



Govt plans to form paramilitary force for airports

Air force-led unit to oversee aviation security nationwide, says a proposal

ZYMA ISLAM

The home ministry seeks to create a paramilitary unit to oversee all security aspects of civil aviation, arguing that such an independent force is necessary to deal with organised crime, cyberattacks, and threats of drone and bomb attacks.

Named Aviation Guard Bangladesh (AGB), the force would comprise 7,650 personnel with a budget of Tk 771 crore, according to a proposal prepared by the ministry.

At present, the country's civil aviation security is overseen by 9,004 personnel from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), the Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn), and Ansar.

The proposal noted that while Aviation Security (AvSec), a wing of CAAB, is designated to protect aircraft, passengers, crew, and airport infrastructure, security can be strengthened in sensitive areas such as aprons, boundaries, fuel depots, and cargo transport.

Beyond airport and airfield security, AGB would prevent money laundering, secure unused runways, and operate two helicopters for search and rescue missions.

The force would be managed by the Bangladesh Air Force and primarily staffed with its officers. Civilians and retired officers could also be included if necessary.

"Seventy percent of its members would come from the air force, and the rest would be civilians, with a long-term goal of reaching a 50-50 balance," the proposal stated.

Leadership would come almost entirely from the air force -- an air vice

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AGB FORMATION

To have 7,650 members, Tk 771cr budget

70% personnel from BAF, 2 posts for civil service officials

Tasked with securing airports, countering cyber and drone threats

Full rollout in three phases, nationwide by 2030



An indigenous woman stands amid the ruins of her house, showing journalists the scale of destruction at Ramesu Bazar in Guimara upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday. Many shops and homes belonging to indigenous people were looted and set on fire on Sunday afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Eerie calm in scarred Ramesu Bazar

STAR REPORT

An uneasy calm prevailed in Guimara upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday, a day after three Marma men were shot dead during protests over the rape of a schoolgirl.

Ramesu Bazar, the epicentre of the violence, looked deserted, with torched shops, houses and vehicles. There was a heavy law enforcement presence in the area, and journalists were barred from entering the bazar.

Meanwhile, police yesterday confirmed the identities of the three deceased.

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MORE STORY ON PAGE 16

Trump's Gaza peace plan unveiled

Netanyahu agrees; Trump says Israel will have his 'full backing' in Gaza conflict if Hamas rejects plan

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said that he had Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's backing for a wide-ranging Gaza peace plan that would bring an immediate ceasefire.

The plan, which Trump has circulated to Arab leaders, was released after Trump met Netanyahu in Washington.

Trump told a press conference that Netanyahu had agreed to the plan, which

calls for an immediate ceasefire, followed by disarmament of Hamas and Israeli withdrawal.

Hamas has yet to give its approval, but Trump said he was hopeful the militant group was in favour.

Trump said approval from all sides was "beyond very close."

"It's time for Hamas to accept the terms of the plan that we've put forward today," Trump said, adding that there may be fresh willingness

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Certain int'l quarters trying to foil polls

Yunus tells rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has voiced caution that certain international quarters are trying to obstruct the electoral process in Bangladesh.

"Some forces are determined to make sure that the election never happens. We don't know who is working for whom," he said at a meeting with a delegation of top rights activists at his hotel in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on Monday.



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3 lakh bullets fired during July uprising

IO tells ICT that LMGs, SMGs, rifles were used

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 3 lakh bullets were fired during the July uprising across the country, Investigation Officer Md Alamgir told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Citing a 215-page report of Police Headquarters, the IO said police used light machine guns (LMGs), submachine guns (SMGs), Chinese rifles, shotguns, revolvers, pistols, and other weapons to quell the uprising.

Some 95,313 bullets were fired in Dhaka, he said while testifying as the last prosecution witness in the case filed against Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun.

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two co-accused planned and executed a brutal and systematic crackdown on protesters, the IO alleged after reviewing various pieces of evidence related to the uprising violence.

The police officer stated that law enforcement agencies, acting under direct instructions from the top leadership, carried out attacks on the unarmed protesters.

According to his testimony, the suppression campaign resulted in over 1,500 deaths and thousands of injuries across the country.

"After reviewing seized evidence; reports of newspapers; footage; and audio clips; expert reports; books; and testimonies of victims, eyewitnesses, and family members of martyrs; and the confessional statement of accused Mamun, it became clear that then premier Hasina, home minister Kamal, and IGP Mamun were directly involved in ordering, provoking, and conspiring to suppress the student-led movement," Alamgir told the tribunal.

The accused are also responsible for arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, alteration of causes of death, and hasty burial of bodies without identification by family members, said the IO.

Alamgir said female protesters faced sexual violence, and many injured victims were also attacked at hospitals.

During his testimony, the police officer said he collected inquest and post-mortem reports of 81 individuals buried as unclaimed bodies by Anjuman Mufidul Islam.

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CONFERENCE ON ROHINGYAS

Dhaka to seek global pledge on Rohingya return

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh will seek political commitment from the international community for Rohingya repatriation, funding, and accountability for the Rohingya genocide at the high-level conference on the Rohingyas in New York today.

"We want three clear aspects of focus at the conference -- Rohingya repatriation is the ultimate solution to the crisis. Before that happens, the international community must support their humanitarian needs and the trial of the Rohingya genocide," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The event comes at a time when global attention on the Rohingyas is shifting due to other crises, while Bangladesh struggles to manage the growing number of refugees.

Since early 2024, nearly 150,000 more Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh amid intense fighting in Myanmar's Rakhine State, raising the total population to about 1.2 million, according to the UN.

Despite several attempts, repatriation has not been possible as Rohingyas say there is no guarantee of citizenship and safety. Meanwhile, funding for their needs in Bangladesh has declined.

This year, donors have provided only 38 percent of the required \$934 million, affecting healthcare, food, nutrition, protection, and education. Unless new funds are secured -- at least \$60 million over the next six months and \$167 million over the next 12 months -- the World Food Programme faces a major disruption to food assistance starting in December 2025, said its Country Director Dom Scalpelli in a statement yesterday.

Bangladeshi officials warn of rising challenges in the camps, including domestic violence, human and drug smuggling, and extremist ideologies. They fear refugees may spill outside the camps.

Complicating the situation, the rebel group Arakan Army (AA) has taken control of about 90 percent of Rakhine State. During its clashes with the Myanmar military, scores of Rohingyas were killed and thousands displaced.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh hosted an international event on the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar in August, which saw participation from Rohingya leaders in the camps and diaspora communities.

"We have mobilised the Rohingya voice that will be placed at the UN conference," a Bangladesh official in New York told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that Rohingyas have emphatically said they want to return home.

The New York conference will bring together several heads of state and government, ministers, representatives of UN member states, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and Rohingya leaders from diaspora communities.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will deliver a statement urging global commitment to repatriation, humanitarian support, and

DHAKA'S 3 PRIORITIES

Repatriation as ultimate solution

Humanitarian funding until then

Accountability for Rohingya genocide

Honored as Superbrands Again
Bangladesh's Trusted Choice, GREE for 2025-26

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Europe must step up efforts to protect environment Says EEA

AFP, Copenhagen

Europe is a world leader in the fight against climate change but must do more to improve its resilience against global warming, the European Union's environment agency warned on Monday.

While "significant progress" has been made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, the general state of Europe's environment was "not good", the European Environment Agency (EEA) said after compiling data from 38 countries.

Its director, Leena Yla-Mononen, told reporters in Brussels that biodiversity was on the decline "due to persistent pressures driven by unsustainable production and consumption patterns".

Water resources, likewise, were under "severe pressure", with one-third of the European population being affected by water stress, she said.

The climate assessment, conducted every five years, comes after EU member states at a UN climate summit last week were unable to present a 2035 plan to further slash greenhouse gases, due to disagreements within the 27-nation bloc.

The EU is also unable to agree on an ambitious proposal from the European Commission to reduce emissions by 90 percent by 2040 from 1990 levels.

EU greenhouse gas emissions have dropped 37 percent since 1990, outpacing reductions by other major polluters like China and the United States, due to reduced fossil-fuel use and a doubling of renewable energy capacity since 2005.

But the EEA said EU countries must go further in implementation of policies aiming for better sustainability already agreed under a European Green Deal.

Nature on the continent "continues to face degradation, overexploitation and biodiversity loss," the EEA said.

Water in particular is an increasingly scarce resource, and land is over-exploited.

Some 81 percent of protected habitats are in poor or bad condition, 60 to 70 percent of soils are degraded, and 62 percent of water bodies are not in good ecological condition, the report said.

Even though climate change ramps up water scarcity, the EEA said there was scope to save up to 40 percent of water in agriculture, water supply and energy production through better governance, technological innovation, water reuse and public awareness.



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and UN Secretary General António Guterres shake hands before their meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

Trophy row turns Asia Cup final into political showdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India and Pakistan produced the best Asia Cup final in recent memory on Sunday in Dubai, a match that went down to the last over with India coming out on top by five wickets.

But the game itself got overshadowed by the chaotic presentation ceremony that followed and by the trading of barbs that continued throughout the next day, all centring around politics, not cricket.

The first shot was taken by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who likened the team's win to Operation Sindoor, a military operation undertaken by its armed forces in May in response to the terror attacks in Pahalgam of India's Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, for which it blames Pakistan.

"#OperationSindoor on the games field. Outcome is the same - India wins! Congrats to our cricketers," Modi wrote on X right after the game ended.

Mohsin Naqvi, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the country's federal interior minister, retorted on X, saying, "If war was your measure of pride, history already records your humiliating defeats at Pakistan's hands. No cricket match can rewrite that truth. Dragging war into sport only exposes desperation and disgraces the very spirit of the game."

He was one of the central figures of what had transpired after the game at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

As the president of the Asian Cricket

Council (ACC), Naqvi was supposed to hand over the trophy to the captain of the winning team, Suryakumar Yadav.

The problems began when the Indian team refused to collect the trophy from Naqvi and wanted some other dignitary to do the honours.

But Naqvi refused.



After several false starts, the presentation ceremony finally began almost an hour after the match ended. Naqvi stood at the podium as all the individual prizes were handed over by other dignitaries.

But when it was time to call upon the Indian captain, the dignitaries walked off the stage, the trophy was taken inside, and then announcer Simon Doull said, "I have been informed by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) that the Indian cricket team will not be collecting their awards tonight."

The Indian team then celebrated without the trophy – a bizarre and never-before-seen occurrence in international cricket.

"This is one thing which I have never seen since I started playing cricket that the champion team is denied the trophy... We took the call on the ground about not taking the trophy," Suryakumar said at the post-match press conference.

He also praised the Indian prime minister for his reaction after the game, saying, "It feels good when the country's leader himself bats on the front foot," according to Indian news agency ANI.

However, his Pakistani counterpart, Salman Ali Agha, wasn't amused by all that happened, saying it was "bad for cricket".

"If they think they disrespected us by not shaking hands, then I say they disrespected cricket... What they did today [Sunday], a good team doesn't do that. Good teams do what we have done. We waited for our medals and took them."

"It's been seen for the first time. I do not know where it will stop. What has happened in this tournament is bad for cricket."

Tensions were high heading into the final owing to the Indian team's refusal to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts in their earlier two meetups in the tournament to show solidarity with their armed forces and the Pahalgam attack victims. The handshake was snubbed in the final as well.

As per several Indian outlets, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is planning to lodge a formal complaint with the ICC against Naqvi for refusing to give the trophy. All signs indicate that the fallout from the Asia Cup final is far from over.

Gaza peace plan

FROM PAGE 1

following months of heavy casualties.

"Their leadership has been killed three times over, so you're really dealing with different people than we've been dealing with over the last four years, five years," he continued.

He earlier warned that if Hamas rejects the deal, the US would back Israel's continued incursion into Gaza.

"If Hamas rejects the deal, which is always possible, they're the only one left," Trump said, turning to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "But if not, as you know Bibi, you'd have more full backing to do what you would have to do."

The Gaza plan also calls for 'amnesty' for Hamas members who lay down arms, coexist.

The 20-point plan states that on agreement by both sides, "the war will immediately end" with Israeli withdrawals timed to the release of the last hostages held by Hamas. During that initial period, there would be a ceasefire.

Key points include the deployment of a "temporary international stabilisation force" and the creation of a transitional authority headed by Trump.

The deal would demand Hamas militants fully disarm and be excluded from future roles in the government. However, those who agreed to "peaceful co-existence" would be given amnesty.

Following the Israeli withdrawal, the borders would be opened to aid and investment.

The plan would involve the drawing up of a timeline for Israeli forces to withdraw from the Palestinian enclave in phases.

"Working with the new transitional authority in Gaza, all parties will agree on a timeline for Israeli forces to withdraw in phases," Trump told reporters at the White House, referring to a new body that would govern the Palestinian territory.

In a crucial change from Trump's earlier apparent goals, Palestinians will not be forced to leave and instead, the document said, "we will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza."

The US president had met key Arab leaders at the United Nations last week and said Sunday on social media that "ALL ARE ON BOARD FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL, FIRST TIME EVER."

Netanyahu yesterday said that Israel would "retain security responsibility" for Gaza under the US-backed peace plan, and that it would "finish the job" of destroying Hamas if the Palestinian group rejected the deal.

"Hamas will be disarmed. Gaza will be demilitarised. Israel will retain security responsibility, including a security perimeter, for the foreseeable future. And lastly, Gaza will have a peaceful, civilian administration that is run neither by Hamas nor by the Palestinian Authority," said Netanyahu at the joint press conference with Trump.

"If Hamas rejects your plan, Mr President, or if they supposedly accept it and then, then basically do everything to counter it, then Israel will finish the job by itself. This can be done the easy way, or it can be done the hard way, but it will be done," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu has recently given little reason for optimism, vowing in a defiant UN speech Friday to "finish the job" against Hamas and rejecting Palestinian statehood – recently recognised by several Western nations.

Normally a staunch ally of Netanyahu, the US president has shown increasing signs of frustration ahead of the Israeli premier's fourth White House visit since Trump's return to power.

Trump was infuriated by Israel's recent strike on Hamas members in the key US ally Qatar.

And he warned Netanyahu last week against annexing the Israeli-occupied West Bank, as some of Netanyahu's cabinet members have urged, a move that would seriously complicate the route to Palestinian statehood.

Netanyahu's coalition government is propped up by the far-right ministers who oppose a peace deal.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes continued across the Gaza Strip, killing at least 33 people, according to the Hamas-run territory's civil defence agency.

Families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza urged Trump to uphold his Gaza proposal.

"We respectfully ask you to stand firm against any attempts to sabotage the deal you have brought forth," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said in an open letter to Trump.

Eerie calm in scarred Ramesu

FROM PAGE 1

Tayiching Marma, 20, Athwipru Marma, 21, and Akhrau Marma, 22, were all residents of Guimara, said Chattogram Range's Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ahsan Habib Palash.

The police are yet to confirm whether they belonged to any group.

"Their bodies will be handed over to their families after autopsy. A murder case has been filed. Local administration is working to determine the extent of damage in the area," the DIG told The Daily Star.

Eleven injured in the violence belong to Chakma, Marma, and Tripura communities, said Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Saber Ahmed.

According to police, journalists and other sources, residents of Ramesu Bazar, fearing further violence, have been leaving their homes in search of safe shelters. Several residents said their houses were looted during the violence.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Priyanka Pal, a local, said, "During the violence, I, along with my children, left home. Shops and other establishments were torched. The sound of repeated gunfire spread panic in the area. I spent the night elsewhere. In the morning, I returned to collect my belongings."

"I'm leaving again," said the woman whose husband works in Khagrachhari Sadar.

Chaypru Marma, a nursing student, said, "We ran away from our house when they started attacking the bazar and setting it on fire on Sunday. We had left all our belongings. Our home was torched. I'm staying in a relative's house in a neighbouring area."

Speaking to journalists, Lincoln Marma, a teacher of Guimara Government High School, said a group of Bangalee people attacked his home in Bangalipara during Sunday's violence when he was with his wife and two sons.

Protesting the rape of the schoolgirl, Jumma Chhatra Janata, a platform of the indigenous community, enforced a road blockade in the three hill districts yesterday. Section 144 has been in force in Khagrachhari's Sadar and Guimara upazilas.

However, the Khagrachhari-Chattogram and Khagrachhari-Dhaka routes have been excluded from the blockade.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Jumma Chhatra Janata said the blockade was relaxed on the two routes from 12:00pm

to facilitate funeral arrangements for those killed in violence and for the treatment of those injured.

DIG Ahsan Habib Palash told The Daily Star, "Local SP and DC held a meeting over the issue today [Monday]. The extent of the damage will be assessed, and compensation is expected to be provided to the victims. Both indigenous and Bengali communities have suffered losses in the violence, which are being taken into consideration. We are in discussions with all parties to find a solution. The



accused of the rape was arrested and taken into remand, but why this incident occurred cannot be determined without a proper investigation.

8-POINT DEMAND

A six-member delegation of Jumma Chhatra Janata submitted an eight-point demand to the administration during a meeting last night.

The meeting brought together the CHT adviser, the Khagrachhari Hill District Council chairman, the deputy commissioner, the superintendent of police, the additional SP, and intelligence officers, according to a statement posted on Jumma Chhatra Janata's official Facebook page.

The organisation said the civil administration verbally agreed to all the demands, except the withdrawal of section 144, citing that restrictions on public gatherings would remain in force until the ongoing blockade is lifted.

"We welcome the beginning of an official dialogue with the government

and administration, but this in no way means we will go home empty-handed," read the statement.

The platform reiterated that Jumma Chhatra Janata is neither a political party nor a separatist group. "Our spontaneous movement cannot be suppressed by labelling us UPDF or by any other tags," it said.

They demanded that the ISPR statement that tagged them as UPDF must be withdrawn immediately.

"The communal attacks carried out by illegal settlers on September 27 and

the indiscriminate firing by the army in Guimara on September 28 are wholly unacceptable; they are heinous, barbaric and crimes against humanity," it added.

The demands include an independent, impartial and judicial investigation into all incidents of killing, looting, arson and shooting that took place in Sadar and Guimara upazila on September 27 and 28.

"State forces cannot escape responsibility for wrongdoings. If the administration fails to implement our demands, or if the army, settlers, or any other force continues harassment, arrests, house searches, threats, or communal attacks on our people, then Jumma Chhatra Janata will be compelled to announce and carry out the toughest programmes," said the group.

Their demands also include monetary compensation ranging from Tk 5 lakh to Tk 20 lakh for those killed, injured and those who incurred material losses.

Govt plans to form paramilitary force

FROM PAGE 1

marshal, two group captains, two wing commanders, and one deputy secretary under the air vice marshal. Two posts would be reserved for civil service officials.

The group captains would manage the secretariat, budgets, and policy, while the wing commanders would oversee coordination, public relations, risk assessment, research, and investigation. The deputy secretary would handle internal security and legal affairs.

The force would be managed through three wings – two led by air commodores and one by an additional or joint secretary.

AGB would be phased in from 2026 to 2032.

In the first phase, 2,150 officers – half of the planned deployment – would be posted at Dhaka, Chattogram, and Sylhet airports. They would come from the air force, with retired personnel recruited on contract. This phase would require Tk 215 crore.

In 2028, deployment would rise to 75 percent at Dhaka, Chattogram, and Sylhet, while Rajshahi, Syedpur, Jashore, and Barishal airports would receive 50 percent of their planned personnel. This stage would cost Tk 253 crore.

By 2030, AGB members would be fully deployed at all airports, with Tk 303 crore required for the final phase.

Contacted, Home Ministry Senior Additional Secretary Ataur Rahman Khan said the formation of AGB is still at a preliminary stage and under feasibility review.

"At present, around 20 agencies are involved in managing civil aviation. The air force believes coordination would improve if a single body acted as the focal point," he said, adding that such an arrangement would improve coordination.

He also said the government will assess whether existing agencies can close the security gaps without creating a new force.

CAAB Chairperson Air Vice Marshal Md Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq declined to comment, saying that discussions on AGB are taking place at the ministry level.

Globally, most major airports – including those in Qatar, Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Dubai, and Hong Kong – are secured by a mix of civilian police, border control agencies, and third-party contractors. France is the only exception, with its Air Transport Gendarmerie having some overlap with the military.

GOVT AGENCIES AT ODDS

The home ministry formed an inter-ministerial body on August 31 with the aim of forming AGB, according to ministry documents.

The body includes the ministries of public administration, civil aviation, finance, defence, home, the Cabinet Division, police, and the armed forces.

It was tasked with recommending how to undertake the activities of forming AGB under the home ministry.

At its first meeting on September 19, the committee discussed AGB's viability but reached no decision.

Meanwhile, the civil aviation and tourism ministry has reviewed the proposal and prepared an internal report questioning the need for such a paramilitary force, sources said.

The report stated that AGB's mandate would overlap with that of agencies currently responsible for aviation security.

AGB is not the first such proposal.

On March 10 this year, CAAB's security department submitted a plan for a new security body called Bangladesh Airport Security Force.

It proposed a force of 10,632 personnel, 70 percent from the air force on deputation – similar to AGB's structure.

An air vice marshal or air commodore was supposed to lead the force, which was projected to cost Tk 397 crore.

CAAB staff protested the plan a week later, staging demonstrations across airports and forcing the then CAAB chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan to shelve the proposal.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, tensions grew between APBn and the air force over who would control airfield security nationwide.

APBn was first posted to Hazrat

Shahjalal International Airport in April 2010 by the National Committee for Intelligence Coordination. It was tasked with overseeing security at Cox's Bazar airfield in June 2022 and posted to six more airports on February 1, 2024. A total of 2,500 members are currently deployed.

Air force personnel were deployed at Dhaka airport on February 7, 2016, to assist the civil administration for three months.

On August 5, 2024, APBn, like other police units, fell into disarray and abandoned its posts. The air force then stepped in to provide airport security.

After the interim government was formed, APBn attempted to resume duties but found its posts taken over.

Tensions peaked on October 28 when APBn alleged that air force-led aviation security forces trashed its control room at Dhaka airport. The next day, it filed a general diary with Airport Police Station.

The GD stated that equipment from APBn's Airstide Command and Control Center office was taken away, the office signboard was damaged, and its logo was replaced with one reading "BAF Task Force".

Close-circuit cameras owned by APBn were found masked with paper, allegedly under orders of the airport's executive director.

On February 16 this year, senior officials from CAAB, police headquarters, and AvSec intervened, leading APBn to withdraw the GD the following day.

But tensions reignited two days later when APBn personnel attempted to reclaim their posts but were reportedly barred from entering the airport.

On September 17, Chief Adviser's Special Envoy on International Affairs Lutfy Siddiqi chaired a meeting on airport security in an effort to resolve the impasse.

It was decided there that all agencies at the airport will function under CAAB, and APBn was asked to resume security duties at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Civil Aviation Ministry Adviser SK Bashir Uddin, CAAB chairperson, and Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam were present at the meeting.



Participants at a national dialogue titled “Road to Recognition: A First Step towards Gender Equality”, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at a city hotel yesterday. Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud and MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam were present, among others.

PHOTO: STAR

Redistribution of care work vital for equality

Speakers tell MJF national dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women will soon have the legal right to take their children to workplaces, as the interim government has decided to introduce this provision, said Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, adviser to the planning ministry, at an event yesterday.

“It will pave the way for a future where recruiters are required to set up mandatory daycare facilities in every office,” he said.

He made the remarks at a national dialogue titled “Road to Recognition: A First Step towards Gender Equality”, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at a city hotel.

The dialogue highlighted the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics’ Household Production Satellite Account Report, which values unpaid household work at Tk 6,70,000 crore, equivalent to 18.9 percent of GDP. Women contribute 85 percent of this, representing 16.14 percent of GDP.

Discussing the limitations of GDP calculations, Mahmud said it is a

poor measure of people’s well-being, particularly for women.

He said the exclusion of women’s unpaid household work dates back to economist Alfred Marshall, who wrote in his Principles of Economics that such work is not an economic good or service.

“That made the damage,” he said, adding that the contribution of women’s domestic work has since been left out of economic calculations.

“Women are contributing comparatively better than men in workplaces. A country’s development can only be celebrated when women receive due respect,” he said.

At the event, speakers also stressed the need to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work as key steps towards gender equality.

They said women not only bear most of the burden of unpaid household work but are also excelling in formal employment, in some cases surpassing men.

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Aerial view of the aftermath of the Khagrachhari violence.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

KHAGRACHHARI VIOLENCE

Calls grow for judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights groups and political parties across the country have demanded an independent investigation into the violence in Khagrachhari that left three indigenous people dead and many others injured.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of 23 organisations including indigenous representatives such as Raja Devasish Roy, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Kapaeng Foundation, as well as other civil society groups, also called for a judicial inquiry into the incident.

“Protests may be held over any reasonable demands, but they must never be met with excessive use of force, nor turn violent. Law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities must act with restraint, responsibility, and respect for human rights, so that the safety of civilians is ensured,” the platform said in a press statement.

HRFB also stressed the need for justice, compensation for victims, and proper medical care for the injured.

Ain o Salish Kendra also called for a judicial inquiry to ensure evidence-based action against those responsible.

“If any excessive force was used during the incident, the government must investigate and take appropriate measures,” it said.

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Child abuse now a national crisis

Says rights organisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child abuse in Bangladesh has reached alarming levels and is now a serious national crisis, warned the Local Education and Economic Development Organization (LEEDO), a child rights organisation, yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, LEEDO officials said abuse, both physical and sexual, is rising despite constitutional and legal safeguards.

According to data presented by the organisation, child rape cases increased by nearly 75 percent in the first seven months of 2025 compared to the same period last year. From January to July, 306 children were victims of rape, up from 275 during the same period in 2024.

Citing recent reports in national newspapers, it highlighted several cases, including the abuse of a 10-year-old by her stepmother in Dhamrai, the sexual assault of a 7-year-old madrasa student in Cumilla, and the rape of a 12-year-old domestic worker in Gaibandha.

Incidents of children being exploited for online content have also emerged. In one case, a woman known as “Cream Apa” was arrested in Ashulia for allegedly abusing her children and forcing them to appear in videos on social media.

Between January and October 2024, at least 482 children were murdered, and 580 faced various forms of abuse, including physical assault, sexual violence, and corporal punishment by teachers, said LEEDO, citing figures from Dhaka Tribune.

Citing Unicef data, the organisation also said nine out of 10 Bangladeshi children aged 1-14 experience violent discipline at home at least once a month.

Meanwhile, a 2025 study by Springerlink found widespread physical abuse among child labourers in rural informal sectors, it added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

VIOLENCE IN RAMU

13 years on, justice remains a far cry

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Thirteen years have passed since the night of horror at Ramu in Cox’s Bazar, when zealots set ablaze centuries-old Buddhist temples, looted homes and spread fear among the minority community.

Despite multiple investigations, dozens of cases and promises of accountability over the attack, not a single perpetrator has been convicted and punished.

On September 29 and 30, 2012, a group of zealots unleashed violence after spreading a rumour that the Facebook page of a local Buddhist youth, Uttam Barua, carried a photo demeaning Islam.

An investigation by The Daily Star later revealed that the page with the anti-Islam picture had been photoshopped.

The attackers set fire to Buddhist temples, vandalising and looting more than 50 houses in Ramu. They also attacked Mushurikhola crematorium at Khurushkul village in Cox’s Bazar Sadar upazila and attempted to attack the houses of Hindus in Kharulia village.

The following day, they attacked and ransacked five Buddhist temples in Ukhiya upazila and damaged two Hindu temples in Palongkhali union. Buddhist houses were also torched and vandalised in Hoaikong union of Teknaf upazila.

In total, 18 cases were filed in connection with the attacks, but none has reached conclusion. All the accused have since walked free

on bail, and court proceedings remain stalled.

“The cases may be pending with different courts, but I have no updated information,” said Advocate Md Sirajul Islam, public prosecutor of Cox’s Bazar District and Sessions Judge’s Court, while speaking to The Daily Star over cellphone.

His predecessor, advocate Md

Brahmanbaria (2016) and even those after August 2024 could have been prevented,” said ZI Khan Panna, Supreme Court lawyer and chairperson of rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra.

He said Ramu’s main victim, Uttam Barua, disappeared soon after the incident and remains missing.

Two petitions were filed with



The debris around a Buddhist temple in Ramu, Cox’s Bazar after the violent attacks in 2012.

FILE PHOTO

Faridul Alam, had earlier said many victims lost interest in pursuing justice because the then Awami League government built them new houses and pagodas as compensation.

Rights activists reject this as an excuse.

“If exemplary punishment had been delivered after Ramu, later attacks in Nasirnagar,

the High Court in October 2012 by lawyers Md Eunus Ali Akond and Jyotirmoy Barua, demanding accountability for the attackers and negligent officials.

Though the court ordered multiple inquiries, the petitions remain unresolved.

The judicial probe report, submitted in May 2013, found

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Change mindset on energy sector, fight corruption

Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shift in the mindset of political party leaders regarding power and energy supply is essential to ensure a smooth transition to renewable energy, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

They said if party members rid themselves of corruption, people would be able to attain “energy justice”.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the dialogue at the capital’s CIRDP auditorium with representatives of various political parties.

The party leaders promised to work against corruption at the event.

CAB energy adviser Prof M Shamsul Alam said if the government stopped making “predatory profit” from the sector, people would get affordable energy.

“Though it is allowed to make a profit of around 7 percent from a business, the previous government sometimes provided around 18 percent profits to some power plants,” he said.

BNP representative Maudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel, convener of its media cell,

said the energy sector had become a totally profit-driven sector. He assured that if the BNP comes to power, it would not allow development projects like Rampal, which has been polluting the environment and the biodiversity of the Sundarbans.

Jamaat’s Dhaka city south committee’s Nayeab-e-Ameer Md Helal Uddin said if Jamaat comes to power, it would work for the people with honesty and integrity.

CPB central committee member Ruhin Hossain Prince said they have always stood for ensuring 100 percent ownership of natural resources for the people and would continue to do so.

AB Party general secretary Asaduzzaman Fuad said the political parties which appear likely to come to power in the future had already surrendered themselves to the oligarchs.

Representatives from Basad, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, National Citizen Party, Nagorik Oikya and Gono Odhikar Parishad also joined the dialogue. Students from different universities presented their thoughts on energy security at the programme.

Though it [govt] is allowed to make a profit of around 7% from a business, the previous government sometimes provided around 18% profits to some power plants.

Prof M Shamsul Alam
CAB energy adviser



A Dhaka North City Corporation worker sprays mosquito repellent with a fogger machine along the Ring Road area of Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday. With dengue cases on the rise, experts have recommended intensifying such activities to curb Aedes mosquitoes.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Ex-minister
Nurul Majid
dies at DMCH

He was in jail custody
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former industries minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, who was in jail custody, died yesterday while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He was admitted to the hospital on Sunday and breathed his last around 8:30am, said Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of DMCH police outpost. His son, Manzurul Majid Mahmud Sadi, also confirmed the death in a Facebook post.

According to a jail notification, Majid was admitted to DMCH with uncontrolled bowel and bladder complications. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the ICU around 4:00pm on Sunday.

In September last year, a Narsingdi court sent Majid to jail in a case filed over the killing of Jahangir Alam, a local Sramik Dal leader, during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in Madhabdi municipality area on August 4.

Jahangir's cousin filed the case on August 9 against 127 people, including Majid.

Rab later arrested him in Dhaka's Gulshan.

Two ex-MPs,
JP secretary
general held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police has arrested two former Awami League MPs, 11 leaders and activists of its affiliated organisations, and the secretary general of the Raushan Ershad-led faction of Jatiyo Party in a series of raids across the capital yesterday.

According to a DB press release issued yesterday, former MP Fayzur Rahman Badal of Brahmanbaria-5 and former reserved seat lawmaker Tamanna Nusrat Bubby were among those detained under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

JP's Secretary General Kazi Mamunur Rashid was arrested in front of The Westin Dhaka under the same act and later produced before court. He was placed on six days' remand.

The DB press release, signed by DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Talebur Rahman, said the raids were carried out by the DB's Motijheel, Mirpur, and Cyber divisions from Sunday night to early yesterday in areas including Nikunja, Mohammadpur, Aftabnagar, Kafrul, and Ashulia.



Abir points at his father's photo and calls out "Baba", as his mother Tusti looks on in grief at their rented home in Habiganj.

PHOTO: STAR

Puja nights bring only
silence for Ripon's family

A year after his death in July uprising,
family struggles with grief, hardship

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

In the heart of a festive neighbourhood, where drums beat and lights glitter for Durga Puja, one home remains eerily quiet.

It is the home of 22-year-old Tusti Chandra Shil, who is still grappling with grief and poverty, raising her 15-month-old son in a rented house in Habiganj city. It's the family of a martyr of last year's July uprising.

The Shil family sits in silence. Their small brick house feels heavy with loss, as though time has stopped.

A puja mandap stands just beside their house, decked out in colourful lights. Inside, devotees prepare for the biggest festival of the Hindu calendar. But in Ripon's home, no such preparations can be seen. No decorations, no new clothes, no festive bustle.

"Who will buy new clothes

for me?" asked his wife Tusti Chandra Shil. "The house used to be so noisy on the days of puja. Now it feels empty."

Tusti recalled how Ripon would once busy himself fulfilling everyone's demands during puja. "He would say, I'll buy you shoes and jewellery to match your sari. Now puja comes and my insides burn."

A year has passed since Ripon's death, but for his family, the days of grief have not ended.

Ripon Chandra Shil, a resident of Anantapur area in Habiganj Municipality, was killed in a clash between activists of the Awami League and protesters on August 4 last year.

He was taken to Habiganj Sadar Modern Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He was 27. He left behind his wife, their infant son, an ailing brother and an elderly mother.

Now over 15 months old,

Ripon's son Abir has just started to speak. "He calls out 'Baba' when he looks at his father's photo," said Tusti.

"When Ripon died, our baby was only three months old. He never got to hear his son call him 'Baba'. Life has become unbearably hard. I've used up all the government and local aid to pay off debts and cover household expenses."

His mother, Ruby Rani Shil, still gazes silently at the photos of her son, having lost the will to speak.

Meanwhile, police say the investigation into Ripon's death is ongoing. "The case is being investigated under close monitoring. Instructions and support are being provided by the higher authorities at Police Headquarters," said Md Shahidul Haque Munshi, additional superintendent of police in Habiganj. He said no arrests have been made so far.

Redistribution of care work vital for equality

FROM PAGE 3

They emphasised that women's dual contributions must receive due recognition.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam recalled the organisation's decade-long advocacy.

"Over a decade ago, we envisioned a society where women are respected at home and face less domestic violence. Recognising unpaid care work was central to that vision. Today, government acknowledgement marks a milestone for women's rights."

Asma Akhter, deputy director of BBS, shared her vision for a caring society and expressed hope to

update the data further.

Banasree Mitra Neogi, director (rights and governance programmes) at MJF, delivered a keynote titled "A Transformative Journey: Recognizing Unpaid Care Work towards Gender Equality in Bangladesh".

She said necessary surveys are often funded by international development partners, but they will not be able to do so all the time in future, so the government should come forward to take such an initiative.

Nusrat Aman, CEO of the AYAT Foundation, said, "The work of men should be considered an equal responsibility, not a

celebration."

Nasheeba Selim, principal social development specialist (gender), ADB, said, "People expect household chores to be done by women by default. This perception needs to change."

Kazi Golam Towsif, director general (additional responsibilities) of the Department of Women Affairs, said, "Men and women must work together for society's betterment."

Gitanjali Singh, country representative of UN Women Bangladesh, said, "The combined effort of men and women will be a game-changer in the unpaid care work sector."

Stéphanie St-Laurent Brassard, second secretary (development - gender equality) at the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh, said, "Care is not a cost; it is an investment in human potential, equality and a more prosperous future."

Katharina König, deputy team leader of Nagorikata Civic Engagement Fund, said, "We recognise women's unpaid care work with the highest importance. In future, we will run campaigns and awareness programmes."

Parveen Mahmud, chairperson of MJF Governing Board, said, "Recognition of women's unpaid care work is a remarkable achievement and a result of MJF's long-term advocacy. Society must change its perspective on gender equality."

The findings mark a milestone in MJF's "Equality through Dignity" campaign, launched in 2013 to recognise women's contributions, enhance their status in families and society, and reduce violence and discrimination.

Child abuse

FROM PAGE 3

Forhad Hossain, founder and executive director of LEEDO, said to address the crisis, the organisation recommended several measures, including ensuring safe environments and counselling support in schools, effective monitoring to prevent domestic abuse of child workers, ending child labour by providing families with social protection and alternatives, and prioritising investigation and speedy trial of child abuse cases.

It also suggested expanding awareness programmes for parents, teachers and employers, protecting children's identity in media coverage and promoting child rights campaigns, strengthening cyber laws to curb online abuse, and establishing child-friendly helplines.

Expression of Interest

LAMB Hospital, Parbatipur, Dinajpur District, a 50 year old institution, is looking for an Architect /Structural Engineer or a Firm, to plan for some additions/modification to the current building. The current requirement is to develop a Plan only. Details of expansion will be shared later. Firms with experience in Retrofitting works are preferred. Does not require any Construction Contractor now. Contact Mr. Benedict (Ph: 01786339129) for visiting the site. Interested parties are requested to e-mail their profile to sandipk@lambproject.org within two weeks from the publication date.

Japan gives \$3.4 million for
Rohingya, host communities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan has provided \$3.4 million to the World Food Programme for the Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar as lifesaving support amid dwindling funding that poses serious risks for the refugees.

"Japan stands firmly with Bangladesh and the international community in ensuring that basic needs of the Rohingya population are met, and that the most vulnerable members of the host communities, particularly women and children, are also supported," said Japan's Ambassador to Bangladesh Saïda Shinichi.

"Japan remains committed to working with WFP and all partners to prevent a worsening humanitarian crisis and contribute to a long-term solution where the Rohingyas can return to Myanmar safely and with dignity."

With the latest contribution from Japan, WFP will provide monthly food assistance and nutrition support to more than 100,000 Rohingya refugees and

2,000 vulnerable Bangladeshis.

Since early 2024, nearly 150,000 more Rohingyas have arrived in the camps following intense fighting in Myanmar's Rakhine State, raising the total number of refugees to around 1.2 million.

However, a sharp decline in international funding has put the entire humanitarian response at risk, threatening critical services such as food, cooking gas, nutrition, healthcare, education and protection.

Unless new funding is secured -- at least \$60 million over the next six months and \$167 million over the next 12 months -- WFP faces the risk of a major disruption to its food assistance starting in December 2025.

WFP Country Director in Bangladesh Dom Scalpelli said, "The crisis is at a crossroads. We call on all partners to help prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the camps. At WFP, we will continue to do our part -- to stretch every dollar and ensure efficiency, transparency and value for money."

MALAYSIA MIGRATION
CID sues 14 for
laundering Tk 40cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday lodged a case against 14 individuals over laundering Tk 40 crore in the name of manpower export to Malaysia.

CID Inspector Saiful Islam filed the case with Gulshan Police Station.

They are: Unique Eastern Pvt Ltd Managing Director Noor Ali; Dahmashi Group Chairman Noman Chowdhury; Md Shafiqul Islam Basak of BM Travels; Mohammad Najibur Rahman of Natasha Overseas; Md Solaiman of BD Global Business; Taslima Akter of Isha International; Md Mokbul Hossain alias Mukul of MEF Global Bangladesh Ltd; Md Rafiqul Hossain of Kashipur Overseas; Md Mahbub Miah of Dorbar Global Overseas; Md Ruhul Amin of Amin Tours and Travels; Md Abdul Hai of Celebrity International; Muha Saiful Noor of Tribeni International; Syed Golam Sarwar of Haidari Trade International; and Md Shahidul Islam of Ramna Air International.

CID's Special Superintendent of Police (Media) Jasim Uddin said the accused siphoned the money after realising excessive fees from 3,787 aspiring migrant workers over two years.

According to CID, between 2022 and 2024, Unique Eastern Pvt Ltd and other agencies sent 3,787 workers to Malaysia. While the government fixed migration cost was Tk 78,990 per person, the accused charged Tk 1.5 lakh each.

Four killed in
road crashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

At least four people were killed and five others injured in two road accidents in Gazipur city yesterday.

In the first incident, two persons died after the bike they were on hit a road divider in the Samarsingh area around 3:00pm. The deceased are Shanto, 15, and Likhon, 21.

Earlier in the morning, two people were killed and at least five others were injured in a head-on collision between a pickup van and an auto-rickshaw on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in front of Utah Garments.

One of the deceased is Emdadul Haque, 55, said Gazipur Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge Mehedi Hasan.

The injured were taken to a Gazipur hospital.

13 years on, justice remains

FROM PAGE 3

clear failures by the local administration, intelligence and police in preventing the attacks. It identified 298 perpetrators and made 20 recommendations, including boosting administrative competence and raising social awareness.

Another police-led probe blamed the then Ramu police chief but

went easy on the district superintendent of police. A home ministry report concluded that the mayhem was planned at least 10 days in advance and involved 205 people.

Despite these findings, the HC has yet to hold a final hearing of the petitions and deliver a verdict. Frequent reconstitution of benches, lack of initiative

by the petitioners and political apathy have stalled progress.

Eumus Ali Akond recently said he will no longer push for a hearing of his petition since "no bench of the HC wanted to hold hearing of the matter".

Another petitioner, Jyotirmoy Barua, could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.

হারিয়েছে

আমার বাবার নামে ন্যাশনাল ক্রেডিট এন্ড কমার্স ব্যাংক পিএলসির ৭০০টি শেয়ারের সার্টিফিকেট হারিয়েছে। যাহা নিম্নরূপঃ

আমার বাবার নাম	ফলিও নম্বর	সার্টিফিকেট নম্বর	ডিস্টিনিভ নম্বর	সার্টিফিকেট সংখ্যা
নিসার কাদের	০০০২৫	০২৭৯৪৮-০২৮৩৪৭	০১৩৭২৮৪৮-০১৩৯২৮৪৭	৪০০ টি
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				মোট ৭০০ টি

গুলশান থানা, জিডি নং - ১৮৩৫, তারিখ - ২২/০৯/২০২৫ইং। - সাকিব নিসার

Official Announcement

This is to inform all our valued customers, partners, and stakeholders that Atlas Copco Bangladesh Ltd. is engaged in business operations in Bangladesh through authorized distributors. Rashid Enterprise was previously one of our official distributors. However, with immediate effect, our business relationship with Rashid Enterprise has been discontinued.

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Atlas Copco Bangladesh Ltd.
Impetus Center, Level # 6, 242/B, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon I/A Dhaka 1208, Bangladesh.
Phone: +8809638100000, Email: info.bd@atlascopco.com, Web: www.atlascopco.com

ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া

পুরোনো ৩ (তিন)টি বাস ও টায়ার-টিউব, লোহা লক্কর বিক্রয়ের উন্মুক্ত নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিলামের আইটেম	৩ (তিন)টি পুরোনো নন এসি বাস, ছোট বড় বিভিন্ন সাইজের পুরনো টায়ার-টিউব লোহা লক্কর ইত্যাদি। যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে।
নিলামের তারিখ	১৯/১০/২০২৫- রবিবার
নিলামের স্থান ও সময়	স্থানঃ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গ্রাম, সময়ঃ সকাল ১১টা
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স্বঃ প্রফেসর ড. মোহম্মদ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম
ট্রেন্সারার
ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া
ও আহবায়ক উন্মুক্ত নিলাম কমিটি

জিডি-২১২৫

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Establishing Green Belt at Bhasan Char and Reforestation of Rohingya Affected Areas in Cox's Bazar (HELP) Project
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali

Memo No. 22.01.7500.579.01.002.25.2248 Date: 29.09.2025

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following package's Tender:

Tender and Retender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Publication Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing and opening Date & Time
Tender ID No: 1155786	CFDN/EGB BC/2025 2026/GD-01	Supply of Nursery and Plantation Materials for Mangrove Afforestation	29-Sep-2025 15:00	15-Oct-2025 17:00	16-Oct-2025 15:00

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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, 16575, +8809677016575)

(Abu Yousof)
Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.

GD-2129



Children absorbed in a game of marbles at Ramkrishnapur village in Khulna yesterday. Amid the dominance of mobile games, such nostalgic play brings back warmth and a touch of childlike joy.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Hilsa catching, sale banned for 22 days from Oct 4

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced a nationwide 22-day ban, effective from October 4 to 25 this year, on catching, transporting, marketing, and storing hilsa, aiming to protect brood fish during the peak spawning season.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter announced the decision at a press conference yesterday at the ministry.

Farida said the campaign will be enforced by fisheries officials along with the navy, air force, coast guard, river police and other law enforcement agencies.

To support affected fishermen, the government will distribute vulnerable group feeding (VGF) rice among 620,140 fishing households across 165 upazilas in 37 districts. Each family will receive 25kg of rice, requiring a total of 15,503.50 tonnes for the programme.

FEMALE RMG WORKERS

Two-thirds married before 18: iccdr,b study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An iccdr,b study has found that two in three female garment workers were married before turning 18, and nearly 65 percent had their first pregnancy before that age.

One-third of the participants reported at least one unintended pregnancy, while one in four had experienced abortion, iccdr,b said in a press release.

The organisation presented the findings of its 24-month study on women working in Bangladesh's ready-made garment sector at a seminar at its auditorium yesterday.

The research was conducted between August 2022 and December 2024 in areas under iccdr,b's Urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System, specifically in the Korail and Mirpur slums of Dhaka and a slum in Gazipur's Tongi.

Surveys were carried out every six months with 778 garment factory workers aged 15-27 years. The study was conducted by AdSearch of iccdr,b with support from Global Affairs Canada, the press release said.

Ruchira Tabassum Naved,

emeritus scientist at iccdr,b and principal investigator of the study, said, "Despite being relatively economically advanced, the sexual and reproductive health status of female workers in Bangladesh's garment industry is worse than that of other women."

» Study surveyed 778 female workers (ages 15-27) over 24 months

» 65% had first pregnancy before 18

» One-third faced unintended pregnancy; one in 4 abortion

» Violence by husbands remained very high

» Most survivors of violence did not seek formal help

She stressed the need for detailed research and called on the government, development organisations, and partners to take collective initiative.

The study found a significant rise in awareness of long-acting family

planning methods among workers, from 49 percent at the start to 70 percent after two years.

Knowledge about emergency contraceptive pills also increased, from 15 percent to 39 percent, while positive attitudes towards gender equality in family planning rose from 54 percent to 71 percent, it also found.

However, the study revealed that violence by husbands against female workers was very high in the past 12 months, and all forms of violence – except sexual violence – increased over the two years.

The prevalence of psychological violence in the workplace also rose, from 48 percent of workers at the start to 55 percent after two years.

Meanwhile, almost none of the women who experienced violence sought formal help. Those who sought informal help from family or friends dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent in two years, said the study.

In cases of workplace violence, only one in five women reported incidents to authorities, a figure that did not change over time, it added.

People will reject attempts to delay or obstruct polls Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP senior leader Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said people will politically reject those who are trying to delay or obstruct the national election.

Salahuddin, a BNP Standing Committee member, made the remarks while exchanging greetings with Hindu devotees at Dhakeshwari National Temple on the occasion of Durga Puja.

He also accused a quarter and a political party of trying to divide the nation and disrupt national unity on the basis of religion. He urged all to remain alert and speak out against such attempts.

Salahuddin said BNP rejects any division in the nation on the basis of religion. "We have never wanted to use religion as a political tool, nor do we want it now. We firmly oppose the politics of division based on religion."

Calls grow for judicial

FROM PAGE 3

"We observe that tensions often flare up in the hill tracts, leading to loss of life and property. Since past incidents have not been properly investigated, it appears that such events are recurring," it added.

In a statement, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust said violence broke out between law enforcement agencies and demonstrators in Khagrachhari's Guimara during what had been a largely peaceful protest and urged immediate legal action against those responsible.

Both ASK and BLAST are members of HIRFB.

Meanwhile, the Rape Law Reform Coalition

demanding immediate prosecution of those responsible for the rape of a schoolgirl, which sparked the protests in the hills.

The platform also called for security for the survivor and her family, adequate compensation, and stronger measures to prevent the recurrence of such violence.

Workers Party Bangladesh also condemned the violence in Guimara. In a statement, the party's politburo criticised the "irresponsibility of the local administration and law enforcement agencies".

It demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice and that the government ensure peace in the hills and the security of indigenous communities.

Youth stabbed to death in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was stabbed to death by a group of unidentified miscreants in Dhaka's Mirpur yesterday while his father was injured while attempting to save him.

The victim, Rifat Khan, 21, and family lives in D Block of Mirpur-12.

The attack occurred around 1:45pm on Road-9 of C Block near the old Mirpur-12 police station, according to police.

Rifat's father Sagar Khan said his son, a former RMG worker, was heading to Shewrapara when 15-20 men intercepted him.

"When I rushed to the spot after receiving a call, the men said they had disputes with Rifat over financial matters. Soon after, two motorcycles arrived and some men stabbed him in the chest. When I tried to save him, they stabbed me in the back before fleeing," he said.

Rifat was declared dead at DMCH.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of DMCH police outpost, said the body was kept at the morgue for autopsy.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 30

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

EU plans 150 observers for February polls

UK reaffirms support for free, fair elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union yesterday said it intends to send 150 observers to monitor Bangladesh's upcoming 13th national election, scheduled for February next year.

To facilitate this, the Election Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are preparing to sign a tripartite MoU with the EU, said EC senior secretary Akhtar Ahmed following a meeting with the EU's pre-election expert delegation at the EC headquarters.

He said the observers will come in phases after the election schedule is announced.

The EU delegation included Head of Delegation Riccardo Chellery, Reginald Soenen, Frederik Schumann, Mette Bakken, Joachim Manuel Wally, Terry Murray Pinto and Ian James Miller.

Meanwhile, the UK yesterday reaffirmed its support for free, fair, credible and peaceful elections in Bangladesh next year.

Following a meeting with the CEC, British High Commissioner Sarah Cook said, "The UK welcomes the announcement made by the chief adviser a few months ago regarding national elections in Bangladesh. I reaffirmed the UK's support for free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections here next year."

2 toddlers drown in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Two toddlers drowned in a pond in Mathabhangra village of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The deceased are Karima Khatun, 2, daughter of Ruhul Amin, and Md Rafi, 2, son of Md Rabbul.

Locals said the children accidentally fell into a pond near their homes while playing. They were later found floating in the water. They were declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said Moazzem Hossain, inspector (Investigation) of Godagari Model Police Station.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Noakhali www.lged.gov.bd						
Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.25-3185			Dated: 28/09/2025			
Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works) e-Tender Notice No. 17/2025-26						
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works as stated as below:						
Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	1155096	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/COM/RHB/24-25/W-1981 (a) Maintenance of Malek Bazar - Bangla Bazar RHD Road (Nurul Alam Sikder Road) (Ch. 00m-1420m) ID No. 475215032 (b) Maintenance of Notun Bazar-Sarwar Road via Somoratu Vanu GPS (Rezzakia Road) (Ch.700m-1685m) ID No. 475215003 under Companiganj Upazila, District: Noakhali.	15-10-2025 17:00	16-10-2025 13:00	16-10-2025 14:00
2	1155097	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/COM/RHB/24-25/W-1983 (a) Maintenance of Bashurhat Sonapur RHD (Amdadia Madrasa) - Bhuiyur Hat Dudmukha Sarkar Digi Road (Shahid Nurul Hoque Biruttar Road) (Ch. 00m-1745m) ID No. 475214041 (b) Maintenance of Chowdhury Hat RHD-Char Parbati Haferia Road (Gorur Teak) via Chowdhury Hat College Road (Ch.150m-1400m) ID No. 475214031 under Companiganj Upazila, District: Noakhali	15-10-2025 17:00	16-10-2025 13:00	16-10-2025 14:00
3	1155098	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/COM/RHB/24-25/W-1984 (a) Maintenance of Nasir Chowdhury Road - Eashan Road (Ch. 00m-1035m) ID No. 475215077 (b) Maintenance of KTM Hat-Beri Bundh Road (Ch.00m-2575m) ID No. 475215001 under Companiganj Upazila, District: Noakhali	15-10-2025 17:00	16-10-2025 13:00	16-10-2025 14:00
4	1155099	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/COM/RHB/24-25/W-1985 Maintenance of Rampur-Musapur Boarder Road (Mollar Shop) -Modina Bazar Road (Bir Muktiyoddha Abdul Gofran Road) (Ch. 00m-1290m) ID No. 475215049 under Companiganj Upazila, District: Noakhali	15-10-2025 17:00	16-10-2025 13:00	16-10-2025 14:00
5	1155100	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/COM/RHB/24-25/W-2059 a) Widening and Rehabilitation of Chaprashirhat GC to Thanar Hat GC Via Char Elahi Bazar Road (Ch. 10000m-11400m) under Companiganj Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID No. 475212911 b) Construction of RCC Box Culvert 1 No. 3.00mX3.00m Box Culvert on Chaprashirhat GC to Thanar Hat GC Via Char Elahi Bazar Road at Ch. 11112m.	15-10-2025 17:00	16-10-2025 13:00	16-10-2025 14:00
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).						
 Sheikh Mahfuzul Hossain Executive Engineer Phone: 02334433826 E-mail: xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd						
GD-2130						

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় সুনামগঞ্জ পানি উন্নয়ন বিদ্যালয়-১ বাগউল্লা, সুনামগঞ্জ। ফোন: ০৮-৭১-৬২৪২৮ ইমেইল: xen.bwdb.sunamgonj1@gmail.com					 Office of the Executive Engineer Sunamganj WD Division-1 BWDB, Sunamganj. Phone: 0871-61528 Email: xen.bwdb.sunamgonj1@gmail.com	
Memo No. EE/Sunam-1/T-3/475			Date: 29/09/2025			
Tender Notice						
A tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following (Works).						
Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Location of the service / supply	Tender/ proposal documents last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing & opening date & time	
1	1158548	Re-excavation of Gazaria Khal from km 0.000 to km 0.65 m & from Km 0.077 to Km 0.868= 0.856 km Upazila-Jamalganj, District-Sunamganj under Sunamganj WD Division-01, BWDB, Sunamganj during the FY 2025-26. (Package No. Sunam-1/2025-26/NDR/OTM/W-01)	Upazilla-Jamalganj, District-Sunamganj	14-10-2025 & 17.00	15-10-2025 & 12:00	
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to Banking 17:00 hours on 14/10/2025. Tender publishing date in e-GP System on 30/09/2025, 02:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).						
Signed/- Md. Mamun Howlader Executive Engineer Sunamganj WD Division-1 BWDB, Sunamganj						
GD-2135						

 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs Office of the Directorate of Logistics Bangladesh Coast Guard Headquarters Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207							
Invitation for Tender							
For Director Logistics e-GP Invitation No. 44.08.2680.060.50.004.25.1311 Date: 22 September 2025							
To be Read: Director Logistics e-GP Invitation No. 44.08.2680.060.50.004.25.1353 Date: 29 September 2025							
e-Tender Notice							
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following procurement:							
Ser	Tender ID	Package name	Method	Date & Time	Publication	Last selling	Closing and opening
1.	1158237	Purchase of 01 lot various black & white printer cartridge (11 line) tender samples need to be submitted before tender opening time (as per TDS)	OTM	30-09-2025 10:00am	14-10-2025 15:00pm	15-10-2025 12:30pm	
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 (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.							
Documents can be downloaded till deadline of Tender/Application/Proposal submission.							
 Md. Shazzad Hossain Shakil Lt Commander BN Asst. Director Logistics (Stores) Bangladesh Coast Guard							
GD-2134							

Gunman kills four in attack on US church

AFP, Grand Blanc

A man opened fire in a Mormon church in Michigan and set the building ablaze on Sunday, killing at least four people in the latest deadly tragedy that US President Donald Trump called part of a national "epidemic of violence."

Police in the northern US state said the shooter first rammed the church with his vehicle before opening fire with an assault rifle, and then set the building on fire.

The attacker was killed by police in the parking lot eight minutes after the first emergency call came in, Grand Blanc Police Chief.

The shooter has been identified as Thomas Jacob Sanford, aged 40. US media reports said he had grown up in the area and was a military veteran.

Ukraine could get nod to 'hit deep' into Russia

Says US envoy amid intensifying fighting

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump's envoy Keith Kellogg has floated the possibility of long range strikes by Ukraine against Russia with American weapons, following the administration's recent pivot on the conflict.

In a Fox News interview broadcast on Sunday, Kellogg was asked whether Trump had authorized strikes deep into Russian territory -- days after Moscow was accused of sending fighter jets and drones that violated the airspace of several European nations.

"Reading what (Trump) has said and reading what Vice President (JD) Vance has said, as well as (Secretary of State Marco) Rubio, the answer is yes," he said.

"Use the ability to hit deep. There are no such things as



sanctuaries."

Vice president Vance said in a separate Fox News program on Sunday the US was having "conversations" on whether to give long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles to Kyiv, a request Trump has previously denied.

"It's something that the president is going to make the

final determination on," Vance said, referring to the missiles, adding that the US was "looking at a number of requests from the Europeans."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in a press briefing on Monday that there was "no panacea that can change the situation on the front for the

Communications blackout hits Afghanistan

AFP, Islamabad

A huge communications blackout hit Afghanistan yesterday, weeks after Taliban authorities began severing fibre optic connections in multiple provinces to prevent "vice".

AFP lost mobile phone contact with its bureau in the capital Kabul around 6:15 pm (1315 GMT), as well as with journalists in the cities of Herat and Kandahar.

"A nation-wide telecoms blackout is now in effect," said Netblocks, a watchdog organisation that monitors cybersecurity and internet governance.

"We're now observing national connectivity at 14 percent of ordinary levels."

The watchdog said the incident "appears consistent with the intentional disconnection of service".

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities began the crackdown on internet access earlier this month, effectively shutting down high-speed internet in several regions.

Over the past several weeks, internet connections have been extremely slow or intermittent.

Telephone services are often routed over the internet, sharing the same fibre lines, especially in countries with limited telecoms infrastructure.

"Physically pulling the plug on fibre internet would therefore also shut down mobile and fixed-line telephone services," Netblocks told AFP.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur.
Phone No.0981-63691
email:ee.rhdjam@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.3936.430.00.003.25-645(3)

Date: 29-09-2025

e-Tender Notice

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no off line/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 the Executive Engineer, RHD, Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur for the procurement of below mentioned work :

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender Security Submission Date and Time	Last Selling Time	Tender Closing Time
1157967	01-e-GP/ Labour/ JRD/2025-2026	Supplying Skilled Labour for maintenance work at 1st Line work shop Sub-division under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	15-10-2025 11.30	14-10-2025 17.00	15-10-2025 12.00
1157975	02 e-GP/ Goods/ JRD/2025-2026	Supplying different types of Material for departmental maintenance work for different Roads at Jamalpur Road Sub-Division-2 under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026 .	15-10-2025 11.30	14-10-2025 17.00	15-10-2025 12.00

GD-2128



Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Titas Gas Bhaban, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division		
2	Agency	Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC		
3	Procuring entity name	Catholic Protection and Monitoring Department (CP&MD)		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-Consultancy physical services		
7	Invitation Ref No.	28.13.0000.000.330.57.0001.2501		
8	Date	20/09/2025		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of TGT&DPLC		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11	Tender Package No.	TG-CPMD/2025-26-01		
12	Tender package name	Procurement of Physical Service for Preparation of Gas Pipeline GIS Map in order to enhance the effectiveness of CP System		
13	Tender publication date	30/09/2025		
14	Tender last selling date	20/10/2025		
15	Tender closing date and time	21/10/2025 12:00		
16	Tender opening date and time	21/10/2025 12:30		
17	Name & address of the office(s)	Cnsh and Bank Section, Cnsh and Bank Department, Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC, Titas Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Accounts Department, Petro Bangla, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
	- Selling tender document (others)	Accounts Department, BAPEX, BAPEX Bhaban, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
	Receiving tender document	Tender Receiving Box, 1st Floor, Titas Gas Bhaban, Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
	- Opening tender document	Office of Deputy General Manager, Catholic Protection and Monitoring Department (CP&MD), Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC, Titas Gas Bhaban (8th Floor), 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
18	Eligibility of tenderer	The minimum specific experience as a Lead Contractor/Contractor/Service Provider in similar procurement (CP System Installation Preparation of GIS Mapping of Gas Pipeline Gas Pipeline Locating Survey Gas Pipeline Coating Defect Survey) within 2(two) contracts completed under Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Donor Agency over a period of (3) three years, total value of at least Tk 50,000.00 (Fifty Lakh) shall be required. (Details stated in TDS)		
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	2500.00 (Taka Two Thousand Five Hundred only)		
20	Package No. TG-CPMD/2025-26-01	Identification of package Procurement of Physical Service for Preparation of Gas Pipeline GIS Map in order to enhance the effectiveness of CP System	Location Titas Franchise Area	Tender security amount (Tk) BDT 500,000.00 (Five Lac Taka)
				365 calendar days from the date on which the site shall handover.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Abu Bakar Shaddiqueur Rahman		
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager		
23	Address of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (DGM), Catholic Protection and Monitoring Department (CP&MD), Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC, Titas Gas Bhaban (8th Floor), 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.		
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +88-02-41010019, Cell Phone: +8801919921116, Email: dgm_cpmd@titasgas.gov.bd		
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or amend the Tender proceedings			
26	The price of Tender Document (non-refundable) should be paid by Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh and application with company letterhead pad for purchase of Tender Document.			
27	N.B: If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time & same venue.			

GD-2126



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chief Adviser's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Mongla Export Processing Zone
Mongla, Bagerhat-9351
(www.bepza.gov.bd)



Reference No. 03.06.0158.327.26.301.25-646

Date: 23, September 2025

Invitation for Tender

e-Tender Notice No. 02/2025-2026

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Description of work/supply	Publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time	Tender ID No.
01	MEPZ-RW-E024	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of split type air cooler for BEPZA Zone Office at Mongla EPZ.	05 October, 2025, 09:00	22 October, 2025, 17:00	23 October, 2025, 12:00	23 October, 2025, 12:00	1155762

This is online tender, only where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches, up to 22 October, 2025, 17.00.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signature of Swapan Kumar Ghosh

Swapan Kumar Ghosh
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Phone No. 02-478846150

GD-2131



বাংলাদেশ শিশু হাসপাতাল ও ইনস্টিটিউট
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

স্মারক নং-বাশিহাই/প্রশাসন/২০২৫/২৩৪০

তারিখ: ২৯/০৯/২০২৫খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ শিশু হাসপাতাল ও ইনস্টিটিউটে নিম্নবর্ণিত আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার এর শূন্য পদে নিয়মিত নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম, বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড	পদ সংখ্যা	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	যোগ্যতা
১	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (শিশু মেডিসিন) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	০৫ টি		• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • শিশু মেডিসিন এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।
২	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (শিশু সার্জারী) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	১১ টি		• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • শিশু সার্জারী এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।
৩	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (শিশু এন্ডোক্রিনোলজি) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	২ টি	অবশ্য ৩৫ বছর	• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • শিশু এন্ডোক্রিনোলজি এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।
৪	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (ইউরোলজি) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	২ টি		• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • ইউরোলজি এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।
৫	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (মায়োকর্ডিয়াল সার্জারী) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	০৩ টি		• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • মায়োকর্ডিয়াল সার্জারী এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।
৬	আবাসিক মেডিকেল অফিসার (প্যাথলজি) জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল - (৯ম গ্রেড) টাকা-২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	২টি		• বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ও নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল গ্র্যাজুয়েটসহ এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী। • ক্লিনিক্যাল প্যাথলজি এর উপর ০১(এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (যা বিএমইউ/বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত হতে হবে)।

শর্তাবলী:

- আবেদনকারীগণকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- আবেদন ফরম www.bshs.gov.bd হতে ডাউনলোড করতঃ যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে আগামী ১৩/১০/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে (অফিস সময়সকাল ৯ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা) সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ত্রিকানায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আবেদন ফরমের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত সন্দপত্রসমূহের ফটোকপি (১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত) দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - ৩.১ সকল শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতার সন্দপত্র/প্রশিক্ষণের সন্দপত্র।
 - ৩.২ সদা তোলা ৩ কপি (লাব্রফ্রিট) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি।
 - ৩.৩ বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল (বিএমডিসি) কর্তৃক নিবন্ধনকৃত সনদের ফটোকপি।
 - ৩.৪ জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধনের ফটোকপি।
 - ৩.৫ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি করপোরেশন/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সন্দপত্র।
 - ৩.৬ চাকুরীতে প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিপত্র।
- প্রাথমিক পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ 'পরিচালক' বাংলাদেশ শিশু হাসপাতাল ও ইনস্টিটিউট এর অনুদান ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা সম্মুখের পেমেন্ট/ব্যাংক ড্রফট বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক থেকে সংগ্রহ করে তা আবেদন ফরমের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য প্রার্থীদের কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- যদিও উপর আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে। নির্দিষ্ট সময়সীমার পর প্রাপ্ত আবেদন ও অসম্পূর্ণ বা মিথ্যা তথ্য সঞ্চিত আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল ও পদসংখ্যা হ্রাস বা বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া চলাকালীন বা নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার পরেও যদি কোন শর্তাদিতে অসঙ্গতি বা ভুল তথ্য প্রমাণিত হয় তবে নির্বাচন বা নিয়োগ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য ডাকা হবে।

Signature of the official

অধ্যাপক (সদ্য) সোহাগ হক
পরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ শিশু হাসপাতাল ও ইনস্টিটিউট

GD-2127

TYPHOON BUALOI

Dozens killed in Vietnam, Philippines

AFP, Hanoi

A typhoon that ripped roofs off homes has killed dozens of people across Vietnam and the Philippines, officials from both countries said yesterday, as a weakened storm Bualoi crossed into neighbouring Laos.

The typhoon battered small islands in the centre of the Philippines last week, toppling trees and power pylons, unleashing floods and forcing 400,000 people to evacuate.

A Philippine civil defence official said later yesterday the death toll there had more than doubled to 27, with most of the victims either drowned or hit by debris.

In Vietnam, Bualoi made landfall as a typhoon late on Sunday, generating winds of 130 kilometres (80 miles) per hour. At least 13 people were killed in Vietnam, while a search is ongoing for 20 others, disaster authorities said in an online update.

More than 44,200 houses were damaged, including those with roofs torn off, mostly in the central Ha Tinh province. At least 800 houses were flooded, and nearly 6,000 hectares of crops were inundated.


More than 53,000 people were evacuated to schools and medical centres converted into temporary shelters ahead of Bualoi hitting Vietnam, the environment ministry said.

Since making landfall in Vietnam, Bualoi has weakened as it moved across the border into Laos. It came on the heels of Super Typhoon Ragasa, which killed 14 people across the northern Philippines.



A view of Cua Lo beach damaged after typhoon Bualoi made landfall in Vietnam's Nghe province yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



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Anything produced in America in the future, if they do move the factories there, will be costly. America will not be able to compete with the rest of the world.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
Malaysia's ex PM, says China will be the number one country in 10 years

Israel is becoming a pariah

CNN ONLINE

Israel is becoming increasingly isolated on the world stage as the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza continue, with the backlash seeping into economic, cultural and sporting arenas.

International condemnation has soared since Israel announced a ground assault on Gaza City and conducted an unprecedented strike against Hamas leadership on Qatari soil. It also comes as an independent UN inquiry concluded for the first time last week that Israel had committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, a finding that echoes those of other genocide experts and human rights groups, but which the Israeli government has rejected.

Last week, the European Union – Israel's biggest trading partner – proposed sanctions that would partially suspend its free trade agreement with Israel, if approved by EU member states. Several Western nations have already implemented targeted sanctions against certain Israeli individuals, settler outposts and organisations supporting violence in the occupied West Bank.

The global outcry is hitting Israel's economy in other ways as well.

In August, Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, announced it was divesting parts of its portfolio in Israel due to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Israel also faces partial or complete arms embargoes from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and others over its conduct in Gaza.

The backlash has been so stark that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself acknowledged it earlier this month, warning that Israel is facing a “kind of isolation” that could last for years, adding that the country has no choice but to stand on its own.

As the war escalates, Israel is also taking hits in the entertainment and culture sphere.

Broadcasters in several European countries, including Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain, have said they will boycott the much-beloved Eurovision Song Contest if Israel is allowed to participate in 2026.

In the fine arts, a music festival in Ghent, Belgium, recently cancelled a concert by the Munich Philharmonic, which was set to perform with Israeli conductor Lahav Shani. The festival said in a statement that “Shani has spoken out in favour of

Palestinian demonstrations disrupted the event, in protest of the Israel-Premier Tech team's participation. Also in Spain, organisers of a chess tournament told Israeli players they could not compete under their national flag, prompting them to withdraw from the competition earlier this month, according to Reuters.

And Israeli media outlets have recently reported fears that Israel could be at risk of suspension from European football competitions. Several Premier League

cricket and eventually rugby.

“The symbolic has more leverage than the bolts and numbers,” said Ilan Baruch, Israel's former ambassador to South Africa, who resigned from the Israeli Foreign Ministry in 2011 to protest the government “ditching” its commitment to peace through a two-state solution.

“Eurovision is very popular, and the football tournaments are very, very popular. And if you even mention a connection between the pressure on Israel on policy issues and culture and sports and so on, it will make an impact,” as was the case with South Africa, he told CNN.

This week's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) brought further isolation for Israel on the world stage. Several more Western countries formally recognised a Palestinian state ahead of the UNGA, including diplomatic heavy hitters like Canada, France and the United Kingdom.

And a fresh analysis of key UNGA votes on resolutions related to Israeli-Palestinian affairs between 2017 and 2025, conducted by Robert Satloff, the executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, found that some of Israel's longtime defenders are “leaving the fold.”

The number of states that have formally abstained from UNGA votes related to Israel – generally seen as passive support for the country – is declining.

Satloff said the big question is whether Israel's deepening diplomatic isolation is repairable.

Some UN member states already demonstrated “deep animosity toward Israel” before the current conflict, while other countries “are deeply moved by the specifics of what's happening in Gaza, and they're likely to soften their view of Israeli government behaviour once the war ends and or when a new government emerges in Israel,” Satloff said.

Though it still has the United States firmly behind it, Israel knows it has no other powers to rely on.



peace and reconciliation several times in the past, but... we are unable to provide sufficient clarity about his attitude to the genocidal regime in Tel Aviv.”

In Hollywood, thousands of filmmakers, actors and movie industry workers have pledged not to work with Israeli film institutions “that are implicated in genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian people.” Signatories include Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Andrew Garfield and Hannah Einbinder, who recently made headlines by ending her Emmys acceptance speech with the words “free Palestine.”

Nor has sport been immune. The final stage of a major bike race was cancelled earlier this month after several large pro-

soccer players, including Liverpool star Mohamed Salah, have also spoken out against the war in Gaza and called for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The economic and cultural backlash to Israel has sparked comparisons to the pressure placed on South Africa during the era of apartheid racial oppression.

Between the 1950s and 1990s, South Africa faced a strong boycott movement that, little by little, turned it into a pariah. South African products were pulled from grocery stores in the West, campaigners urged divestment and bank exits, and many musicians refused to play in the apartheid state. A sporting boycott saw South Africa's exclusion from international sporting competitions like

UK plans tougher rules for migrants seeking to stay

AFP, Liverpool

Britain's interior minister proposed tough new rules yesterday for migrants seeking to settle in the UK, as the ruling Labour party sought to bolster its fight against the hard right at its annual conference.

Migrants looking to remain indefinitely will have to have a job, not claim benefits and undertake volunteer community work under plans designed to claw back support among voters drawn to the hard-right, anti-immigrant Reform UK party, whose popularity is soaring in opinion polls.

Confronting Reform, led by firebrand Nigel Farage, is the main theme of Labour's four-day gathering in Liverpool, northwest England.

Currently, migrants with family in Britain and who have lived in the country for five years qualify for “indefinite leave to remain” – permanent residence – as do those who have lived legally in the UK for 10 years on any type of visa.

Eligible applicants meeting those thresholds also earn the right to live, work and study in the UK and to apply for benefits and British citizenship.

But in a major policy shift, interior minister Shabana Mahmood was to tell the Labour conference that migrants would have to make social security contributions, claim no benefits, have a clean criminal record and volunteer in their community in order to stay.

The government will consult on the changes later this year.

The announcement comes after Reform, which is currently leading in national polls, vowed to get rid of “indefinite leave to remain” altogether, with migrants instead required to reapply for visas every five years.



Nepal imposes travel ban on ex-PM Oli

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has imposed travel bans on ousted prime minister KP Sharma Oli and four former senior officials as part of an investigation into deadly unrest earlier this month, the interior minister said yesterday.

Youth-led protests that began on September 8 over a brief social media ban, economic hardship and corruption quickly morphed into nationwide fury after a deadly crackdown.

Two days of violence left at least 73 people dead, the parliament and government offices were burned down, and forced the government's collapse.

In addition to Oli, travel bans have been placed on former home minister Ramesh Lekhak, former head of the National Investigation Department security agency, Hutaraj Thapa, and two other senior bureaucrats.

Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, who is leading the Himalayan nation until elections in March 2026, set up a commission to probe the violence.

The restrictions were recommended Sunday by the commission.

Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal told AFP on Monday that the ban is “already in effect.”



Demonstrators clash with riot police during an anti-government demonstration in Lima on Sunday. At least 19 people, including a police officer, were injured in the protest.

PHOTO: AFP

Thai ex-PM Thaksin seeks royal pardon

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's influential former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has applied for a royal pardon to reduce his one-year prison sentence, his lawyer told reporters yesterday.

Thaksin, 76, is one of the country's most polarising politicians, the patriarch of a dynasty which has for two decades grappled with the country's pro-monarchy, pro-military establishment.



The billionaire telecoms magnate is serving his sentence in a Bangkok prison after Thailand's Supreme Court ruled this month that he improperly served a 2023 sentence in a hospital suite rather than a cell.

Winyat did not say when the pardon request was submitted.

Thaksin was elected prime minister in 2001 and again in 2005. He took himself into exile after his second term was cut short by a military coup.

FESTIVITIES ON-SCREEN

The many faces of DURGAPUJA in cinema



MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

In early Bengali cinema, Durga Puja was often depicted as the very soul of communal life. Bimal Roy's *Devdas* (1955), though remembered largely for its tragic romance, captures a moment of festivity in the Durga Puja celebrations at Paro's house. Here, the grandeur of the goddess becomes a counterpoint to Devdas' inner decay, the vibrancy of the rituals contrasting with his growing despair. Ritwik Ghatak went further, using Durga Puja imagery as a metaphor for dislocation and longing. In *Meghe Dhaaka Tara* (1960), the sound of *dhaak* blends with the cries of the protagonist Neeta, fusing festivity with tragedy. For Ghatak, the goddess was never merely an idol but a symbol of resilience and sacrifice, much like

his female characters who carry the weight of families fractured by the partition.

What remains fascinating is how the aesthetics of Durga Puja on screen often mirror the aesthetics of cinema itself. Both are public spectacles designed to overwhelm the senses, to invite immersion and disbelief. A pandal is not unlike a film set, meticulously crafted, temporary, and destined to dissolve after a few days. The immersion of the idol into the river is akin to the rolling of end credits, the dissolution of the constructed world. Filmmakers have long been drawn to this parallel. Satyajit Ray, in his documentary *The Inner Eye on Benode Behari Mukherjee*, filmed Puja immersions almost like abstract art, focusing on textures and sounds rather than



Durga Puja has always carried a cinematic quality of its own. The visual opulence of clay idols, the soundscape of *dhaak* reverberating through the night, and the collective ecstasy of a city lit with pandals form a backdrop that filmmakers across decades have found irresistible. When transposed on screen, the festival is never merely a seasonal marker but an emotional, cultural, and often political punctuation. It tells us as much about the characters as it does about the society in which they exist. Over the years, its representations have shifted from reverent spectacle to metaphorical commentary, mirroring cinema's own changing relationship with myth, ritual, and modernity.

narrative. Years later, Goutam Ghose in *Antarjali Jatra* (1987) would frame the festival as a haunting juxtaposition to widowhood rituals, highlighting the hypocrisy of a society that celebrates female divinity while marginalising real women. Aparna Sen's *36Chowringhee Lane* (1981) uses fleeting glimpses of the festival to highlight the alienation of an Anglo-Indian woman who finds herself outside the very city she inhabits. The pandal lights and processions signify inclusion, and her exclusion sharpens the loneliness at the heart of the narrative.

In contemporary cinema, Durga Puja often becomes a tool to navigate identity and urban life. In Rituparno Ghosh's *Utsab* (2000), the Durga Puja celebrations in an ancestral home serve as a canvas for generational conflict, financial anxieties, and the collapse of traditional family structures. The goddess presides silently over human squabbles, as if reminding viewers that even divinity is subject to the vagaries of inheritance disputes and property sales. Pradeep Sarkar's *Parineeta* (2005) stages the climactic confrontation amid Puja festivities, where the goddess' immersion parallels the heroine's reclamation of agency. The use of *dhaak* beats intensifies the urgency, transforming a personal drama into mythic catharsis. In *Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!* (2015), the Puja serves as a time marker in wartime Kolkata, with the goddess' presence heightening the city's chaos and uncertainty.

In Bollywood's early decades, religious rituals were usually shown in broad strokes, meant to unify

audiences rather than dwell on regional specificity. Durga Puja would appear occasionally, but often as shorthand for the triumph of good over evil. Raj Kapoor's *Jagte Raho* (1956) ends with the protagonist finding water at a temple during a Durga Puja-like ritual, a symbolic rebirth after a night of dehumanisation. Yet it was only in the 1990s and 2000s, as mainstream Hindi cinema turned more toward

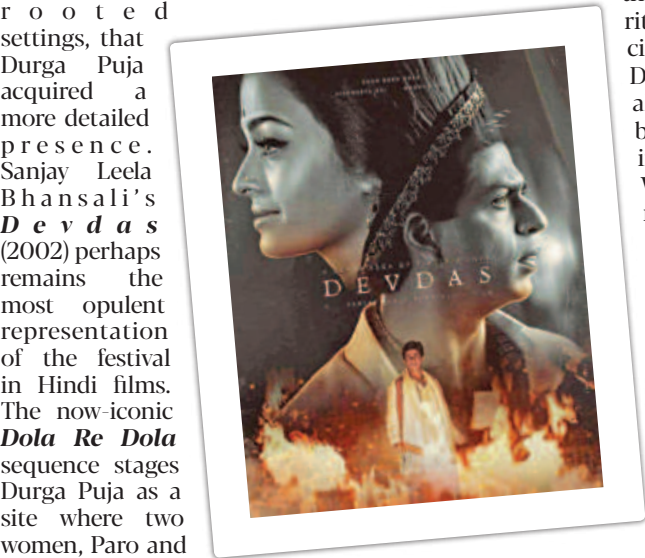
rooted settings, that Durga Puja acquired a more detailed presence. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Devdas* (2002) perhaps remains the most opulent representation of the festival in Hindi films. The now-iconic *Dola Re Dola* sequence stages Durga Puja as a site where two women, Paro and Chandramukhi, reclaim narrative space from the doomed Devdas. The visuals of sindoors, the sweeping sets of the pandal, and the thundering background score elevate the moment into operatic cinema, but beneath the spectacle lies Bhansali's attempt to feminise the gaze on Puja itself.

Years later, Sujoy Ghosh's *Kahaani* (2012) would offer a starkly



different interpretation. The climax unfolds against the immersion of the goddess, with Vidya Balan's character using the frenzy of the crowd to exact revenge. The metaphor of Durga slaying Mahishasura finds resonance in a modern-day woman confronting patriarchy, betrayal, and terrorism. Here, Durga Puja is not an ornamental backdrop but the very grammar of the narrative, blurring the line between ritual myth and cinematic action. Durga Puja has also travelled beyond Bengal in interesting ways. Where *Devdas* revels in excess, *Kahaani* thrives on contrast. And then comes *Lootera* (2013), where Vikramaditya Motwane gives Puja a melancholic intimacy. Sonakshi Sinha's *Pakhi* stands by her father as drums echo in the background, the camera catching the fragile beauty of light against smoke. The Puja pandal is not grand but personal, a reminder of both heritage and impermanence. The film's tragic love story finds a mirror in the fleeting joy of Puja, which vanishes almost as soon as it arrives.

The cinematic Durga Puja also reflects how films negotiate the

tension between tradition and commerce. Just as pandals are increasingly funded by corporate sponsors, cinema too has absorbed Puja as a spectacle that can sell tickets. Yet within this commodification lies resilience. For every over-the-top depiction in a mainstream blockbuster, there exists an intimate portrayal like that in Kaushik Ganguly's *Bishorjan* (2017), where the cross-border immersion of Durga idols on the India-Bangladesh frontier becomes a metaphor for shared culture transcending political boundaries. In a similar vein, Srijit Mukherji's *Uma* (2018) constructs an entire Durga Puja in summer for a dying child, underlining how cinema and Puja alike thrive on the collective act of make-believe. *Asur* (2020), starring Jeet and Abir Chatterjee, directly places Durga Puja at the heart of its narrative. The making of the idol itself becomes central to the story of rivalry and artistic obsession, with the goddess embodying not just devotion but ego, ambition, and downfall. The festival is not a backdrop but the very pulse of the narrative, where each stroke of clay echoes the shaping of human destiny. The allure lies in its contradictions. Durga Puja is both deeply communal and deeply personal. It is about abundance but also about the fleeting nature of life. It celebrates the triumph of good over evil, but it also mourns the departure of the goddess. Cinema thrives on such contradictions, and Puja gives filmmakers a ready-made palette of colour, music, movement, and meaning.



‘One Battle After Another’ hits \$48.5m debut, ‘Demon Slayer’ crosses \$600m worldwide



Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, scored a record \$48.5 million global opening, the strongest debut of his career.

The Warner Bros release earned \$26.1m across 74 markets, outperforming *Argo*, *Sinners*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, and *The Departed*.

The UK and France led with \$3.4m each, while Germany, Italy, and Saudi Arabia also posted strong

figures. Upcoming releases in South Korea, Japan, Turkey, and China are expected to boost earnings further.

Meanwhile, anime blockbuster *Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle* surpassed \$600m globally, ranking as the 8th highest-grossing film of the year.

Mexico and India set all-time anime records, with Sony reporting a worldwide total of \$605.4m, including \$305.4m from Crunchyroll territories.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



‘Once Upon a Friday’

Uncertainty Principle presents a spellbinding musical journey into a world of imagination, where fairy lights shimmer, fireflies dance, and music evokes tales of unicorns, kings, and queens. Through evocative storytelling and lyrical compositions, the performance offers audiences an evening of wonder, reflection, and enchantment, appealing to dreamers of all ages.

DATE: FRIDAY | OCTOBER 3, 2025

TIME: 6:30 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: JATRA BIROTI

Duronto TV brings children-first specials for Durga Puja

As Durga Puja draws near, Duronto TV, the country's only dedicated children's channel, has unveiled a festive line-up designed to delight its young viewers while honouring cultural traditions.

At the heart of the schedule is the drama *Hoi Hoi Holla*, directed by Partha Pratim Haldar. The story follows Dr Saldar Chowdhury and the children of his apartment block as they organise a Puja and attempt to stage a play, setting off a string of comic mishaps. It will air on Ashtami, Nabami and Dashami at 11:30am and 8:00pm.

Food lovers can tune into *Banai Mojar Khabar Ma-Baba Ar Ami*,



where children cook Puja favourites such as luchi, labra, payesh and fish paturi with their parents. Broadcasts are scheduled for 1 pm and 9 pm

across the three main days.

Duronto will also air *Sharadiyo Adda*, a storytelling session that captures the spirit of Puja through intergenerational conversation. Featuring child performers Purna Anandita, Ukti Adhikari and Sworgo, the episode stars Sharmila Bandyopadhyay as the beloved grandmother figure recounting festive memories and myths. It airs on Ashtami at 10 am.



Avash releases ‘Shotta’ at private launch event



Popular Bangladeshi band Avash has released their latest original track, *Shotta*. The lyrics were written by Tanzir Tuhin, with the composition done by Tuhin and Raju Sheikh.

According to a press release issued on Sunday, the song was launched through an online platform on Saturday evening at a special event.

Prior to *Shotta*, Avash had released five original tracks, including *Manush-I*, *Avash*, *Bastob*, *Anath*, and *Camera*. This makes *Shotta* the sixth addition to their repertoire of original songs.

Muttakim Al Mahin has directed the music video for the song.

The launch event was attended by noted musicians, including Shibu Kumar Shil from the band *Meghdol*, Rasheed Sharif Shoaib, and singer Joy Shahriar, among others.

The current members of Avash are: Tanzir Tuhin (vocals), Raju Sheikh (bass), Himel Saria (guitar), Arafat Shawon (keyboard), and Rashed Jony (drums).



Breaking Barriers: Recognize and Empower Women Fisherfolks

A policy dialogue titled “Empowering Women Fisherfolk Communities in Bangladesh” was held on August 11, 2025, at the International Mother Language Institute, Dhaka. Organised by Badabon Sangho, co-hosted by The Daily Star, and co-funded by the European Union and Oxfam Bangladesh under the EWCSA project, the event spotlighted challenges faced by women in fisheries. Speakers stressed revising definitions to officially recognise women fisherfolk, expanding social security, ensuring equal training access, and enacting gender-sensitive policy reforms to strengthen women’s roles in sustaining coastal livelihoods.

Fariha Jesmin
Programme Manager, Badabon Sangho



At Badabon Sangho, as a women-led and women’s rights organisation, we have been working with fisherfolk communities with a strong focus on advancing the rights of women in fisheries. Our advocacy has centered on ensuring women’s recognition in national fisheries policies and programs, especially their right to access fishing licenses, government safety nets, and decision-making spaces that have historically excluded them. This research is to make women fisherfolk’s realities visible and to address the policy gaps that perpetuate their marginalization. Specifically, it highlights how women’s labour and contributions remain invisible in the National Fisheries Policy and related safety net schemes, despite their critical role in sustaining the sector. Our work is not only about documenting these realities it is also about dialogue and change. That is why we are engaging directly with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and other key stakeholders, to ensure that women fisherfolk are recognised, included, and fairly supported in policy and practice. It is our vision of justice: women fisherfolk empowered, their rights upheld, and their contribution valued as equal partners in fisheries sectors.

Subah Samara
Researcher, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, Jagannath University. (Keynote Presenter)



The south-western coastal belt of Bangladesh, particularly Khulna, Bagerhat, and Shatkhira, remains one of the country’s most climate-vulnerable regions. Around 20 lakh people depend directly on the Sundarbans for their livelihoods. Increasing salinity and rising water temperatures, exacerbated by climate change, have forced many out of agriculture and into fishing in rivers, canals, and open water bodies. These changes have intensified losses for fisherfolk, with women among the worst affected.

A recent study in Chila Union of Mongla upazila, Bagerhat, where 4,600 of 4,800 families live below the poverty line, examined the condition of women fisherfolk. The mixed-method research surveyed 525 women, alongside focus group discussions and key informant interviews with government officials. It also reviewed existing frameworks such as the Watershed Management Policy, Fishermen Registration Guidelines, and the Labour Act 2006. The findings can be highlighted in three broad themes.

First, gender discrimination in policy and practice. Despite playing vital roles in net mending, fish drying, and marketing, women remain largely invisible in official recognition. About 83% of respondents reported not receiving fisherfolk ID cards, even though 67% had completed registration, often years ago. Among cardholders, 96% are men. Without registration, women are excluded from rations during fishing bans, cooperatives, and water body leases. Overall, 53% of women surveyed said they had never received any form of government support.

Second, climate-induced health and socio-economic vulnerabilities. About 77% of respondents said their livelihoods had been severely affected by climate change, while the rest also acknowledged negative impacts. Prolonged exposure to saline water has caused widespread



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GENDER-INCLUSIVE GUIDELINE AND LEGAL RECOGNITION

- Revise Article 3.1 of the Fisherfolk Guideline 2019 to explicitly recognize both women and men, ensuring that women’s contributions in harvesting-level activities (such as fish drying, sorting, and selling) are not overlooked.
- Amend the Labour Law 2006 to formally classify women engaged in harvesting and processing as “labour,” thereby extending to them the full range of labour rights, protections, and entitlements.

2. STRENGTHEN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND ID ACCESS

- Ensure fair, transparent, and simplified access to Fisherfolk ID Cards, free from corruption, with a gender-responsive approach. These cards are vital for accessing social protection schemes, rations, and cooperatives.
- Introduce dedicated safety net programmes tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of fisherwomen, particularly during fishing ban periods and climate shocks.
- Regularly update the fisherfolk registration database to prevent women from being excluded from services over time.

3. IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Tackle the freshwater crisis caused by saline intrusion by providing affordable rainwater harvesting systems at the household level for fisherfolk families.
- Increase the frequency of local health camps and ensure free or subsidized treatment and medicines, with a focus on women facing financial, social, and cultural barriers to healthcare.
- Integrate health and water security initiatives with fisherfolk safety nets so that women’s well-being remains central in both fisheries management and climate adaptation strategies.

Shahajadi Begum
Programme Coordinator, Oxfam in Bangladesh



Under the EU co-funded EWCSA project, Oxfam and its partners are working to improve conditions for women workers, with 11 of the 33 partners specifically supporting women fisherfolk. The project has identified diverse roles among fish workers, including shrimp and fish pond workers, with some women serving both as workers and owners. A major challenge highlighted is that when both husband and wife are engaged in fishing, government schemes are often extended only to the husband. Expanding the scope of registration is crucial to ensure female fisherfolk receive their fisher ID cards.

The project emphasises that policy reform is a long term process. In the short term, EWCSA has brought NGOs, local communities, and government administration together to ensure immediate support. Women deserve access to all facilities available to their male counterparts and recognition as professional fisherfolk. Socio-cultural barriers also persist: many women do not identify as fisherfolk, perceiving the title as degrading, underscoring the need for awareness building.

Participants stressed that without the ability to voice their rights, women cannot claim them. Strengthening coordination between ministries responsible for fisheries and women’s rights, increasing field monitoring, and creating alternative employment opportunities are essential steps to guarantee equitable access to benefits and protection for women fisherfolk.

Zakia Shishir
Human Rights Activist



It is often said that there is no discrimination in our policies, which is true. However, if I say the word Jele (fisherman), how many people would first imagine a woman’s face? The answer is none. The discrimination lies not in our policies but in our mindset. Until this mindset changes, no amount of policy reform will end the discrimination. Another issue is that policies are often made by people who are not directly affected; the participation of those who will be impacted must be ensured. When policies are drafted, geographical circumstances must be considered, as regions in Bangladesh differ in geography, culture, habitat, and needs. Positive discrimination is necessary to ensure equality. Collaborative efforts on the ground are also required to maximize efficiency. One key recommendation is to recognize marginalized workers officially on paper and to organize them.

Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf,
Director General, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh



The Department of Fisheries is actively working on policy reforms and will take into account the findings of recent research on women fisherfolk. In the past six months, 37,910 fisherfolk were newly registered, while 23,644 were removed from the list. The department plans to revise the existing definition of ‘fisherfolk’ to explicitly recognize women as fisherfolk, distinct from the traditionally male-centered notion of fishermen, by officially acknowledging their roles in catching fish, net mending, processing, and marketing. The fisheries sector contributes 2.53% to Bangladesh’s GDP, with an estimated 12–14 lakh women involved directly or indirectly. Field-level training programmes now require at least 30% women participation, and the department has successfully involved 33%. Regarding social security, officials emphasised expanding the scope and benefits of VGF cards, with plans to provide 50 kg of rice per month during fishing ban periods.

Despite their significant contributions, women still face unequal pay and social barriers that limit recognition. Officials stressed that women must raise their voices about their struggles. The ministry will inform relevant authorities, including the Coast Guard and Navy, about the reforms and daily challenges of fisherfolk. A new bank loan system, Motsho o Prani Shompod Bank, is proposed to reduce dependence on high-interest informal lenders, but the primary focus remains ensuring all fisherfolk, particularly women, receive identification cards for recognition and access to government support.

organisation’s work and aspiration.

Dr. Bonnishikha Das Purkayastho
Member, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad



The presentation highlighted several existing policies but did not address a specific women’s policy, which participants noted as a limitation. Bangladesh, as a signatory to the CEDAW Convention, has committed to advancing women’s rights, yet the absence of such a discussion reflects broader gaps in policy focus. It was observed that terms like “women’s rights bill” or “women’s empowerment” often remain confined to political rhetoric. As was stressed, macro policy shapes micro policy—without ensuring equal rights at the national level, women continue to face discrimination in every sphere of life. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has been working to bridge this gap by advocating for equal rights at socio-economic and political levels. While structural adjustments are possible, participants emphasised that a fundamental shift in recognition remains essential.

Sarker Anowarul Kabir
Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries



Participants acknowledged the holistic nature of the research but pointed out its limitations, noting that while survey data were collected from three coastal districts, responses came from only one upazila. Broader coverage, they observed, would have reflected more diverse outcomes. A representative from the Department of Fisheries emphasised that the agency works for the betterment of fisherfolk, who are considered key stakeholders. “We have no policy of discrimination in our work,” the official said, adding that government

training programmes maintain a quota of 25 percent women participants. However, challenges remain at the field level, where women often refrain from raising their voices and are left behind, particularly without identification cards. The official further noted that the fishermen registration update is ongoing and, once completed, women will also receive ID cards. Alongside registration, the department is pursuing alternative employment opportunities and implementing projects specifically targeting women.

Mostafa-AI-Razib
Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries



The research examined why identification cards are not issued to female fisherfolk, defining their roles to include fishing, fishnet mending, processing, and marketing. A government representative raised a critical question: even if women received ID cards, how much benefit would they actually gain? The current legal definition of fisherfolk does not recognise all the tasks women perform. As a result, women cannot access Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards, which are restricted to those engaged in Hilsa harvesting—a role almost exclusively held by men. “An ID card alone is not the solution,” the official noted. Policy reforms are now underway, with plans to introduce a new Motshojibi Card that will better reflect women’s contributions. The Department of Fisheries Policy 1998 is also being revised in 2025, with a new chapter dedicated to women’s empowerment. On adaptation, officials emphasised sustainable rainwater harvesting as a key response to rising salinity. They further expressed concern that women fisherfolk remain excluded from government safety nets, despite the existence of over 130 schemes under local administration.

Farida Begum
Women fisherfolk, Chila-Mongla, Bagerhat



I am a widow, and I do the same fishing work as any man, yet I do not receive any benefits simply because I have no husband. We see others with alternative livelihoods and resources getting support. What did I do wrong not to receive this assistance? We struggle to feed our children, and the government does not even provide us with a freshwater tank. Don’t we deserve a tank so our children can have clean water?

Selina Begum
Women Fisherfolk, Chila-Mongla, Bagerhat



If we go to the union chairman, they demand 3 to 4 thousand BDT for a water tank. We catch fish but can barely afford to send our

The smart way to avoid burning out at work

ZARIF FAIAZ

Bangladesh's corporate economy is moving at pace. Hours can be long, commutes punishing, and the smartphone rarely sleeps. Burnout is a predictable consequence, but it is not inevitable. Let's take a look at what burnout is, why the risk is acute in Bangladesh, and the most effective, evidence-based steps individuals and employers can take to prevent it.

What burnout is, and why the definition matters

The World Health Organization classifies burnout as an occupational phenomenon arising from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. It is characterised by exhaustion, increased mental distance or cynicism towards one's job, and reduced professional efficacy. The framing is important: it situates responsibility not only with individuals but with how work is designed, resourced, and led.

Why the risk is amplified in Bangladesh

Working time rules create a permissive ceiling for overwork. The Bangladesh Labour Act provides for eight hours a day and 48 hours a week as standard, yet allows up to 10 hours a day and 60 hours in a week including overtime, provided the annual average does not exceed 56 hours. In practice this can normalise extended days and late communications, leaving little room for recovery.

Support systems for mental health remain thin. The National Mental Health Survey (2018–19) found a prevalence of mental disorders of 16.8% among adults, and a treatment gap exceeding 92%, meaning the overwhelming majority of those who need care do not receive it. In corporate settings, stigma, and limited benefits can keep problems hidden until they become performance issues or crises.

Unpaid care loads compound the strain, particularly for women. The national Time-Use Survey shows women in Bangladesh spend about 5.9 hours per day on unpaid care and domestic work, compared with 0.8 hours for men, a disparity that tightens the squeeze between office demands and home responsibilities.

Everyday frictions also matter. Dhaka's congestion is severe enough to cost an estimated 3.2 million working hours each day, eroding time and energy that could otherwise be used for rest, family or exercise. Climate shocks add another layer: nationwide heatwaves in April-May 2024 forced school closures for up to two weeks, disrupting family routines and highlighting the health and productivity impacts of heat, including for indoor workers without adequate cooling.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

What corporate workers can do this week

Small, deliberate changes deliver outsized benefits. Evidence from a 2022 meta-analysis indicates that short “micro-breaks”, up to around 10 minutes, reduce fatigue and improve vigour; performance benefits are clearer as breaks get a little longer. Building two-minute stretch resets after meetings and a 15-20 minute pause after 90 minutes of focused work can help you sustain attention across the day.

Protecting deep-work windows is equally practical. Blocking 60-90 minutes for high-cognitive tasks when you are freshest - for many offices, early in the day before meetings and messaging ramps up - and batching email and messaging checks into set windows reduces cognitive switching costs that drive exhaustion. Psychological detachment after hours matters as much as what you do during the day; synthesised evidence shows that switching off improves sleep and mood and lowers exhaustion, and that structured interventions can strengthen this habit.

You can also reshape the job you already have. Longitudinal and meta-analytic research on ‘job crafting’, i.e. adjusting tasks, relationships and how you frame your role, links these small redesigns with lower burnout and higher engagement over time. Trading a low-impact status meeting for a client call, automating a repetitive report, or collaborating to

rebalance a team backlog are practical examples that fit Bangladeshi corporate settings.

Local conditions require local adjustments. Using flexible hours, where your employer allows it, to avoid peak-traffic commutes; clustering in-person meetings on the same day; and keeping one or two remote days for deep work can reclaim time otherwise lost to congestion. During heat alerts, hydrating, lightening dress codes, and shifting strenuous on-site tasks to the coolest parts of the day all reduce strain.

Boundaries in an always-on culture

Bangladesh has clear rules on working hours but no specific statutory “right to disconnect”. That makes team-level norms crucial. Agreeing quiet hours and response-time expectations, defining what counts as urgent, and distinguishing channels for critical versus routine messages can lower out-of-hours pressure without hurting responsiveness. Managers modelling these norms - for example, scheduling emails rather than sending them late at night - signals permission for healthier behaviour. The point is not to restrict flexibility but to remove ambiguity that otherwise breeds stress.

What managers and employers can implement quickly

Leadership has a disproportionate impact on burnout risk because it shapes both workload and the resources people have

to meet it. A pragmatic starting point is to strip out unnecessary work by auditing recurring meetings and reports, consolidating where value is unclear. Protecting recovery is next: encourage the full use of annual leave and discourage excessive carry-over, and design meeting-light blocks across the week so people can do focused work without after-hours catch-up.

Compliance should be a floor, not a ceiling. Align scheduling and overtime practices with the Labour Act limits, keeping in view the 60-hour weekly cap and 56-hour annual average, and ensure overtime is compensated as the law requires. In large offices, instituting ‘break architecture’ by defaulting meetings to end five minutes early, prompting brief resets between calls and nudging people to step away at lunch can institutionalise micro-recovery without cutting output.

If you are already struggling

Burnout tends to present as persistent exhaustion, dread at the start of the day and a sense of ineffectiveness or detachment. Early conversations with a trusted manager or HR can open adjustments to workload or deadlines. Confidential support exists locally: Kaan Pete Roi operates an emotional-support helpline on 09612119911, while Moner Bondhu provides counselling and a 24/7 hotline on +880 1776632344 alongside in-person services in Dhaka. In an emergency, call 999.



Nvidia to invest up to \$100 billion in OpenAI

NEXT STEP DESK

Nvidia has announced plans to invest up to \$100 billion in OpenAI, forming a major partnership between two leading artificial intelligence companies. The deal will see Nvidia take a financial stake in OpenAI while supplying it with advanced data center chips.

Under the agreement, Nvidia will initially invest \$10 billion in OpenAI for non-voting shares once the deal is finalised. OpenAI will then use the funds to purchase Nvidia's chips, creating a circular partnership that strengthens both companies' positions in the competitive AI market, states the report. The companies aim to deploy at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia systems, with the first deliveries expected in late 2026.

The partnership comes as OpenAI, recently valued at \$500 billion, seeks to secure the massive computing power needed to maintain its leadership in AI development. Meanwhile, Nvidia gains a strategic stake in one of its most important customers amid growing competition in the AI chip market.

“A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.”

NELSON MANDELA



Oracle appoints new co-CEOs

NEXT STEP DESK

Oracle has officially named company insiders Clay Magouyrk and Mike Sicilia as its new co-chief executive officers, replacing Safra Catz, who led the company for 11 years.

Catz will remain with Oracle as vice chair of the board. During her tenure, Catz transformed Oracle from a database provider into a cloud computing competitor, helping drive its market value to nearly \$1 trillion. Magouyrk, who previously managed Oracle's cloud infrastructure, will receive stock options worth \$250 million. Sicilia, who oversaw cloud applications and AI products, will receive options worth \$100 million, states a Reuters report on the matter.

The report also adds that both executives have been key to Oracle's cloud strategy and recent high-profile deals, including discussions to store TikTok's US user data and a reported \$300 billion agreement with OpenAI.



How AI is making remote work smarter

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

If you've worked remotely over the past few years, chances are you've noticed how artificial intelligence has slipped into your daily routine. From drafting emails faster to scheduling meetings more smoothly, AI has quietly become a co-worker in the background. However, beyond convenience, new research shows that AI is changing the way remote work operates - shaping team collaboration, work patterns, and even the perks companies offer to attract talent. But, how exactly? Let's break it down.

Smarter teamwork in remote operations

Remote work isn't just about sending emails from home; it also includes high-stakes jobs like air traffic control, industrial automation, or port management, where teams rely on digital tools and constant communication. A paper from August 2025, 'Distributed Cognition for AI-supported Remote Operations: Challenges and Research Directions', explains that “AI-driven systems transform decision-making processes across domains such as air traffic control, industrial automation, and intelligent ports.”

That's a big deal, because remote teamwork relies on what researchers call “distributed cognition”, where humans, tools, and now AI share the mental load. The paper points out that AI can reduce cognitive overload by filtering information, anticipating problems, and acting as a backup during communication breakdowns.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

For everyday professionals, the lesson is clear: AI isn't just about efficiency; it's about making teamwork more resilient. The more comfortable you are working alongside AI tools, whether that's project management dashboards or customer support platforms that suggest responses, the more valuable you will be to your team.

Cutting down on repetitive tasks

Another win for remote workers is time-saving. A July 2025 field experiment, 'Shifting Work Patterns with Generative AI', found that employees who used an AI tool regularly “spent 3.6 fewer hours, or 31% less time on email each week” and completed documents faster.

Think about what that means: instead of spending half a day drowning in your inbox, you could free up hours for deep work, creative

thinking, or even a proper lunch break. While meetings didn't shrink much (AI still struggles to save us from those calendar blocks), the study shows that AI can make a measurable difference in areas you control directly.

AI skills bring better perks

If you're building AI-related skills, there's another hidden benefit. According to a September 2025 study titled ‘Beyond pay: AI skills reward more job benefits’, roles requiring AI knowledge don't just pay more, they also “are significantly more likely to offer such perks” as parental leave, remote work options, or health and well-being benefits.

In fact, the study found that AI roles are “almost three times more likely to provide remote working options” compared to non-AI roles. That means companies aren't just competing for talent with salaries; they're sweetening the deal with non-monetary perks too.

Protecting human strengths

Of course, AI isn't perfect. The August 2025 paper from earlier warns of risks like “loss of situational awareness when automation handles tasks out-of-sight” or confusion when AI systems make decisions without explaining themselves.

For professionals, this highlights why soft skills are more important than ever. Being able to ask the right questions, double-check AI-generated work, and keep communication flowing with teammates are skills machines can't replace. The best outcomes happen when humans and AI truly collaborate.

Anthropic to triple global workforce amid overseas growth

NEXT STEP DESK

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic has announced plans to triple its international workforce this year, citing strong demand for its Claude AI models outside the United States. The company will also expand its applied AI team fivefold as part of the global expansion.

Nearly 80% of Claude's consumer usage now comes from outside the US, with countries including South Korea, Australia and Singapore showing particularly high engagement. The company's business customer base has grown from under 1,000 to more than 300,000 in two years.

Anthropic will open its first Asian office in Tokyo and add locations in Europe, creating over 100 new positions across Dublin, London and Zurich. The expansion follows rapid revenue growth, with the company's run-rate increasing from about \$1 billion to more than \$5 billion between January and August.



IMAGE: REUTERS

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Oxfam

Senior Programme Finance Officer

Deadline: October 4

Eligibility:

Postgraduation in Finance, Accounting, or Management; CA course completed.

Minimum experience: 5 years



SK+F

ESKAYEF PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Oncology Associate

Deadline: October 4

Eligibility:

B. Pharm/ M. Pharm/ M.S. in Biological Sciences.

Minimum experience: 1-2 years



Swisscontact

Officer/ Senior Officer, Programme (Progress)

Deadline: October 5

Eligibility:

Bachelor's in Development Studies, Business Administration, Economics, Environmental Science, Industrial & Production Engineering, or a related field.

Minimum experience: 1-3 years



WaterAid Bangladesh

Technical Lead

Deadline: October 13

Eligibility:

BSc in Civil, Environmental, Water Resources Engineering, with a Master's in Engineering, Environment, or Development field.

Minimum experience: 8 years

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



Seize Sikder

FROM PAGE 16
are shareholders of the companies, which are located in four districts of Bangkok.

Freezing the assets in the seven companies is necessary “to protect the interests of the government and ensure justice”, said the petition by the ACC.

A seven-member joint investigation team of the ACC is looking into allegations of corruption, arbitrariness, anonymous embezzlement of public funds, illegal lending in exchange for bribes and money laundering against the Sikder family.

During the course of the investigation, Sikder’s children attempted to transfer both immovable and movable assets abroad. This posed a risk of obstructing the inquiry, according to the ACC.

Since the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, the courts have imposed a travel ban on the Sikder family; ordered the confiscation of 100 acres of land in Dhaka’s Purbachal allocated in the name of Ron Haque Sikder, the managing director of Sikder Group; ordered the freezing of 42 BO (beneficiary owner accounts) held by members of the Sikder family; and ordered the confiscation of 15 buildings and floors registered in the names of Sikder family members.

Parveen was an MP of the 11th parliament from reserved seats for women (Shariatpur).

Eight people

FROM PAGE 16
After the IEDCR team examined samples collected from 12 people with anthrax symptoms, eight of them tested positive, Prof Shirin said.

Asked about the condition of the eight infected, Pargachha Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Tanvir Hasnat Robin said, “All of them are presently well, and most of them have already made a full recovery.”

However, they were still being monitored, he told The Daily Star yesterday. Tanvir said locals, albeit initially panicked, now know that the disease is fully curable. “We’re campaigning to raise awareness among people so that they do not consume meat from sick cattle or immediately seek treatment if any anthrax symptoms are visible.”

Meanwhile, Abu Syed, district livestock officer of Rangpur, said five of the six samples of frozen beef tested positive for anthrax earlier this month.

He said a team from the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute collected the samples from the upazila earlier this month and informed him about the outcome.

However, they did not find anthrax in the samples collected from some sick cattle, he added.

Abu Sayed said they have started a major vaccination programme in the upazila, and that more than half the cattle have already come under the programme.

Man dies after mob beating

FROM PAGE 16
and toenails were pulled out with pliers and his feet were pricked with needles. A bleeding bruise with broken skin marked his forehead.

Photos of the body obtained by our correspondent matched this description of abuse.

Abdullah reportedly remained in custody until his condition deteriorated on Sunday afternoon. He was taken to a local hospital first, then transferred to Brahmanbaria General Hospital, where he died around 6:00pm.

An executive magistrate who conducted the inquest found multiple injuries on Abdullah’s forehead, hands and other parts of his body. The murder case filed with Nabinagar Police Station yesterday named SI Mahim Uddin, Tobi Miah, Al Amin and Ainal Haque as accused, along with 20–25 unidentified others.

B r a h m a n b a r i a Superintendent of

Police Ehteshamul Haque, who visited the site, acknowledged that Abdullah had been unlawfully detained. “He was held at the camp without authorisation and subjected to torture. This was a clear criminal offence. The accused officer will receive no protection from the police department.”

As news of his death spread, angry residents besieged the Salinganj police camp yesterday morning, staging demonstrations and forcing its closure. Authorities later deployed army personnel to prevent further unrest.

Abdullah’s mother, Jotsna Begum, broke down in tears as she demanded justice: “If my son had committed a crime, let the law decide. Why was he forced to die this way?”

After being produced before a court, SI Mahim Uddin was sent to jail.

Ukrainian journo wins Europe rights prize

AFP, Strasbourg

The Council of Europe yesterday awarded its 2025 rights prize to Ukrainian journalist and rights activist Maksym Butkevych, who was released last year after being captured by Russian forces.

Butkevych, co founder of the independent Hromadske radio station and ZMNA human rights centre in Kyiv, joined the Ukrainian army in March 2022, then was detained in June and convicted of war crimes by a court in Lugansk in Russian-controlled eastern Ukraine in March 2023.

He was sentenced to a 13-year prison term on charges of wounding two civilians while firing an anti-tank grenade launcher in the eastern city of Severodonetsk, but he was released during an October 2024 prisoner exchange.

In his speech, the 48-year-old recalled being held “in Russian captivity in a penal colony”

exactly one year ago, on charges he denounced as “fabricated”.

“I have been inside the system that does not value human rights,” Butkevych said, wearing a black shirt bearing the words “Ukrainian prisoners of war: you are not forgotten.” “Human rights – one has to face their absence to understand their value. They are not to be taken for granted.”

Butkevych said he accepted the award on behalf of the Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war “illegally detained by Russia”, as well as journalists living under authoritarian regimes.

He is the first Ukrainian to win the award named after the late Czech dissident, playwright and post-communist president Vaclav Havel.

Two other reporters, Mzia Amaghlobeli of Georgia and Ulvi Hasanli of Azerbaijan, both in detention, were also nominated for the prize.

Islami Bank fires 200, makes 4,771 OSD

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director of the bank, told this newspaper.

Only 414 took part in the competency test on September 27.

Those who did not appear for the test have been made OSD, while around 200 officials were terminated for breaching discipline, Jasim said.

“No specific reason is required for termination as the company can dismiss an employee by paying three months’ salary.”

The final decision regarding those who have been made OSD, who currently have no assigned duties, will be taken within a few days.

“Islami Bank has still acted with humanitarian consideration as nearly 10,000 of the S Alam recruits remain,” he added.

After seven years, S Alam Group’s control over Islami Bank ended in August last

year with the fall of the Awami League regime.

The Bangladesh Bank dissolved its board, which was heavily dominated by individuals linked to the conglomerate.

The new board conducted an audit of its human resources and found that more than 10,000 officials of the total 21,000 were appointed after the takeover in 2017, according to the bank’s HR department.

Between 2017 and 2024, a total of 7,224 people from Chattogram were recruited for various positions at the bank, with more than 4,500 from Patiya upazila alone, according to Islami Bank documents.

S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam hails from Patiya upazila.

To assess the qualifications and skills of these officials, the bank arranged an evaluation test

through the IBA of Dhaka University.

However, some officials filed a writ petition with the High Court against the bank’s decision. The court then asked the BB to settle the issue.

As a profit-making institution, the bank is within its rights to hold the test and retain or release employees as its financial performance is directly linked with the aptitude of its workforce, the BB said.

And yet, a section of the officials boycotted the exam, held a protest rally, and a press conference instead.

“This is a new concept, and it has triggered a reaction among the staff,” said Islami Bank spokesman Areif Hossain Khan.

Fearing job loss, the officials have turned to legal action, he added.

Dhaka to seek global pledge on Rohingya

FROM PAGE 1
justice. The event will feature an opening segment, a plenary meeting, and a closing segment, and the UNGA will adopt an outcome document.

“There was a notion that the Rohingyas are integrated into Bangladesh. We don’t accept this notion. Repatriation is the only solution, and we seek support from the international community for this,” said an official of

Bangladesh’s mission to the UN.

At a panel discussion in New York last week, Bangladesh’s National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman said the international community must make political investment in Myanmar to create the right conditions for repatriation.

He noted that while the world community has spent \$5 billion on Rohingya needs over the past eight

years, and Bangladesh has contributed even more, such assistance has been limited to humanitarian relief and has brought no sustainable solution.

“We have not seen enough progress in justice for the Rohingya genocide. This must be supported and sped up to prevent further atrocities,” said another

Bangladesh official, referring to the case at the International Court of Justice.

In a statement yesterday, Human Rights Watch UN director Louis Charbonneau said the UN Security Council should follow up on the conference by ending its silence on Myanmar and taking prompt, effective action.

“Building durable solutions for the Rohingya and addressing the root causes of the crisis depend on holding the Myanmar military accountable for its crimes,” he said.

Certain int’l quarters trying to foil polls

FROM PAGE 1
He said, in this regard, a lot of money is being poured in, with beneficiaries both inside and outside Bangladesh, according to a statement of the Chief Adviser’s Press Wing.

“They are well-prepared – that’s the dangerous part. The next few months are critical,” he said.

On the upcoming polls scheduled for February next year, he said: “We want the February election to be free and peaceful, something Bangladesh has never truly had.”

“For years, voter rolls were filled with people who never actually voted. This time, we want to welcome them, especially women, and celebrate their participation. We will launch a major campaign to show people how to vote. Our goal is the highest voter turnout in Bangladesh’s history.”

Yunus also called on international human rights defenders to continue visiting Bangladesh as the country approaches a “critical time” ahead of the election.

“The most important thing is that you keep visiting. Every time you visit, forgotten issues are brought to light. Ultimately, you are the voice of the people,” he said.

The group was led by Kerry Kennedy, president of Robert F Kennedy Human Rights, and the meeting lasted nearly an hour.

Yunus briefed the delegation on Bangladesh’s polls preparations, ongoing reform initiatives in key sectors and steps taken to address human rights concerns.

“We started with a completely broken system,” he said.

“We invited the UN Human Rights Office to investigate the killings that took place last year, and their report revealed many things. Since then, we have initiated the process of setting up a UN rights mission – an important step forward.

“We also established a commission to investigate cases of enforced disappearance. People are coming forward with horrific stories. Terrible things happened for

years. People were kept in Aynaghar [secret detention centres], sometimes without knowing why they were there. The commission has not submitted its full report yet, but we are receiving regular updates.”

The chief adviser said 11 commissions were formed to suggest vital reforms in key sectors. A national consensus-building commission is currently working on the recommendations of those reform commissions.

“Political parties are also part of this process,” he said, adding that he expects the July Charter, which includes major constitutional reforms, would be signed by political parties by October.

Yunus also urged rights groups to speak out against money laundering.

“The legal system for recovering stolen money is so difficult. I hope rights groups will raise their voice so banks cannot harbour stolen wealth. This is genuinely people’s money,” he said.

National Citizen Party leader Tasnim Jara, who

was present at the meeting, said young people in Bangladesh fought for structural reforms to ensure the country never again falls back into the situation that triggered the July uprising.

The rights defenders stressed the importance of security sector reform to safeguard human rights.

“To get as many reforms as possible, pressure should be applied on political parties so they maintain the process once parliament is convened,” said John Sifton, Asia advocacy director of Human Rights Watch.

Others present included Catherine Cooper, staff attorney, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights; Mandeep Tiwana, secretary general, CIVICUS; Matthew Smith, CEO & founder, Fortify Rights; Sabhanaz Rashid Diya, executive director, Tech Global Institute; Carolyn Nash, Asia advocacy director, Amnesty International; Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, visiting international scholar, Ohio University; and Jesselina Rana, UN adviser, CIVICUS.

NCP leader quits

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and discomfort among his own party leaders.

NCP’s Rangamati unit, in an official statement, termed Hanna’s remarks “unpolitical and against good manners.”

Yesterday, Hannan doubled down on his claims. “I say again: people are using a rape case to make trouble in the hills. Rape is a horrible crime and the criminals must be punished...,” he said in a Facebook post.

However, hours after Alik’s resignation, Hannan apologised on Facebook for his earlier remarks and deleted the post.

“Yesterday, at a rally in Chandani union of Hatia, I inadvertently and impulsively used the phrase ‘fake rape,’ which was never my intention...I am embarrassed and sorry ...,” he wrote.

Talking to The Daily Star, Alik said he found

it seriously objectionable that a top NCP leader had used the phrase “fake rape.”

According to NCP leaders, some leaders’ posts on social media do not reflect the party’s official stance.

Party sources said a party meeting will be held soon to address and resolve this issue.

Neighbouring

FROM PAGE 16

“I did not want to name the country, but our journalist brother mentioned that country’s name.

“Some terrorists are firing shots from the hills, and these arms are coming from outside.”

The overall situation in Khagrachhari is now “under control”, the adviser said, calling on everyone to cooperate and not to block roads or cause disruptions during Durga Puja.



Padma Oil PLC.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

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


Tender ID No. & Tender Reference	Name of works	Tender publishing date & time in e-GP	Last date & time of tender selling	Last date & time of tender security submission	Date & time of tender closing
1156892 E&P/ Sreepur/CAPEX -41/P-23/F-44/25-26	Construction of Prefabricated Steel Structure Made Ware House (Approx.10500Sqft) for Agrochemical Repackaging including RCC Approach Road, Development of Land at Sreepur Agrochemical Depot, Gazipur of Padma Oil PLC.	28-Sep-2025; 09:00 Hrs	09-Nov-2025; 15:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 14:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 15:00 Hrs
1155959 E&P/ GD/CAPEX-25/P-24/F-22/25-26	Construction & Renovation of Fuel Oil Delivery and Filling Point Shed (Jet A-1, M.S. Octane & FO) at Godenail Depot, Narayanganj of Padma Oil PLC.	28-Sep-2025; 09:00 Hrs	09-Nov-2025; 15:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 14:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 15:00 Hrs
1155948 E&P/ GD/CAPEX-27/P-25/F-22/25-26	Construction of 2000 KL Capacity MS Made Petroleum Storage Tank at Godenail Depot, Narayanganj of Padma Oil PLC.	28-Sep-2025; 09:00 Hrs	09-Nov-2025; 15:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 14:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 15:00 Hrs
1155984 E&P/ GD/CAPEX-36/P-26/F-22/25-26	Renovation of Lube Godown at Godenail Depot, Narayanganj of Padma Oil PLC.	28-Sep-2025; 09:00 Hrs	09-Nov-2025; 15:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 14:30 Hrs	10-Nov-2025 15:00 Hrs

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 (as above) is required.



Md. Faruk Hossain Mahmud
DGM (Engineering & Planning)
Padma Oil PLC.
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram
Phone: 880233335243
E-mail: dgm.emp@poel.gov.bd, farukmahmud80@gmail.com

GD-2133



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, WAPDA Building, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Tel: 02223383081 www.bpdb.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice
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SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1.	1158339	PG-1 FY 2025-26	27.11.0 000.304 26.407.25 Date: 29.09.2025	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 268kWp Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV Net Metering System at Khulna 330 MW CCPP, BPDB, Khulna, Bangladesh on Turn key Basis	20-10-2025 13:00	20-10-2025 14:00	20-10-2025 14:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01755575443).



Md. Nannu Miah
ID No. 1-01304
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

GD-2132

Khagrachhari violence demands answers

Govt must run impartial investigation, end the cycle of violence in the hills

The killings of three people in Guimara, Khagrachhari have again exposed the government's inability to manage protests and protect the most vulnerable of citizens. The violence, which occurred during a demonstration against the rape of a schoolgirl, also adds a grim layer to the region's protracted crisis. The cycle of unrest and violence cannot be addressed by security deployments alone; it demands a transparent and comprehensive investigation to hold all responsible parties to account. Like the rights groups who have since spoken up, we too share the outrage at the Guimara killings. How can a protest against sexual violence descend into a scene of bloodshed?

The sequence of events reported by various sources is as distressing as it is contested. Reportedly, tensions had been simmering since the rape of the eighth-grade student on September 23. Despite the arrest of one suspect, the Indigenous student platform Jumma Chhatra Janata continued its road blockade, defying Section 144. The situation escalated when security forces attempted to disperse the protesters. An altercation ensued, and heavy gunfire rang out. In the hours that followed, a violent rampage tore through Ramesu Bazar. A mob, many of them masked, looted and set fire to shops, houses, and vehicles, with witnesses confirming that the properties targeted belonged primarily to the Indigenous Marma community. Security forces failed to stop this rampage, which is a shame.

These events have given rise to two divergent narratives. Witnesses claim that security forces opened fire on their demonstration without provocation. Conversely, a statement from the military's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) wing accuses the separatist United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) of inciting violence, with its armed members firing an estimated 100-150 rounds from a nearby hill. The ISPR claims that "outsiders" linked to this group were responsible for the subsequent arson. Such starkly conflicting accounts only deepen the murk of the incident.

The flare-up is not an isolated incident; rather, a symptom of the long-festering wounds in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the promises of the 1997 Peace Accord have yet to be fully realised. Decades of violence, ambiguity over land rights, persistent military presence, and systemic marginalisation have created a tinderbox of unresolved grievances. The repeated instances of violence against Indigenous women and the perception of impunity that follows serve as a constant, painful reminder to the community of its precarious position.

The onus is now on the government to break this pattern. It must move swiftly to open a high-level, independent inquiry. Its mandate must be broad and unsparing; to investigate the circumstances of the shootings, the identity of the masked arsonists in Ramesu Bazar, the handling of the rape case, and the military's claims about being attacked by armed groups. Moreover, the government must act decisively to end the tensions. Lasting peace in the hills can only be built on a foundation of justice, and the first step is to establish a credible and undisputed account of how and why three people lost their lives on Sunday and the deaths that came before.

Hypertension care under threat

Govt must ensure smooth supply of medicines for the patients

It is concerning that the government's Bangladesh Hypertension Control Initiative (BHCI), a programme that has shown considerable success in managing hypertension nationwide, is facing a major challenge due to funding crisis. According to the WHO's 2025 Global Report on Hypertension, between October 2018 and June 2024, 56 percent of 5.17 lakh treated patients in Bangladesh achieved blood pressure control. This is commendable, especially in a country where non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are on the rise. However, following the expiry of the Fourth Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP) in June 2024—which used to fund the supply of medicines and equipment to NCD corners in hospitals—the supply of essential medicines has been disrupted. Health experts say this will increase patients' out-of-pocket costs and raise the risk of life-threatening complications from sudden interruptions in medication, as many may discontinue treatment.

Reportedly, under the BHCI programme, patients with hypertension and diabetes used to receive free check-ups and medicines at Upazila Health Complexes (UHCs) and select district hospitals. But after the Fourth HPNSP ended last year, the interim government scrapped the proposed Fifth HPNSP. Instead, it decided to initiate two projects to complete the unfinished tasks under the Fourth HPNSP and ensure continued medicine supply. But since these projects have yet to be approved, the suffering of rural and marginalised patients has increased. While the health ministry has allocated Tk 100 crore to the Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) to resume medicine distribution, officials say it may take two to three months for the supply to normalise. This is concerning as such interruptions could lead to life-threatening complications and reverse the gains made under BHCI.

Hypertension remains a major public health concern in Bangladesh, with 22.8 million adults aged 30-79 affected in 2024. Of them, 19.2 million had uncontrolled blood pressure, and only 16 percent had their condition under control. Unless the government continues the relevant projects, many among these people will be left vulnerable. We, therefore, urge the authorities to quickly approve and implement the proposed projects to complete the unfinished tasks under the Fourth HPNSP and ensure uninterrupted medicine supply. Most importantly, the government needs to establish a sustainable funding mechanism, strengthen the supply chain, and ensure accountability to maintain the momentum of BHCI.

CORRIGENDUM

In the article "From Dhaka to Denmark: A united front against food waste," published in *The Daily Star* on September 28, 2025, the name of one of the authors was published incorrectly in the author bio. The correct name is Christian Brix Møller. We regret this unintentional error.

The promises and perils of a bank merger

MACRO MIRROR

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



FAHMIDA KHATUN

Poor management and weak governance have long posed significant challenges to Bangladesh's banking sector, as evidenced by various indicators. As a result, the sector's overall performance has suffered, its efficiency and soundness declining over the years. Since the country's financial system mainly relies on banks, the sector's poor health presents a significant risk to economic growth.

In recent times, the Bangladesh Bank has been implementing several reform measures to improve the sector's health. These include restructuring the boards of several weak commercial banks, forming task forces, revising the Bank Company Act, adopting the Banking Resolution Ordinance, 2025, and revising the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972, among others.

As part of reforming the commercial banks, the central bank has launched asset quality review (AQR), aiming to evaluate the true financial health of the banks and the actual amount of bad loans. In the initial phase, six banks—First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, Exim Bank, Social Islami Bank, and ICB Islami Bank—were assessed by global audit firms Ernst & Young and KPMG. Their AQR results show significant underperformance, highlighting issues such as capital shortfalls, high levels of classified loans, large provision gaps, and liquidity shortages. As a result, these banks have failed to pay their depositors and return funds to their lenders, which has badly shaken public confidence in the banking sector. This presents a serious threat to the stability of the country's financial system.

The urgency of a merger arose in the face of the above-mentioned banks' troubled financial health revealed by their AQRs. For years, these banks had presented sanitised financial statements that masked the true scale of bad loans. The AQRs revealed that, in some cases, the actual amount of

non-performing loans (NPLs) were even four times higher than reported. In light of these developments, the central bank recently decided to merge five of these banks under the Bank Resolution Ordinance. The goal is to



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

create a stronger bank with higher capital that can effectively serve its customers, handle the losses, and restore public trust.

According to the Bangladesh Bank, the merged bank, proposed to be named the United Islami Bank PLC, will have assets amounting to around Tk 232,319 crore, which is 8.4 percent of the total assets in the banking sector. The projected approved capital will be Tk 40,000 crore, with a paid-up capital of Tk 35,000 crore. The central bank has developed a 10-year business plan for implementing the bank merger, which focuses on strategies to attract capital, encouraging strategic investors and increasing loan recovery, policy support, and refinancing facilities, among others. The central bank expects the merger to be completed within two years. A team of one administrator and four officials from the central bank will be in charge of each of these five banks to supervise and monitor the merger.

savers.

On the other hand, poorly executed mergers could create further problems, and the initiative could end up carrying the past failures over instead of building a stronger institution. Therefore, optimism regarding the merger must be weighed against significant challenges. Combining five banks that are each individually weak does not necessarily create strength. Therefore, the stakes are very high in this case. In an economy where banks control most of the financial intermediation, the health of the banking sector directly impacts investment, job creation, and growth. If the merged bank succeeds, it could restore depositor confidence, attract strategic investors, and serve as a model for broader consolidation in an overcrowded banking industry. But if it fails, the country risks creating a "too big to fail" institution burdened by legacy issues, draining public funds and further eroding trust.

For a healthy and strong bank

Don't let the Khagrachhari episode pass silently



Jagaran Chakma
is senior staff reporter at The Daily Star.

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The violence that unfolded in Guimara upazila on September 28 marks a turning point not only for the people of Khagrachhari, but also for the nation's commitment to justice and democratic accountability in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The deaths of at least three individuals, with dozens injured and entire neighbourhoods scarred by arson and fear, are not the results of just an "incident." This is a crisis rooted in deeper fractures, worsened by heavy-handed state response and a persistent failure to treat Indigenous lives with equal dignity.

The protests, led by Indigenous student organisations following the gang rape of an eighth-grade Marma girl on September 23, were driven by a legitimate demand: justice. The arrest of a suspect and the initial remand may have signalled some action, but the broader outcry was about more than one case. It was about the pattern: the lack of timely justice in sexual violence cases, especially involving Indigenous women, which has been a persistent issue in the CHT.

On September 28, the situation escalated from a blockade to bloodshed. By mid-afternoon, the Chattogram-Khagrachhari and

Khagrachhari-Rangamati highways were choked with burning tyres and logs. Protesters demanded safety and accountability. In response, what they received was gunfire, according to media reports.

Multiple eyewitnesses and human rights organisations allege that live ammunition was used on unarmed protesters by law enforcement and security forces. Social media videos, though unverified, show scenes of chaos, including gunfire, stampedes, and buildings burning. If proven true, this is not crowd control, it is a tragic failure of proportionality and restraint.

Government statements have so far blamed "miscreants" and denied unprovoked firing. On Monday, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury even alleged that the Khagrachhari unrest is being fuelled by "a vested quarter," provoked by India or fascist groups, who are trying to "disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Durga Puja for the Hindu community." Sadly, instead of such ambiguous rhetoric, what's needed is a transparent, independent investigation into the deaths of three civilians and the injuries of over a dozen military and police personnel

as well as civilians.

Besides, homes and shops in Ramesu Bazar, mostly belonging to the Marma community, now lie in ashes as masked individuals looted and torched them after Sunday's protest turned violent. While affiliations of the attackers remain unverified, the targeting of Indigenous communities suggests more than opportunistic looting. It suggests sinister motives.

Such events are not isolated. For decades, the CHT has been a theatre of mistrust, discrimination, and ethnic tension. The 1997 peace accord has only seen piecemeal implementation in 28 years. Land disputes remain unresolved. Local governance structures remain weak. Military presence continues to dominate civic space, and Indigenous voices remain underrepresented in the very institutions that claim to serve them.

What the Guimara tragedy lays bare is not simply the dangers of protest mismanagement. It reveals a systemic failure to listen. It shows us what happens when the response to grievance is not dialogue, but deployment. When justice is delayed and dissent is silenced, communities begin to believe that the state sees them not as citizens, but as threats.

Let us be clear: violence from any side—be it by protesters or law enforcers—is unacceptable and must be investigated. Nevertheless, the use of deadly force on civilians must be a last resort, not a tactic of first engagement.

Also, we must resist the tendency to reduce this situation to ethnic binaries: Indigenous versus Bangalee, settler versus hill people. Such

through the merger, several preconditions must be met. First, the proposed plan must be followed strictly and cannot be deviated from under pressure from powerful groups and the political government. The central bank's independence must be maintained throughout the merger process. Second, the operational costs of the bank must be lowered through efficiency and productivity. Third, the overall governance of the country must be improved. The banking sector cannot operate in isolation; it is part of the entire economic and political system. Therefore, establishing the rule of law and good governance through a strong democratic process, where public representatives are accountable, is a precondition for successful reforms in the banking sector.

The risk associated with the merger is a significant challenge to reducing the loan default rate. According to the Bangladesh Bank, the combined NPLs of these five banks will be as high as 79 percent of their total disbursed loans. If the merger succeeds, other struggling banks can also be merged and made profitable. If the central bank maintains its strong stance, enforces accountability, and carries out the plan with discipline, the country's banking crisis may finally see some resolution.

Bangladesh has too many banks for its economy size, which is around \$450 billion. What the country needs are fewer, stronger, better-run institutions. The merger presents a chance to create a precedent for that transition. Even with over 60 banks, the number of unbanked population in the country is high. The banking services are not equally provided to all customers either. While large businesses could avail high volumes of loans and become wilful defaulters, small and medium-sized businesses, without noticeable political connections, could not access funds. Therefore, the issue of accountability is very important for the banking sector. Until those who mismanaged or looted these banks are duly punished, public trust will remain low. The country cannot afford returning to the past banking culture that rewarded the reckless and punished honest savers.

The reform in the banking sector cannot succeed without broader governance reform. Weak rule of law, political influence over the regulators, and entrenched patronage networks have long undermined Bangladesh's financial institutions. Unless these systemic issues are addressed, no merger, however bold, will bring about lasting changes.

narratives deepen the divide and prevent the real issue from being addressed: accountability. The demand of the protesters was for justice in a rape case. The mishandling of that demand turned a cry for help into a national headline of horror.

Moving forward, the state must take urgent, visible steps. First, an independent inquiry—preferably under a judicial body with Indigenous representation—must be launched to investigate the use of force, the identities of the deceased, and the arson attacks. Had the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) been properly functional today, it would have been able to serve this purpose. Second, security deployments must be reviewed and scaled down where possible to prevent further escalation. Third, the government must initiate genuine dialogue with Indigenous student bodies and civil society to establish a path for peaceful grievance resolution.

At the same time, efforts must be made to build trust between communities in the hills. The CHT does not need more surveillance or slogans. It requires consistent justice, equitable development, and a rebalancing of power between the governed and those who govern.

The events of Guimara are a wake-up call. If the state wishes to be seen as the protector of all its citizens—regardless of ethnicity, location or social status—it must act with urgency and fairness. Justice delayed is not only justice denied; in places like Khagrachhari, it can also be the spark that sets the whole region aflame.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

Wording the word and worlding the world: Poetics and politics of translation



Dr Faridul Alam
is a retired academic based in New York City, US.

FARIDUL ALAM

Translation is never merely a matter of linguistic equivalence. As Walter Benjamin proposed in *The Task of the Translator*, it is a kind of afterlife—a reverberation of the original that both preserves and transforms, defers and restages. Translation does not transfer an intact meaning from one language to another; it conjures a ghost, recognisable, yet estranged. In a globalised, postcolonial world, the work of translation must reckon with a dual responsibility: not only to language, but to the geopolitics of representation. It unfolds across two entangled dimensions—*wording the word* and *worlding the world*—that render translation a site where poetics and politics are inseparably intertwined.

Wording the word: The impossible fidelity
To “word the word” is to confront the instability of language itself. Meaning is always deferred, as Derrida reminds us; every act of saying slides into another. Translation becomes a structurally impossible but ethically necessary act. Paul de Man’s notion of the “permanent parabasis” of language—a rhetorical detour interrupting its own linearity—captures this paradox. The translator, far from being a transparent conduit, becomes a curator of estrangement, staging the untranslatable rather than concealing it.

Consider the Bangla word *biraha*, a devotional longing steeped in cultural specificity. English approximations, “melancholy,” “yearning,” “desire,” fail to carry its devotional undertone and affective density. Fidelity here is not about sameness but about letting difference resonate. Translation becomes an act of estranged fidelity, where failure to replicate becomes the space of meaning.

Thus, the translator is not a neutral bridge but a creative curator of opacity, attuned to the poetics of resonance and resistance. The literary turn in translation studies reimagines the translator as a writer—one who writes through and with instability. Here, the excess of language—the aporia, the opacity, the

unrenderable remainder—is not erased but foregrounded. Trust lies not in fluency or equivalence, but in friction: in preserving the weight of words without dissolving their strangeness.

Worlding the world: The politics of framing
If wording the word engages the poetics of language, *worlding the world* exposes the politics of representation. The phrase draws from Heidegger’s *The Origin of the Work of Art*, where art does not merely depict the world but discloses it as a horizon of meaning, not a neutral backdrop. Worlding, in this sense, is the ontological act of rendering the world meaningful.

But in a postcolonial context, worlding takes on a coercive charge. Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak reappropriated the term to critique how the West “worlds” the non-West: by coding it into imperial epistemologies, translating it into grammars of control. Spivak famously equated translation with cartography—an epistemic practice that draws borders, imposes grids, and dictates who may speak, and in what terms. Here, translation becomes less a linguistic act than a geopolitical one: a mechanism of negotiation and contestation under unequal terms.

Translation, Spivak reminds us, is never innocent. It becomes complicit in epistemic violence when it renders the other legible only through dominant idioms—when alterity is preserved by being domesticated. Talal Asad deepens this critique, arguing that translation, particularly in anthropology, rewrites subordinate cultures within institutional logics shaped by academic authority. It does not merely reflect power asymmetries; it reinforces them.

When Tagore is translated for Western audiences as a mystical poet stripped of his radical politics, or when African texts are translated to accentuate tribalism and dysfunction, translation “worlds” a reality that flatters liberal superiority while preserving epistemic hierarchies. These are not mere

choices of diction; they are geopolitical interventions.

Thus, worlding implicates translation in shaping futures—not through fidelity, but through framing. To world the world is to decide what is preserved, muted, or distorted in the passage between languages and cultures.

Translation as a site of tension and reckoning



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

The friction between wording and worlding is not a problem to be resolved—it is translation’s very condition. It lives in this dissonance, between semantic nuance and ideological frame, textual opacity and political legibility. To translate is to engage both the poetics of expression and the politics of reception.

Take Rafiq Azad’s defiant line during Bangladesh’s famine-stricken 1970s: “*Bhat de haramzada, noile manchitro khabo*” (“Give me rice, you scoundrel, or I’ll eat up the map of the land”). It bristles with hunger, anger, and subaltern resistance. No polite English rendering can preserve its texture without taming its rage. Wording demands fidelity to its rhetorical fury; worlding warns against its commodification as poetic exoticism or Oriental despair.

In such moments, translation becomes not a bridge but an insurgency. It resists smoothing and flattening. The translator becomes what Spivak calls the “intimate enemy”: loyal to the text, yet disruptive of

its institutional domestication. Translation emerges as a counter-hegemonic act, not one that erases difference but amplifies it in all its unsettling force.

Contrapuntal practice: Beyond reconciliation
Wording and worlding are not binary opposites but contrapuntal logics—echoing Edward Said’s concept of contrapuntal reading, where texts are read in light of their

here is not closure. It is an openness to the untranslatable, to opacity, to the possibility that understanding requires us not to domesticate.

Shaping the future you can trust?
This year’s theme for International Translation Day, “Translation, shaping a future you can trust,” invokes a reassuring clarity amid algorithmic opacity and disinformation. But read through the twin lenses of wording and worlding, it demands deeper interrogation. What kind of future? Whose trust? At what cost?

If wording the word reminds us that language is unstable, then any future “shaped” through translation must embrace that instability. Trust must not imply uniformity but a fidelity to uncertainty. It must rest on ethical vigilance: a willingness to let the unfamiliar speak without taming it.

And if worlding the world reveals translation as a geopolitical act, then trust cannot be presumed. It must be earned through a reflexive politics that asks who gets to speak, how, and for whom. Translation constructs and contests futures. In this light, the 2025 theme becomes less a celebration than a challenge.

Trustworthy translation lies not in smoothing differences, but in sustaining tension. Not in fluency, but in friction. Not in closure, but in critique.

The translator as double witness
To translate is to stand at the fault line of two imperatives: to word the word and to world the world. One demands fidelity to the untranslatable; the other, vigilance against the politics of framing.

The translator is a double witness: to the impossibility of equivalence and the inequities of cultural exchange. Translation is not a seamless bridge; it is a borderland where meanings collide and resist containment. It is where articulation and erasure coexist.

To translate, then, is not merely to carry across. It is to dwell in paradox, to negotiate power, to reimagine what it means to speak across borders—not as masters of meaning, but as those who bear witness to its unmaking and remaking. In this borderland, trust is not a given. It must be continually interrogated, enacted, and sustained through a translation practice always unfinished, always becoming.

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

Climate change is not gender-blind, our response must not be either



Saba El Kabir
is a sustainability practitioner. He can be reached at saba@cultivera.net.

SABA EL KABIR

On my recent visit to a char community in Gaibandha, I met a 13-year-old girl whose dream was to become a teacher, like her mother. She was preparing to get married. The river might take their house at any time, her family explained. Although the community would help them find a new homestead, as is customary, their prospects are far from certain. Finding a home where their daughter would be cared for during this crisis was paramount.

We nodded in acknowledgement of the reality of the situation. This was no surprise, even as the younger son of the family remained on course to continue his schooling. We also recognised a larger, more insidious truth: when disaster looms, consequences are not shared equally. In households where resources shrink, choices about whose schooling continues, who carries extra burdens, and whose health is prioritised are filtered through the biases that shape everyday life.

These are not abstract prejudices. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), over 99 percent of people in Bangladesh hold at least one bias against women, with around 69 percent believing that men make better political leaders. In times of crisis, such beliefs harden into outcomes. Girls are the first to be pulled out of school, assigned to care work, married early, or face greater threats to their security and well-being.

This is what makes climate change such an insidious threat. The cycles are changing: droughts deepen, rains grow more erratic, cyclones intensify, and both heat waves and

cold waves press harder. The same logic that already governs who loses in an economic downturn or a natural disaster threatens to become a permanent condition of daily life.

In 2024, climate hazards disrupted schooling for up to 3.5 crore children across Bangladesh. Record heat forced nationwide school closures in April and May, with classrooms shuttered for weeks. Later in the year, floods and cyclones extended the disruption, with some districts losing nearly two months of teaching time. While any child who misses that much education risks falling behind, the chance of never returning is far greater for girls. Unicef notes that prolonged school closures increase the likelihood that girls will drop out permanently or be married off as families search for ways to cope.

The long-term effects of this educational disruption are profound. Every additional year of schooling for a girl is linked to delayed marriage, reduced risk of maternal mortality, improved child health, and higher family incomes. Bangladesh’s progress in girls’ education has been one of its most celebrated achievements over the last three decades, helping transform both economic and social outcomes. But climate change risks undoing these gains. A girl pulled out of school after a flood or cyclone rarely returns, and the setback ripples across her lifetime. It reduces her ability to earn, limits her agency within her household, and narrows the opportunities available to her children. The cost is borne not only by individual families but by the nation as a whole, undermining workforce potential and widening inequality at

a time when resilience requires the opposite.

In the country’s climate-vulnerable regions—erosion belts, saline coastlines, low-lying deltas—these dynamics are even starker. Here, lives are being reshaped by habitat loss, water scarcity, and failing harvests. When storms destroy crops or floods take homes, families make tough choices. Too often, daughters are the first to bear the brunt of them. Research from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in coastal districts found a staggering 39 percent surge in child marriage following climate-induced disasters.

Crises also sharpen risks of sexual abuse and exploitation. Cyclone shelters and relief camps are often overcrowded and lack safe, segregated facilities, leaving women and girls vulnerable to harassment and assault. After Cyclone Amphan, humanitarian organisations recorded a steep rise in gender-based violence in affected areas. Adolescent girls described avoiding shelters altogether because they felt unsafe, even when their homes were uninhabitable. Lack of privacy in sleeping areas and toilets compounded risks.

Furthermore, studies in Bangladesh have found that gender-based violence often increases in the months following floods or cyclones as displacement and economic stress take hold. Families that lose income may marry off daughters early to reduce household burdens, or girls may be trafficked under the guise of employment opportunities. When schools close indefinitely, girls also lose one of their safest spaces: classrooms that provide structure, peer support, and oversight from teachers. With that protective environment gone, many become more vulnerable to harassment, abuse, and coercion within their communities.

Subsequently, climate change amplifies pre-existing vulnerabilities. A storm or flood does not create prejudice, but it magnifies its consequences. For girls, this often leads to shrinking their security,

bodily autonomy, and future choices. The burdens of adaptation also fall heavily on the girl child. As wells dry up, it is often girls who walk farther for water. As homes need repair, they lose hours that should be spent in class. As climate change intensifies, so will these demands. In communities already guided by overt biases, adaptation that ignores gender risks locking inequality into the very systems meant to build resilience.

That is why climate adaptation in Bangladesh cannot be a financing and engineering exercise alone—it must be anchored in gender equity. Building embankments, raising roads, and reinforcing schools are vital, but unless these investments deliberately address the position of girls, they will not secure the future. Inclusion must be more than just a buzzword.

Bangladesh’s Climate Change and Gender Action Plan acknowledges the need to integrate gender into climate responses, but recognition is not enough. To protect the next generation, adaptation funds must explicitly support programmes that keep girls in school, rebuild learning centres with climate-resilient design, and back local organisations working to make girls leaders in their communities. Safety, mobility, and participation must be built into adaptation by design, not treated as afterthoughts. Addressing sexual violence must be central to these efforts: shelters must be safe by design, survivors must have access to services, and protection protocols must be embedded in disaster planning.

Climate change is already reshaping lives in ways that will persist for generations. Unless adaptation sees the crisis through girls’ eyes, it will not merely strain infrastructure, it will redraw the map of opportunity, narrowing futures for half our population and diminishing our future as a whole. Resilience must be built on justice. That means ensuring that when the next storm comes, girls must not be the ones to lose first—be it their voice, their choice, or their future.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Military awards
- 7 Midmonth day
- 11 Broad street
- 12 Fish feature
- 13 “Wasn’t me,” e.g.
- 14 Like an eyesore
- 15 Mideast ruler
- 17 Acid’s opposite
- 20 Fathom and foot
- 23 Yale rooter
- 24 “30 Rock” star
- 26 Easter find
- 27 Stunning serve
- 28 Travel stop
- 29 Snarls
- 31 PC key
- 32 Paris river
- 33 Applies
- 34 Connect
- 37 Recipe instruction
- 39 Thrill
- 43 Shoe part
- 44 Encourage
- 45 Relaxed
- 46 Tribe symbols

DOWN

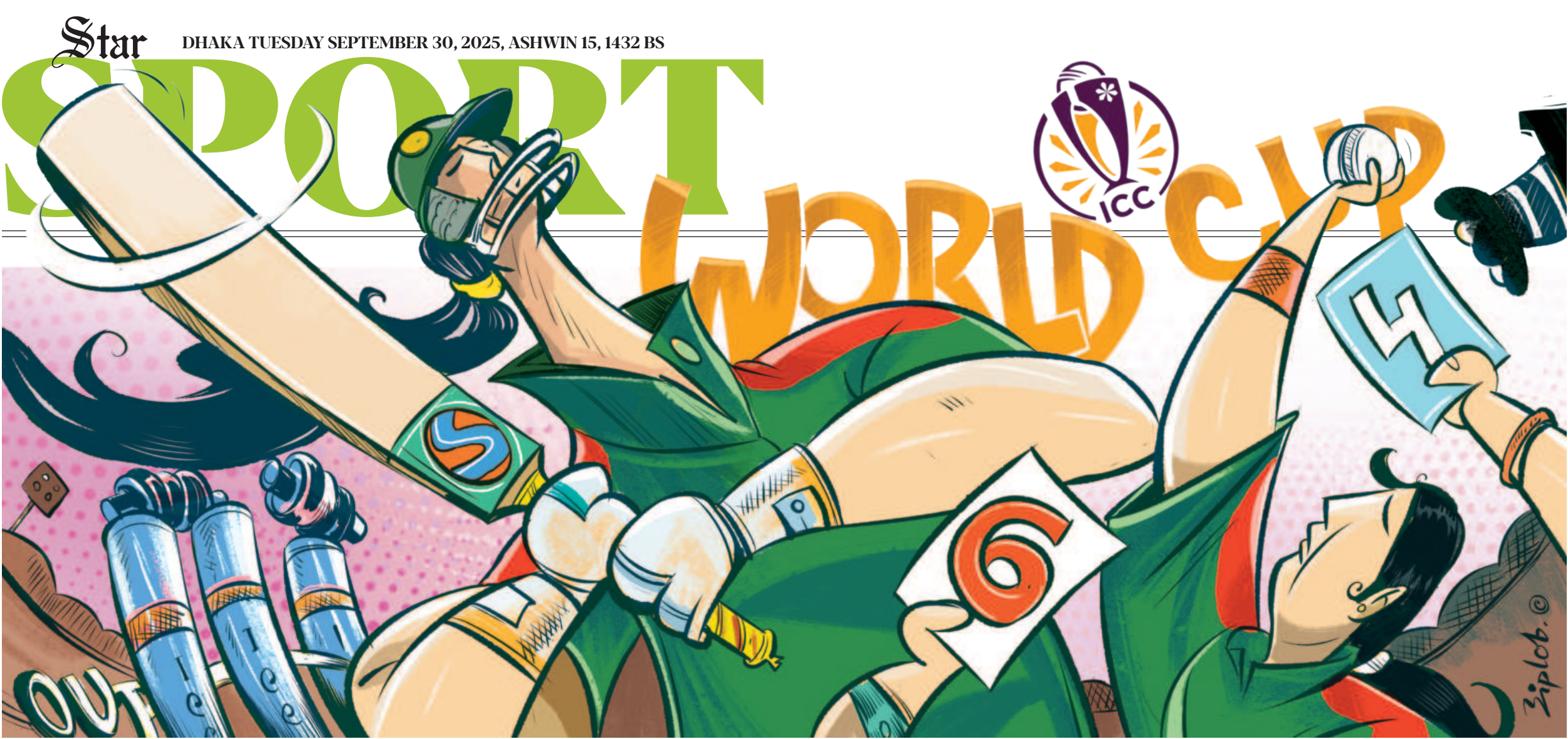
- 1 Seething
- 2 Genesis name
- 3 Comfy room
- 4 Biscotti flavor
- 5 Hawaiian do
- 6 Hawk
- 7 Large lizard
- 8 Ennobles
- 9 Wing
- 10 Devious
- 16 Melodies
- 17 Borscht base
- 18 Pond growth
- 19 Indicates
- 21 Past, present, or future
- 22 Matches up, as digital devices
- 24 Yarns
- 25 Glacier makeup
- 30 Great, in surf slang
- 33 Free of censorship
- 35 Trial
- 36 Trade fair
- 37 That woman
- 38 Caffeine source
- 40 Fury
- 41 Football’s Brady
- 42 USN rank



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

A	B	A	C	K		A	G	I	L	E
X	E	N	O	N		N	A	V	A	L
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N	A	M	E	S		L	I	B	E	L
O	N	S	E	T		Y	E	S	N	O

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



WOMEN'S CRICKET

ready for its biggest stage

ASHEAQ-UL-ALAM

Which is the bigger tournament in cricket, the men's ICC World Cup or the women's?

On most metrics, this seems like a ludicrous question. The men's tournament has more teams competing, with even more trying to qualify; it generates more buzz, attracts more eyeballs, gets better sponsorship deals, and hence is the bigger tournament on most metrics.

But not on all.

While judging the stature of a tournament, its longevity and the prize money involved are two vital markers, the first giving an idea of its legacy and the other showing what's at stake from a financial perspective.

As per these two metrics, the forthcoming ICC Women's World Cup 2025 surpasses all previous showpiece events of the game, be it in women's or men's cricket.

LONGER LEGACY AND GREATER REWARDS

A bizarre fact that sounds false but is actually true is that the first ever World Cup in cricket was played by women, not men.

It took place in 1973 in England, two years

before the men's event in the same country. Rachael Heyhoe Flint, who captained England to victory in the inaugural Women's World Cup, and British businessman Jack Hayward are credited as the driving forces behind it.

Back then, even the men hardly made any money from cricket, let alone the women. The amateur days of the sport are long gone, but pay disparity on the basis of gender is still a reality. But the ICC has seemingly made it its mission to change that.

In September this year, the ICC announced a record-breaking USD 13.88 million prize pool for the 13th edition of the tournament in India -- a 297 percent increase from the USD 3.5 million pool at the 2022 event. The amount is 38.8 percent higher than the prize pool of the Men's ODI World Cup in 2023, making it the biggest cricketing event ever in terms of cash rewards.

This leap in prize money and its legacy shows the stature of the tournament. But the real intrigue lies in how the cricket itself unfolds among old powers and new challengers.

LAY OF THE LAND

For the seventh straight time, eight teams are set to compete in the Women's World Cup.

The matches will be held in four venues in India and one in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

India, two-time finalists, are one of the top contenders this time as the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side go into the tournament with an exciting unit and are in with a realistic chance of lifting their maiden trophy in front of their home crowd.

The chief obstacle in their path, though, are Alyssa Healy's Australia.

In a high-scoring three-match WODI series between the two sides in India this month, the visitors outgunned the hosts 2-1, even posting a mammoth 412 in the final game in Delhi.

Defending champions and seven-time winners Australia come into the tournament as favourites. England, who have lifted the trophy on four occasions, are under the leadership of new captain Nat Sciver-Brunt and remain a serious contender.

New Zealand, the only other side to have won it apart from Australia and

England -- back in 2000, will be led by the legendary all-rounder Sophie Devine, who is in her swansong, and after their triumph in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup last year, will be eyeing to complete the double.

With the men's team breaking the chokers' tag in the ICC World Test Championship, it's the South African women's team's turn to break new ground at the world stage. But it would take a big effort from the Laura Wolvaardt-led side, who have struggled for consistency.

Pakistan cricket board's stance of not sending their team to India due to security concerns has led to an unexpected advantage for Sri Lanka, who will play five matches at their home ground.

Led by experienced batter Chamari Athapaththu, the Lankans would hope to make it to the

knockout stages.

Pakistan, meanwhile, have a unique chance of taking the final away from Indian soil, just like the men's Indian team had done in the ICC Champions Trophy. But for that to happen, they would have to make it to the final first, which seems highly unlikely for Fatima Sana & Co.

This leaves Bangladesh, who, admittedly, are going into the tournament to make up the numbers as for Nigar Sultana and Co, winning a couple of games would make it a satisfactory tournament.

WHAT TO EXPECT

As all eight team participants will face each other in the league phase, a few one-sided affairs could be on offer, and the gulf in quality between the sides could be exposed.

Still, history, increased prize money, more eyeballs and the chance of seeing the end of Aussie and English dominance will make this World Cup a must-see event.



‘Felt I had to take the initiative for Bangladesh’

Shathira Jakir Jessy is set to create history in the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup in India and Sri Lanka by becoming the first woman umpire from Bangladesh to officiate in a senior World Cup. The former national cricketer started seriously pursuing umpiring in 2022, and within three years through hardship, sacrifice and dedication, has reached the highest stage. Before departing for the World Cup, the 34-year-old talked to The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan about her journey as an umpire, her experiences and challenges in this profession. Here are the excerpts:

I could have continued with commentary. But when I saw female umpires from Pakistan, Qatar, and the UAE, I asked myself, "Why isn't anyone from our country doing this?"

The Daily Star (DS): You are set to make your senior World Cup debut as an umpire. How does it feel?

Shathira Jakir Jessy (SJJ): First of all, I am still very new at this. I hadn't expected this opportunity. My previous tournaments--the Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Pakistan and the Women's Under-19 World Cup in Malaysia this year--went very well. Maybe that's why I was picked. This is a huge chance for me. Now comes the big challenge -- working alongside some of the world's best umpires. There are many teams that are new to me, whose matches I've never officiated before. Adjusting to these situations and aligning myself with them will be tough, but I'm preparing for it. Hopefully, good things will happen.

DS: You were once a cricketer, then did anchoring and commentary before taking up umpiring full-time. When did you realise umpiring was the career path for you?

SJJ: I could have continued with commentary. But when I saw female umpires from Pakistan, Qatar, and the UAE, I asked myself, "Why isn't anyone from our country doing this?" Since I had completed the umpiring course a long time ago, I thought, okay, it's time to start. With no one else stepping up, I felt I had to take the initiative for Bangladesh. From then on, I took it seriously. I studied hard and gave up everything else to focus on umpiring.

DS: What specific challenges did you face in making this transition?

SJJ: I started from zero, treating it as an investment without knowing what the future held. I began at the root level with the men's Third Division matches, which were extremely challenging. Honestly, umpiring was never my passion, nor did I ever follow it closely, so everything was new to me. There are so many aspects players don't fully understand until they step into umpiring. I had to learn and study a lot,

and physically I find it even harder than playing.

After the Women's Asia Cup in 2022 in Bangladesh, I set myself a goal: to do the next Women's Asia Cup. Once I achieved that, my next target was the World Cup. I worked hard for a year, and now I've been assigned both the U-19 and the senior World Cup.

DS: How much support have you received from the Bangladesh Cricket Board?

SJJ: Immense support. Whenever there was a match at any level that I wanted to officiate--whether it was in the district level, divisional level, or men's matches, I just informed the BCB. They always gave me preference and opportunities. Recently, they even assigned me to the men's Dhaka Premier League and for national team matches in Bangladesh. Even India hasn't dared to appoint a woman for men's national team matches, but Bangladesh already has. For that, I give

full credit to the BCB, Mithu [Iftekhar Rahman Mithu] bhai, Abhi [Abdullah Al Noman] bhai, and the umpires' department.

DS: You mentioned the 2022 Asia Cup. What exactly was your role there?

SJJ: I worked as a Liaison Officer (LO) with a team. Initially, I didn't want to go, but Abhi bhai and Towhid [Mahmood] bhai convinced me. Before that, I had only done an exhibition match and after that I thought umpiring wasn't for me. So I stopped. But in 2022, when all the female umpires arrived for the Asia Cup, they encouraged me to go -- even if only as an LO. They said: "Go, see them up close. If you feel inspired to umpire, great; if not, no pressure". I agreed, thinking at least I'd be close to the action. But after going there, seeing all the female umpires and officials, I felt both proud and upset. Proud to see women there, but upset that Bangladesh--a Test-playing nation--had no representation. That's

when I set my target to be part of the next Asia Cup.

DS: Umpiring requires quick and accurate decisions. How do you prepare yourself to meet those standards?

SJJ: You have to study constantly. If you don't read and update yourself, you won't know the laws and conditions, which change every year. Something you've memorised for years can suddenly change, and you might get confused. But as an umpire, you cannot make mistakes. Players expect us to know everything. That's why the preparation--both physical and mental--is so demanding.

DS: How many matches will you officiate at this World Cup?

SJJ: A total of nine matches: five as an on-field umpire, two as the TV umpire, and two as the reserve umpire. I think it's a very good assignment. I've received big matches and overall a very good schedule.

TIGRESSES BANK on unity and resilience

Bangladesh are set for their second appearance at the ICC Women's World Cup, beginning September 30 in Guwahati, having debuted in 2022 with a solitary group-stage win. Their preparation this time has been far from ideal, with no international fixtures since qualifying in April. Instead, the Tigresses relied on training camps and practice matches, including games against men's age-group sides, to sharpen skills under pressure. Bangladesh head into the showpiece event with a mix of experience and youthful promise, embodied by left-arm spinner Nahida Akter and young pace sensation Marufa Akter. Both bowlers shared their thoughts with The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi and Samsul Arefin Khan on the team's preparation, expectations, and personal goals. From Nahida emphasising unity, discipline, and batting consistency to Marufa focusing on variations, fitness and confidence, the duo reflected Bangladesh's belief that collective effort and resilience can help them compete on the biggest stage.

PREPARATION AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Nahida, the team's highest wicket-taker in white-ball formats, said the side had worked consistently since returning from Pakistan earlier this year. Continuous camps and competitive matches, she felt, ensured the group entered the tournament well prepared. Personally, she has been fine-tuning her bowling while also developing her batting to meet team demands. "I've been working in many aspects because in big tournaments you need to be prepared thoroughly. My batting confidence has improved a lot too, though my main focus remains bowling," she said. Marufa, who will be playing her first ODI World Cup, viewed preparation slightly differently. Despite the lack of recent international matches, she stressed the importance of personal discipline and training. Having overcome shoulder injury setbacks during her exam period, she worked on bowling variations with the help of coaches. "If you practise properly, it won't affect you too much when you go into matches. Variations might make a big difference in

conditions where wickets are usually good for batting," she explained.

TEAM BONDING AND CONFIDENCE

One theme both bowlers highlighted was the sense of unity within the squad. Nahida described it as Bangladesh's "biggest strength." Months of living, training, and playing together, she said, had helped create a family-like environment. "We've probably spent more time with each other than with our own families in the last five months. The way we support each other on and off the field has been excellent. With such unity, we can achieve good results," she said. Marufa echoed the same spirit, adding that the bowling units – both pace and spin – were focused on building partnerships. "Our goal is to work together. Pacers will apply pressure so that spinners can capitalise, or the other way around. It's all about teamwork."

CHALLENGE AHEAD: BATTING AND CONDITIONS

Bangladesh have often been criticised for their batting depth,

normal. If we can't put up 250+, our bowlers will struggle. The whole batting unit has to contribute, from top six to the lower order," she noted. Marufa, meanwhile, pointed to the importance of adaptability. Known for her in-swingers, she is confident about regaining full sharpness and believes her added variations could help contain strong batting sides.

DEALING WITH CRITICISM AND EXPECTATIONS

The women's team has occasionally faced harsh criticism, including after defeats to U-15 boys in practice matches. Nahida admitted such comments could feel disheartening but stressed that the squad tried to block out the noise. "Criticism will always be there, but taking it too seriously would affect our game. We try to focus on cricket and move forward," she said. Marufa, who faced challenges balancing studies with cricket, added a lighter perspective. "Whenever I try to play defensively with the bat, it doesn't work. But when I hit, I feel peace," she laughed, recalling her admiration for Hardik Pandya's all-round style.

TARGETS AND AMBITIONS

Both bowlers made clear that Bangladesh's approach would be step by step. Nahida targeted a winning start against Pakistan to build momentum, while Marufa said the team's dream was to "do something special" without looking too far ahead. For Nahida, the focus is on execution and consistency. For Marufa, it's about enjoying her first World Cup while aiming to contribute with both ball and bat. "Everyone dreams of playing in an ODI World Cup, and I had that dream too. It's a feeling I honestly can't describe in words – I'm extremely excited about this tournament," she said.

***Read full interviews on The Daily Star website*

Five youngsters primed for the spotlight

As the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup gets underway on September 30, here's a look at the emerging players poised to make a big impact.

Pratika Rawal (India)

Matches: 14, Runs: 703, Batting average: 54.07

Indian cricket's latest batting sensation made her international debut just last year in December, and hasn't looked back since, quickly replacing Shafali Verma to become Smriti Mandhana's partner at the top of the order.

Matching her solid footwork with classical strokeplay, Rawal is capable of sending the ball to any corner of the ground, and is adept at both defensive and attacking play.

Georgia Voll (Australia)

Matches: 3, Runs: 173, Batting average: 86.5

Months into her breakout debut season with Australia, Georgia Voll was handed a central contract with the national side.

Voll got an opportunity in Australia's top-order owing to an injury to Alyssa Healy last year, and made the most of her outing against India. In the

Lauren Filer amps up the pace quotient in the England lineup by a couple of notches, as she showed quite recently during their T20I win over India at The Oval in July.

In the third T20I of the series, the pacer delivered the fastest recorded over in women's cricket, and stated after the game that she had the magical 80 mph mark on her radar. Filer's added pace can be of immense importance on the wickets in India and Sri Lanka.

Annerie Dercksen (South Africa)

Matches: 11, Runs: 399, Wickets: 10, Batting average: 39.90, Bowling average: 24.30

South Africa's impressive all-round hope has good numbers in the ODI format, and has already won the ICC Women's Emerging Player of the Year for 2024.

Her ability to pick up wickets at key stages and score runs lower down the order will no doubt be a crucial aspect for South Africa. She made her ODI debut only in 2024, and has become a key cog in the South Africa limited overs setup in no time.

Rabeya Khan (Bangladesh)

Matches: 24, Wickets: 26, Bowling average: 28.38

Rabeya Khan made her T20I debut way back in 2019, but took some years to break into the ODI setup, playing her first game in the format in December 2022. Her bowling has improved over the years, as evidenced by her six scalps during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2025 in Pakistan.

The conditions in India and Sri Lanka will likely assist her leg-breaks, and the youngster can be destructive when operating with a senior pro like Fahima Khatun.

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Fixtures

DATE	MATCH	VENUE	TIME (BD TIME)
Sep 30	INDIA VS SRI LANKA	GUWAHATI	3:30 pm
Oct 1	AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND	INDORE	3:30 pm
Oct 2	BANGLADESH VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 3	ENGLAND VS SOUTH AFRICA	GUWAHATI	3:30 pm
Oct 4	AUSTRALIA VS SRI LANKA	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 5	INDIA VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 6	NEW ZEALAND VS SOUTH AFRICA	INDORE	3:30 pm
Oct 7	ENGLAND VS BANGLADESH	GUWAHATI	3:30 pm
Oct 8	AUSTRALIA VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 9	INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA	VISAKHAPATNAM	3:30 pm
Oct 10	NEW ZEALAND VS BANGLADESH	GUWAHATI	3:30 pm
Oct 11	ENGLAND VS SRI LANKA	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 12	INDIA VS AUSTRALIA	VISAKHAPATNAM	3:30 pm
Oct 13	SOUTH AFRICA VS BANGLADESH	VISAKHAPATNAM	3:30 pm
Oct 14	NEW ZEALAND VS SRI LANKA	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 15	ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 16	AUSTRALIA VS BANGLADESH	VISAKHAPATNAM	3:30 pm
Oct 17	SOUTH AFRICA VS SRI LANKA	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 18	NEW ZEALAND VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 19	INDIA VS ENGLAND	INDORE	3:30 pm
Oct 20	SRI LANKA VS BANGLADESH	NAVI MUMBAI	3:30 pm
Oct 21	SOUTH AFRICA VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 22	AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND	INDORE	3:30 pm
Oct 23	INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND	NAVI MUMBAI	3:30 pm
Oct 24	SRI LANKA VS PAKISTAN	COLOMBO	3:30 pm
Oct 25	AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA	INDORE	3:30 pm
Oct 26	ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND	VISAKHAPATNAM	11:30 am
Oct 26	INDIA VS BANGLADESH	NAVI MUMBAI	3:30 pm

SEMIFINALS

Oct 29	SEMIFINAL 1	GUWAHATI/COLOMBO	3:30 PM
Oct 30	SEMIFINAL 2	NAVI MUMBAI	3:30 PM

FINAL

Nov 2	WINNER SF1- WINNER SF2	NAVI MUMBAI/COLOMBO	3:30 PM
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Man dies after mob beating, illegal detention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A 27-year-old man accused of theft died at Brahmanbaria General Hospital yesterday, four days after being held in illegal police custody following a mob beating.

Brahmanbaria police have arrested and suspended a sub-inspector of Salinganj police camp over the incident.

The victim, Md Abdullah of Baherchar village in Bancharampur upazila, was detained on September 23 at Salinganj Bazar by a group of locals led by shopkeeper Tobí Miah, who had earlier reported the theft of Tk 5.37 lakh from his house.

The First Information Report in a murder case filed by Abdullah's brother, Shakil Miah, alleged that Abdullah was beaten by a mob, then taken to a house in Barail village and tortured.

Severely injured, he was handed over to the Salinganj temporary police camp under SI Mahim Uddin. Instead of being produced before a court, he was kept at the camp for four days.

Shakil said Abdullah's fingernails

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Encroachers have built structures on the Atrai river in Naogaon's Atrai Bazar. Some of the structures are multi-storey and have been built damaging the paved embankment of the river.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Govts always blame it on conspiracies

Says Prof Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successful governments have blamed "local or foreign conspiracies" for communal violence rather than holding the perpetrators to account, Prof Anu Muhammad said yesterday.

"When Ramu happened, the then home minister called it a Jamaat-BNP plot to sabotage war crimes trials. Now, as Khagrachhari burns, the current home adviser claims it was 'made in India'. The pattern of denial is the same: investigations never happen, often because their own local leaders are involved."

He made the remarks at a discussion titled "Timeline of Communal Violence: 13 Years Since the Ramu Buddhist Temple Attacks and Communal Violence in the Post-Uprising Bangladesh", organised by Ganatantra Odhikar Committee at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Anu Muhammad argued that communal violence is systematically orchestrated for political, economic, and institutional gains. He cited the 2012 Ramu attacks, when



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Islami Bank fires 200, makes 4,771 OSD

The employees were recruited during S Alam era with fake certificates or without tests

» About 48pc of bank's 21,000 employees recruited during S Alam era

» No circulars were issued for their recruitment

» Competency exam for 5,385 employees held on Saturday

» Only 414 of them showed up for the test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Bank has made 4,771 officials OSD (officer on special duty) and terminated another 200 for violating service rules.

The development comes after their no-show in the special competency evaluation test, ordered by the management on September 22, for the 5,385 officials whose recruitment were questionable.

The officials were appointed by the S Alam Group without any exam and with fake certificates after the Chattogram-based business group forcibly took over the country's largest private bank in 2017, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Most of the 11,000 appointments made during S Alam's tenure were non-transparent, with no official circulars issued, M Kamal Uddin Jasim, additional managing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

VIOLENCE IN CHT

NCP leader quits over party silence, 'false rape' claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party's joint chief organiser for the north Alik Mree, tendered his resignation in protest against the party's "silence" over the recent violence and killings in Khagrachhari following protests over the rape of a schoolgirl.

Alik, a young leader from the Garo community and the only indigenous representative in the party's central committee, announced his resignation in a Facebook post.

"In protest of NCP's silence on the rape of an indigenous girl in Khagrachhari, attacks on indigenous people, arson on their homes, and the killing of three indigenous people, as well as against the false statements of NCP leader Abdul Hannan Masud on the rape incident, I, Alik Mree, resign from my post," he wrote.

"I have sent my resignation letter to the party office and also via email. Best wishes for the NCP," he added.

The resignation came after NCP's senior joint chief coordinator, Hannan Masud, described the Khagrachhari rape incident as "fake" during a programme in Noakhali on Sunday.

"India is playing its last trump card. An attempt is being made to destabilise the region by pitting the hill people and Bengalis through a fake rape incident," he said at a rally.

His remarks went viral on social media, sparking widespread criticism

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Eight people test positive for anthrax in Rangpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight out of 12 people, whose samples were collected from Pargachha upazila of Rangpur with anthrax symptoms, tested positive at the laboratory of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

IEDCR Director Prof Tahmina Shirin confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

The agency collected the samples after two people had died in Pargachha earlier this month and last month with symptoms resembling anthrax.

However, IEDCR could not confirm whether they had died of anthrax, as no samples were taken from them before their deaths.

Earlier this month, the Department of Livestock also detected anthrax in frozen beef in the same area.

Anthrax is an acute bacterial infection of zoonotic origin that affects both humans and animals, according to IEDCR.

Humans can contract the disease through skin breaches, ingestion of raw or undercooked meat, or inhalation of spores, with an incubation period ranging from 1 to 20 days.

The infection is usually fatal for affected animals. While the fatality rate in humans is very low, if not promptly diagnosed and treated, the infection can turn deadly.

Since 2010, anthrax has been reported every year from different areas of Bangladesh,

particularly in the northern regions.

The country experienced a major outbreak in 2015, and IEDCR initiated surveillance for anthrax in 2018, an IEDCR official said.

Panic gripped people in Pargachha after the death of two persons with symptoms resembling anthrax and the death of more than 100 cows over the past three months.

» Two people died in Rangpur with symptoms resembling anthrax

» Anthrax was detected in five out of six frozen beef samples

» Cattle vaccination drive has begun

» Transmission occurs via skin breaches, ingestion of raw/undercooked meat, or inhalation of spores

On August 2, Abdur Razzak, 60, a farmer from Maita village, reportedly slaughtered a sick cow and developed a fever and sores the next day. He died at the hospital on August 9.

Similarly, Komola Begum, 58, a homemaker from Anandi Dhaniram village, fell ill after handling and cooking meat from a sick cow and died on September 6.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Neighbouring country and fascists behind hills violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday alleged that the recent violence in Khagrachhari is being fuelled "by a neighbouring country and fascist groups".

"A vested quarter is trying to create unrest to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Durga Puja of the Hindu community. They attempted to prevent the festival from being celebrated with religious fervour and festivity. This vested group is behind the Khagrachhari incident," he said.

The home adviser was talking to reporters at the old Ramna Police Station after inaugurating the construction of five administrative/barracks for Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

A journalist asked whether firearms and money were being supplied to Khagrachhari from India.

In response, the adviser said, "He [the journalist] said the violence is being instigated by India or by fascist groups. We are taking all-out measures to ensure that they cannot be successful."

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Amazon trees getting bigger due to climate change

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Trees across the Amazon rainforest are growing larger in response to rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, according to a major new study.

The research, published in the Nature Plants journal, found that the average size of trees in the Amazon has increased by 3.2 per cent every decade for at least the past 30 years.

Scientists say the trend is consistent with the fertilising effect of higher concentrations of CO₂, which can boost plant growth.

The findings come from the RAINFOR network, an international partnership of more than 60 universities in South America, the UK and elsewhere, including the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds. Almost 100 scientists monitored trees across 188 permanent forest plots to build the long-term dataset.

Professor Beatriz Marimon, from Universidade do Mato Grosso in Brazil, who coordinated much of the data collection in southern Amazonia, said: "This is a good news story. We regularly hear how climate change and fragmentation are threatening Amazonian forests. But, meanwhile, the trees in intact forests have grown bigger; even the largest trees have continued to thrive despite these threats."



Wounded Palestinian children receive treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital after their homes were hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Seize Sikder family's Tk 133 crore in Thailand

Dhaka court orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered the freezing of investments worth 353 million Thai baht (about Tk 133 crore) in seven companies in Thailand by former National Bank Chairman Zainul Haque Sikder's three children.

The order – passed by Judge Md Sabir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka on Sunday – came following an application by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Md Ashkur Rahman, said ACC's Public Relations Officer Aktarul Islam yesterday.

The seven companies – registered in Thailand between April 2, 2004 and June 23, 2015 – are Koi Restaurant Co., Sikder Group, Sikder Holdings, R & R Restaurant Group, Jirana Co., JR Architects International Co. and Sikder & Garret Development Co., according to court documents.

Zainul's sons Ron Haque Sikder and Rick Haque Sikder and daughter Parveen Haque Sikder

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