected Hindus. We did it,

and Muslims together would be the final option in a period fraught with violence. To root this out, he came to the devastated villages to find a way to test his doctrine. India was infected with a cancer called riots, which led to an unusual bleeding of the Indian body politic. A high dose of the therapeutic regimen of nonviolence was needed in the initial stage to kill the cancer. He was searching for an answer to why people still overlooked nonviolence, which had made his life worth living. He believed it was, and always had been, in the Indian villages that the answer would have to be found. He encountered people in the areas who responded enormously to him as the voice of peace and fraternity.

It was a coincidence that a series of events occurred while Gandhi was in Noakhali. From testing nonviolence to the decision of partition, those four months deserve special treatment to understand the spectrums of his thoughts and experiments, including celibacy. However, nothing was more important than successfully conveying his messages on nonviolence to the people, especially when the political landscape of India was dictated by communal hate and violence.

He also used a simple act of depriving himself—a fast. This act worked better to get his voice heard. He could have done those things elsewhere, and yet the rural villages of Noakhali, one of the most inaccessible areas in India, turned out to be the place for Gandhi. He gave his best effort to prevent people from turning on each other in a communal frenzy during the final hours of independence. He believed that it was the last and greatest experiment of a grassroots movement of nonviolence with the village community. If he could rekindle the lamp of neighbourliness in those villages, their example might inspire the whole nation.

Parvez Rahaman, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy at North South University, can be reached at pervez.rahaman@northsouth.edu.



Mahatma Gandhi on his peace mission, walking through a paddy field during his visit to riot-affected areas in Noakhali, 1946.

Cold on field, warm off it

EKUSH TAPADAR from Dubai

At the toss ahead of the Asia Cup final between India and Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday, a rare scene unfolded. For the first time on a cricket field, the two captains spoke to two different commentators -- naturally, each one from their own country.

Before the match, only Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha joined the trophy photoshoot amidst a highly charged atmosphere which could be noticed in all three India-Pakistan contests in the ongoing edition of the tournament. Yet what was happening off the field was the opposite of the tense scenes inside the stadium. It was a mix of excitement, friendship, and even affection among the fans.

Former Indian star Ravi Shastri and former Pakistani pacer Waqar Younis came down by elevator to conduct the toss. They were seen in a warm and cordial mood, even though they were about to oversee a moment symbolic of division.

Among the fans, there was the same desperation for their own team's victory, but whenever they saw former stars of the rival team, they rushed to take photos and videos on their mobile phones.

Among the fans, there was the same desperation for their own team's victory, but whenever they saw former stars of the rival team, they rushed to take photos and videos on their mobile phones.

In the stands, an Indian fan in his team's jersey and a Pakistani woman in hers were chatting happily as they entered together. They said their friendship goes back many years, and they are not much interested in political disputes. They had simply come to watch cricket.

For the first time in the 41-year history of the Asia Cup, India and Pakistan met in the final. It was their third encounter in the tournament, with India winning the previous two in one-sided fashion.

On September 14, after their first meeting, India left the field without shaking hands in a gesture of protest, and Pakistan responded by boycotting the presentation ceremony as well as two consecutive press conferences.

In the September 21 rematch, Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan scored a fifty and celebrated with a rifle-pointing gesture, which was deemed inappropriate. Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf was also seen making offensive gestures. India's Suryakumar Yadav showed his aggression in the press conference. While the Asian Cricket Council remained silent, the ICC issued them warnings.

The tension on the field, spurred by politics and off-field chaos, expectedly carried on till the last day of the tournament. But what could be a sign of relief is that it has, somewhat, still yet to spill over to the gallery -- at least that was the case in Dubai on Sunday.

Unscathed India hurt Pakistan again



An India-Pakistan final for the first time in the 41-year history of the Asia Cup, and two contrasting scenes could be noticed during the toss at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. India skipper Suryakumar Yadav and his Pakistan counterpart, Salman Ali Agha, stuck to the no-handshake policy, just as they had in their previous two meetings in the tournament. They were even seen speaking to two different commentators at the toss -- an unusual sight. While the cold vibe between the captains was evident, a glance at the gallery revealed a different picture -- with fans of both sides enjoying side by side and waiting in anticipation for a title clash they had craved for years. PHOTO: AFP

In a final that ebbed and flowed, India beat archrivals Pakistan by five wickets to win the Asia Cup for a record-extending ninth time at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. It was not a one-sided affair like the two previous meetings between the two sides earlier in the tournament, with Tilak Varma emerging as the hero for India with a match-winning 53-ball 69 not out -- his fourth T20I fifty.

- » It is the second time India won the T20 edition of the Asia Cup, having clinched it in 2016 in Mirpur.
- » India have now won four of the last five Asia Cup competitions, nine overall (Seven ODIs and two T20Is -- the most for any team).
- » India won all seven games in this edition, the fourth time they won a multi-nation Men's T20I tournament unbeaten. The other three times were: Asia Cup 2016, Asian Games 2023, T20 World Cup 2024.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Pakistan: 146 all out in 19.1 overs (Farhan 57, Fakhar 46; Kuldeep 4-30, Bumrah 2-25, Varun 2-30, Axar 2-26)

India: 150 for five in 19.4 overs (Tilak 69 not out, Dube 33, Samson 24; Faheem 3-29, Afridi 1-20, Abrar 1-29)

Result: India won by five wickets

Lack of effective solutions laid bare again

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced the squad for the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan, starting on October 2, with Soumya Sarkar replacing the injured captain Litton Das. However, the persistent problem of a fragile middle order, as exposed in the Super Four match against Pakistan during the Asia Cup, remains a cause for concern in the lead-up to next year's T20 World Cup.

Veterans such as Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad have traditionally filled middle-order roles and their experience often proved decisive in crucial moments. With an expected reshuffle after the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies, the team is in search of stability in the middle order, yet the solutions management hopes to find remain elusive.

Soumya, who has predominantly played as an opener or top-order batsman throughout his career, will now join Tanzid Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon and Saif Hassan in competing for top-order positions. Soumya's style of play tends to be more effective during the Powerplay overs rather than later stages of an innings, meaning his inclusion is unlikely to resolve the ongoing crisis in the middle order.

Consequently, the responsibility falls once again on the same players who

BANGLADESH SQUAD

Jaker Ali (c), Tanzid Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Saif Hassan, Tawhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Rishad Hossain, Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Sakib, Mustafizur Rahman, Shariful Islam, Mohammad Saifuddin, Soumya Sarkar

struggled during the Asia Cup. Jaker Ali will lead the side in the Afghanistan series. Jaker's form issues were evident, while Tawhid Hridoy has been inconsistent.

Mahedi Hasan's perplexing role at number four continues to raise eyebrows. He has yet to demonstrate the temperament to counter high-quality pace bowling or the footwork necessary to score runs in the middle overs against spin.

Rishad Hossain, who possesses the ability to play big shots, has not been utilised effectively in crucial phases of the innings as a pinch-hitter. Confined to the lower order, he has been unable to provide the kind of impetus needed to

shape innings, such as in the modest chase against Pakistan.

"We do have a surplus in the middle order with players like [Nurul Hasan] Sohan, Jaker, Shamim [Hossain] and [Tawhid] Hridoy, while the top order now has four options with Soumya's inclusion. Since Litton is unavailable, you can pick three from that group," BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu explained regarding the middle-order profiles.

Shamim's skill set makes him a good candidate for the lower-middle order, but he has yet to establish himself as an effective middle-order batsman. Players like Afif Hossain and Yasir Ali have also been tried in middle-order roles, but their international performances have lacked consistency. Lipu believes that the players selected for the Afghanistan series must adapt to the demands of modern cricket and embrace versatility.

"Maybe Shamim is not a traditional middle-order batsman, but he is capable of batting at number six. Players need to get accustomed to multiple positions, as seen with Tilak Varma or Abhishek Sharma. For the Asia Cup, we had replacements for most positions, but we currently lack anyone who can guarantee that if selected, they will immediately adapt and score runs," Lipu added.

SHORT CORNER

Razzak gets free rein from Khulna

Abdur Razzak, who resigned from the selection panel on Saturday, is set to be nominated uncontested from Khulna Division for the upcoming Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) directors' election. The Election Commission (EC) confirmed on Sunday that only two nomination papers had been submitted from Khulna Division and District.

Mithun Manhas elected new BCCI chief

Former domestic player and administrator Mithun Manhas was unanimously elected on Sunday as president of India's cricket board.

19k tickets snapped up for Bangladesh-Hong Kong clash

A total of 19,000 tickets -- 18,000 gallery tickets and 1000 clubhouse tickets -- for Bangladesh's forthcoming home tie against Hong Kong in the Asian Cup Qualifiers were sold out within 24 minutes of it being released online on Sunday.

Under-17s to begin AFC Cup Qualifiers preps on Oct 3

The Bangladesh team will begin preparations for the upcoming AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers on October 3 at the Shams Ul Huda Academy in Jashore. The team returned home from Sri Lanka after a heartbreaking penalty shootout loss to India in the SAFF U-17 Championship final on Saturday.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

MSC to release players 72 hours before Hong Kong tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending league champions Mohammedan have followed the example set by Bashundhara Kings by deciding to release five of their players for the national team 72 hours before Bangladesh's Asian Cup Qualifier against Hong Kong on October 9.

Javier Cabrera announced a 28-member preliminary squad yesterday, which includes five players from Mohammedan: goalkeeper Sujon Hossain, defenders Mehedi Hasan, Shakil Ahad Topu and Rahmat Mia, and forward Sumon Reza. The squad also features a new face, USA-based Zayyan Ahmed, who recently represented Bangladesh in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Zayyan, a 21-year-old left-back, has been under consideration by the coaching staff since joining the U-23 preparation camp.

The players will report to manager Amer Khan on Monday, although overseas players Hamza Choudhury and Shamit Shome are expected to join on September 6 and 7, respectively.

"We will release our five players 72 hours before the Asian Cup qualifying match in accordance with international regulations, as we need to continue

BANGLADESH PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Mitul Marma, Sujon Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Srabon, Topu Barman, Saad Uddin, Tariq Kazi, Mehedi Hasan, Rahmat Mia, Shakil Ahad Topu, Taj Uddin, Zayyan Ahmed, Abdullah Omar, Mohammad Ridoy, Syed Quazem Kirmane, Jamal Bhuiyan, Sohail Rana, Mohammad Sohel Rana, Hamza Choudhury, Shamit Shome, Sheikh Morsalin, Fahamedul Islam, Mohammad Ibrahim, Al Amin, Shahriar Emon, Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Rakib Hossain, Arman Fayсал Akash, Sumon Reza.

working with them on fitness, team combination, and other aspects," Mohammedan manager Intiaz Ahmed Nakib told the Daily Star on Sunday.

Nakib expressed concern over the club's difficulties during matches after releasing 10 players to the national team

and U-23 squad over the past month. "Our national players sometimes end up sitting on the reserve bench and are unable to perform properly. Why should the club suffer after investing so much money in them?" he questioned.

When asked if a formal letter had been submitted to the federation, Nakib replied, "I have spoken to a Bangladesh Football Federation official to inform him of our decision. If they have further enquiries, we will respond accordingly."

Mentionable here that Bashundhara Kings had released their players approximately 15 days after Cabrera called up the preparation camp for two FIFA friendly matches against Nepal last month. However, according to media reports, Bashundhara Kings will now release their players on time, as per BFF requirements.

Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu stated that they are prepared to release their players for the national camp but warned that they would reconsider if any club fails to release their players. "Our players will join the national camp tomorrow [Monday], as we have called off club training during the league break," Rupu said. "However, we will reassess whether to bring the players back to their clubs if some teams do not release their players for the camp."



PHOTO: REUTERS

Arsenal defender Gabriel Magalhães headed a stoppage-time winner from a corner to secure his side a 2-1 Premier League victory over Newcastle United at St James' Park on Sunday and close the gap on leaders Liverpool to two points with a stunning late show. Arsenal climbed to second place in the table with 13 points from six matches, while Newcastle are in 15th with six points from the same number of games.

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

COMPLETE GUIDANCE APP FOR HOME BUILDING

Available on the Google Play and App Store

Yunus calls for national unity ahead of polls

Urges NRBs to play active role in country's future

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said the spirit of national unity forged through the July uprising must not be lost as the nation strives for an inclusive and democratic Bangladesh.

"The July uprising has given us the strength to realise our dreams," he said while addressing a large gathering of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in New York on Saturday evening (US time) on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, reports UNB.

The call was made as Bangladesh moves towards a national election in February, but political parties are yet to agree on the July charter and the ways to implement them.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also made a similar call for unity in the national interest, saying: "We have only one appeal – let's come together on one issue – for Bangladesh. Let's put Bangladesh first."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bangladesh



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



India batter Tilak Varma is being congratulated by teammates after his match-winning 53-ball 69 not out against Pakistan in the final of the Asia Cup in Dubai yesterday. The win helped India to a record-extending ninth title in the continental tournament.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India on cloud nine

Beat Pakistan by 5 wickets in Asia Cup final

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India overcame Pakistan by five wickets in a thrilling final that went to the last over to lift a record-extending ninth Asia Cup title at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Tilak Varma was the star of the show, guiding India to 150-5 in 19.4 overs with an unbeaten 69 off 53 balls, with Sanju Samson (34 off 21) and Shivam Dube (33 off 22) playing second fiddle.

Pakistan's medium pacer Fahim Ashraf took 3-29, including two wickets in the Powerplay, but it was not enough to stop India from becoming undefeated champions.

Earlier, Pakistan were bowled out for 146 in 19.1 overs after a dramatic batting collapse which saw them lose nine wickets for 33 runs.

Openers Sahibzada Farhan (57 off 38 balls) and Fakhar Zaman (46 off 35) had set up a great base for their side with an 84-run stand off 58 deliveries, but India's deadly spin-trio led by Kuldeep Yadav (4-30) kept Pakistan to a modest total.

Sent in to bat, Pakistan did not lose a wicket in the Powerplay for the first time in the tournament, making 45 runs in the first six overs.

After Varun Chakravarthy (2-30) dismissed Sahibzada to break the opening stand, Fakhar and Saim Ayub sustained that momentum, adding 29 runs off 19 balls for the second wicket. But once Kuldeep dismissed Saim (14 off 11) in the 13th over, the floodgates opened.

Three wickets fell in the following three overs, and in the 17th, Kuldeep struck thrice, removing captain Salman Agha (eight off seven), Sheen Afridi (0) and Faheem Ashraf (0) as Pakistan went from 113-2 to 134-8.

Chasing 147, India had their worst Powerplay in the tournament, making 36-3, which included the wicket of the dangerous Abhishek Sharma (five off six balls).

Tilak then took control of the chase, first steadying the ship with a 57-run stand with Sanju and then a calculated 60-run stand off 40 balls with Dube.

Pakistan had a chance to run Tilak out on 37 but wicketkeeper Mohammad Haris took ages to dislodge the bats and the batter, with a desperate dive, made it home.

When 10 was needed off the last over from Haris Rauf, Tilak hit the fourth six of his innings off the second ball and Rinku Singh got India over the line with a four.



Beaten, shot and burned

Documentary at ICT shows police brutality during July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four men lay wounded on the street near Jatrabari Police Station. Instead of rushing to their aid, policemen swarmed them. One policeman started beating one of the wounded, another kicked his head with full force, while another policeman joined in, striking with sticks.

This was a scene that unfolded in a 13-minute documentary of police atrocities on protesters at the capital's Jatrabari on the afternoon of August 5, 2024, the day Sheikh Hasina's regime collapsed.

Along with the documentary, the prosecution yesterday screened 16 other video clips of police firing on students and people during the July uprising at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 as evidence in the case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two close aides – former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Country in urgent need of law to protect journalism

Media reform commission, speakers say at CGS event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh urgently needs an independent media commission and laws to protect journalism and journalists in order to strengthen press freedom, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They voiced concerns over the shifting media landscape and leadership following the August 5 changeover of government.

Titled "Self Regulation and Grievances in Media: Political and Policy Perspectives", the programme was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at the CIRDAP Auditorium in the capital.

CGS President Zillur Rahman moderated the event.

Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam said the government faces a leadership



"We won't weaponise laws against the media. But we cannot allow anyone to simply call themselves a journalist without accountability. Freedom of expression without responsibility is dangerous."

Mahfuj Alam, information adviser

crisis, including uncertainty over his own tenure. "While other advisers may stay until the February election, I don't know how long I'll remain in my position."

He added that rumours about advisers stepping down have slowed work at government offices.

"The political landscape changed

significantly after June's events in London, which is why if parties want, I can pass a law within a month. But without goodwill, many are waiting for the next government to take over."

Mahfuj expressed frustration that few focus on national interest or the creation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



A relative bids farewell to a man killed in an Israeli bombing, in front of the al-Awda hospital in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli strikes kill 77 more in Gaza

Trump hopeful of a deal as he meets Netanyahu

AGENCIES

Israeli tanks moved deeper into Gaza City's residential districts yesterday, as local health authorities said they have been unable to respond to dozens of desperate calls, expressing concern about the fate of residents in the targeted areas.

Gaza health ministry said at least 77 people have been killed by Israeli fire in the past 24 hours.

Witnesses and medics said Israeli tanks had deepened their incursions in the Sabra, Tel Al-

Hawa, Sheikh Radwan and Al-Naser neighbourhoods, closing in on the heart and the western areas of Gaza City, where hundreds of thousands of people are sheltering.

The Israeli military launched its long-threatened ground offensive on Gaza City on September 16 after weeks of intensifying strikes on the urban centre, forcing hundreds of Palestinians to flee although many still remain.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump yesterday expressed optimism about reaching a deal to end the war in Gaza, saying there is

"a real chance for greatness in the Middle East," ahead of tomorrow's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump did not provide specific details of a prospective ceasefire-for-hostages agreement in Gaza, but Vice President JD Vance told "Fox News Sunday" that top US officials are immersed in "very complicated" negotiations with Israeli and Arab leaders.

"We have a real chance for Greatness in the Middle East. All are on board for something special,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Russian missile, drone barrage kills 4 in Kyiv

AFP, Kyiv

Russia pounded Ukraine for hours with hundreds of drones and missiles overnight, killing at least four people, including a 12-year-old girl, Kyiv said yesterday.

Neighbouring Poland scrambled jets to secure its airspace in the wake of the 12-hour barrage, after Nato accused Moscow of being behind a series of violations of the defence alliance's airspace.

Diplomatic efforts to stop the war have faltered, and Russia has vowed to press on with the offensive that it launched in February 2022.

"Moscow wants to continue fighting and killing and deserves only the harshest pressure from the world," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said following the strikes, which lasted for 12 hours.

"The Kremlin benefits from continuing this war and terror as long as there are profits from energy sales," he added, urging stronger measures against Russia.

Following the massive aerial barrage, Zelensky held a round of calls with allies, including Nato chief Mark Rutte, Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store.

Russia said it had only hit military targets during the attack.

AVAILABLE FROM TODAY

Contact your hawker now

YOUR PROPERTY GURU

SEPTEMBER 2025
A Quarterly Publication of The Daily Star