



One thing was made clear: We will strongly oppose a Palestinian state.

Benjamin Netanyahu Israeli PM on his talks with Donald Trump

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## ROHINGYA CRISIS

# Yunus lays out 7-point plan at UN conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has proposed a seven-point plan for a lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis, urging the international community to adopt a clear roadmap for repatriation and intensify pressure on Myanmar.

Speaking at a high-level UN conference on the plight of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said initiatives to end the crisis are lacking.

"The Rohingya crisis originated in Myanmar. Its solution lies there," he said, stressing that the international community must put "effective pressure" on Myanmar and the Arakan Army to immediately stop persecuting the Rohingyas and begin their expeditious repatriation.

"It's the only solution to the crisis, which should not be held hostage to broader reforms in Myanmar."

The day-long event was attended by representatives of 66 countries and organisations, including heads of state and government. Turkey represented the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, while Kuwait spoke for the Gulf Cooperation Council.

According to the UN, the meeting aimed to mobilise political support, address root causes such as rights violations, and share perspectives from the ground – including the struggles of minorities in Myanmar and wider humanitarian concerns in the region. Another goal was to propose a plan for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Rohingyas and other displaced groups.

This first-ever high-level UN event comes as global attention shifts elsewhere, while Bangladesh shoulders the burden of about 1.2 million refugees.

Since early 2024 alone, around 1,50,000 more Rohingyas have fled intense fighting in Rakhine. The repatriation process has stalled as the Rohingya, though willing to return, say there is no guarantee of citizenship and safety.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk described a grim picture of minorities in Rakhine, saying the conference must send a clear signal that their plight is at the top of the global agenda.

"It needs to be a turning point for the Rohingya – for the international community to take action and devise a lasting solution."

Since November 2023, fighting has escalated with the Rohingya targeted from all sides. The Myanmar junta has committed grave rights abuses, while the Arakan Army has reportedly killed, abducted, tortured, arbitrarily detained, and forcibly recruited Rohingyas.

Türk outlined five urgent priorities: ending the violence, constructive dialogue, reconciliation, respect for human rights, unhindered humanitarian relief and lifting restrictions.

Funding for Rohingya needs in Bangladesh has plunged. Donors have met only 38 percent of the \$934 million required this year, affecting healthcare, food, nutrition, protection and education.

The World Food Programme's Country Director Dom Scalpelli warned that unless at least \$60 million is secured in the next six months and \$167 million over the next 12, food assistance will face major disruptions starting December 2025.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi urged countries with influence in the region to intensify engagement. "This must include communication with all parties to the conflict in Rakhine – not only the de facto authorities but also the Arakan Army."

He warned that host states cannot shoulder the burden alone. "The humanitarian response in Bangladesh remains chronically underfunded, including in key areas like food and cooking fuel. The prospects for

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US pledges \$60m as Rohingya aid crisis continues

UN rights chief urges urgent action for Rohingyas



Yunus asks for roadmap for safe, dignified Rohingya return

Seeks accountability and restorative justice

End to narco-economy and cross-border crime



**TRUE GRIT** ... Every evening, little Dip, a second grader under the education programme of Holy Cross School, carries his books to a pavement in the capital's Tejguri Bazar to study. While his mother, Mitali Rani Das, earns by weighing passers-by on a scale, Dip's determination to study shines brighter than the traffic around him. They have no home but a staircase corner -- yet his dream refuses to dim. The photo was taken around 8:00pm on Monday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Pressure mounts on Hamas to accept deal

Trump gives it a 3 to 4-day ultimatum to accept deal as Muslim states join world powers in backing his 20-point plan; Gazans sceptical

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday gave Hamas an ultimatum of "three or four days" to respond to his plan for Gaza, as the militant group reviewed the proposal backed by Israel.

The plan calls for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, disarmament of Hamas and gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself.

World powers, including Arab and Muslim nations, welcomed the proposal, but Hamas had yet to issue its response.

"We're going to do about three or four days," Trump told reporters when asked about any timeframe.

"We're just waiting for Hamas, and Hamas is either going to be doing it or not. And if it's not, it's going to be a very sad end."

Trump announced the deal at the White House on Monday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Yesterday, a Palestinian source said on condition of anonymity that Hamas had begun consultations on the plan "within its political and military leaderships, both inside Palestine and abroad."

"The discussions could take several days due to the complexities," the source said.

Qatar, which hosts Hamas's exiled leadership, said the group had promised to

study the proposal "responsibly", and also said it would hold a meeting with Hamas and Turkey later yesterday.

"It is still too early to speak about responses, but we are truly optimistic that this plan, as we said, is a comprehensive one," foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said.

## GAZA PEACE DEAL

Hamas reviewing Trump's Gaza plan

Netanyahu says army 'will remain in most of Gaza'

Qatar says 'too early to speculate on outcome'

Israel far-right minister calls plan 'resounding diplomatic failure'

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

It would also see a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, after nearly two years of war.

But in a video statement posted after the joint press conference with Trump, Netanyahu

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TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN A 'FARCE'; KEY POINTS OF PLAN: PAGE 5

## RAMESU VIOLENCE

# Locals speak of shattered lives

Road blockade suspended

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

Angsanu Marma, 65, stood in front of his charred grocery shop at Guimara's Ramesu Bazar yesterday while his wife searched for anything that could be salvaged.

Angsanu, who is fighting cancer, said his life had revolved around the shop he had been running for 30 years and his small home next to it.

"There was cash in the shop. Many valuables were inside the house. I couldn't save anything. I escaped with only the clothes on my back," he told The Daily Star.

Violence erupted in Ramesu Bazar in Khagrachhari on

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PHOTO ON PAGE 12, RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 2, 3

# Killings carried out at 438 spots in 41 districts

IO tells ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and armed activists of then ruling Awami League committed killings during the July uprising at 438 locations across 41 districts, a prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Md Alamgir, the investigation officer of the case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides, said lethal weapons were used against unarmed protesters in more than 50 districts.

"These prove the crimes committed during the July uprising were widespread, systematic, and targeted civilian population," he said while testifying as the 54th and last witness in the case.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned an approver, are the other accused.

The IO yesterday completed his deposition that he began on Sunday, and the defence counsel for Hasina and Kamal began cross-examining the witness. The tribunal then adjourned the proceedings of the case until Monday, when the defence lawyer will resume his cross-examination.

Alamgir added that during investigation, he found that the protesters' locations were tracked using mobile phone data by agencies like the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC), after which they were killed, injured, and unlawfully arrested.

The police officer told the tribunal that he submitted 2,018 pages of evidence in five volumes titled "The Background of July Uprising: Sheikh Hasina Becoming Fascist Hasina" before the court.

The tribunal also screened part of his testimony and two video clips of investigative reports aired by the BBC

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Smoke rises during an Israeli military operation in Central Gaza area as displaced Palestinians flee to the south yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Jamaat, five parties begin 2nd phase of protests today

Warn of tougher movement if govt fails to meet demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and four other parties yesterday announced the second phase of their simultaneous movement with nearly identical demands, including holding the next parliamentary election based on the July Charter and introducing proportional representation in the voting system.

After staging three days of protests in September, the parties announced fresh programmes at separate press conferences and through media statements.

They said they will conduct nationwide outreach campaigns from today (Oct 1) to October 9 to mobilise public opinion in favour of their demands.

As part of this initiative, they plan to organise views exchange meetings,

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## ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

### Dhaka South City Corporation

সময়মতো কর পরিশোধ করুন; নগর উন্নয়নে অংশ নিন

### রিবेट সুবিধাসহ পৌরকর (Holding Tax) পরিশোধ, সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত

## গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের (বাড়ি/ফ্ল্যাট/ইমারতসমূহের মালিক ও ব্যবসায়ীগণের) অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, “রিবेट সুবিধাসহ পৌরকর পরিশোধ করার মেয়াদ” এবং “সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের মেয়াদ” ১ (এক) মাস অর্থাৎ ৩১/১০/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হলো। এ ক্ষেত্রে-

- ২০২৫-২৬ (হাল) অর্থবছরের ৪ (চার) কিস্তি পৌরকর একত্রে পরিশোধ করে হাল অর্থবছরের উপর ১০% রিবেট গ্রহণের সুযোগ রয়েছে।
- বকেয়া পৌরকর পরিশোধ করে শুধুমাত্র ২০২৫-২৬ (হাল) অর্থবছরের উপর ১০% রিবেট সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন।
- ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের জন্য সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করা যাবে।
- ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটসমূহের দোকান ভাড়া সারচার্জ/জরিমানা ব্যতীত পরিশোধ করা যাবে।

উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে বর্ণিত ১০% রিবেট সুবিধা এবং সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও ভাড়া পরিশোধের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতা ও ব্যবসায়ীগণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

কর্তৃপক্ষ

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/৮২/২০২৫-২০২৬

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন



## Cops monitoring those trying to join TTP: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies are monitoring individuals attempting to join the banned militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said yesterday.

At a press conference at the Police Headquarters in the capital, the IGP cited several recent cases, including the arrest of a man in Savar three months ago who had allegedly tried to join the TTP.

"The DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit is investigating whether anyone else is involved," he said in response to a query.

The IGP added, "The arrestee, however, claimed that after performing Umrah, he travelled to Pakistan, where a friend asked him to join the outfit. He said he refused and returned to the country."

According to an earlier The Daily Star report, Md Foysal, 33, was arrested in Savar by the police's Anti-Terrorism Unit on July 2 for alleged links to the TTP. On July 14, Shamin Mahfuz, 48, was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion in Narayanganj on similar charges.

Baharul also confirmed that police had received information about two other Bangladeshis killed in Pakistan while allegedly operating for the TTP. One was identified as Faisal Hossain from Madaripur.

He said the other individual allegedly operated drones for the TTP. "We have learned that he is a Bangladeshi, but we have not yet been able to confirm his identity," he added.

Faisal, from Kalikapur Union of Madaripur Sadar upazila, left the country for Dubai in March 2024. His brother, Arman Morol, told The Daily Star that the family believed he was working there and was unaware he had travelled to Pakistan until Madaripur police informed them two months ago.

"A journalist sent me a photo of Faisal's body on WhatsApp on September 27. That was the first time we learned about his passing," Arman said.

Md Naimul Hasan, superintendent of police in Madaripur, said an investigation is underway to determine how Faisal ended up in Pakistan and uncover the circumstances of his death.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his hotel in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

### US HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

## Bangladesh stuck in Tier 2 for 6yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has retained its position on Tier 2 of the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for the sixth year in a row.

It means the country continues to make significant efforts to eliminate human trafficking, but has failed to fully meet the minimum standards required for the top tier.

However, compared with the previous reporting period, the government demonstrated overall increasing efforts, said the 2025 report released on Monday.

Among the progresses acknowledged by the report include increasing training for frontline officials on victim identification and trauma-informed care, as well as the formal adoption of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Authorities identified and referred more victims to services compared to the previous year.

Yet, the report stresses that the government fell short in several critical areas, such as internal trafficking – including sex trafficking and forced child labour – which remained pervasive.

The number of traffickers who faced investigation, prosecution, and conviction

| RECOMMENDATIONS |   |
|-----------------|---|
| ➤               | Adopt fully resourced National Action Plan    |
| ➤               | Expand tribunals; probe Rohingya exploitation |
| ➤               | Eliminate recruitment fees for migrants       |

dropped.

Labour inspectors remained severely under-resourced, particularly in monitoring the informal sector. Victim protection and reintegration services continued to be inadequate, especially for Rohingya refugees and returning migrant workers.

The TIP report criticised the government for continuing to allow high recruitment fees that left many Bangladeshi migrant workers indebted and vulnerable to trafficking.

It said that courts often imposed fines

instead of prison sentences, weakening deterrence and undercutting the government's overall efforts.

Corruption and official complicity inhibiting law enforcement efforts also remained significant concerns, with no convictions of complicit officials reported.

The US State Department has issued a set of prioritised recommendations, including expanding Anti-Trafficking Tribunals, strengthening labour inspector capacity, improving services for all categories of victims, eliminating recruitment fees, investigating credible allegations of Rohingya exploitation, and adopting a fully resourced National Action Plan.

The TIP report places countries in four categories based on compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

Among Bangladesh's South Asian neighbours, India, Pakistan and Bhutan have also remained on Tier 2.

Nepal and the Maldives continue to be on the Tier 2 Watch List – the third category, while Afghanistan has again been placed in Tier 3, the lowest ranking reserved for governments that make little effort to meet the minimum standards.

## Yunus lays out 7-point plan at UN conference

FROM PAGE 1

funding next year are grim.

"Unless further resources are forthcoming, we will be forced to make more cuts, while striving to minimise the risk of losing lives – children dying of malnutrition, or people dying at sea as more refugees embark on dangerous boat journeys."

UN Special Envoy on Myanmar Julie Bishop said fighting between Myanmar's army and separatists is proving an "insurmountable barrier" to the return of displaced Rohingyas.

She cautioned that elections planned for December could worsen tensions. "Under current conditions, there is significant risk of increased resistance, protest and violence, further undermining the fragile state."

Bishop added that an inclusive Myanmar is only possible if it guarantees safety, justice and opportunities for all communities,

most critically the Rohingya; and addresses the root causes of conflict, discrimination, and disenfranchisement.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi officials warn of growing challenges in the camps, including domestic violence, trafficking, and extremist ideologies. Refugees may increasingly spill outside the camps as conditions worsen.

The rebel Arakan Army now controls about 90 percent of Rakhine. Its clashes with Myanmar's military have killed scores of Rohingyas and displaced thousands.

### 7-POINT PLAN, US PLEDGE

Yunus laid out seven key actions for the international community.

He called for a roadmap for safe and dignified repatriation, pressure on Myanmar and the Arakan Army to end violence, and prioritise the return of those who recently arrived in Bangladesh and those internally

displaced.

He also urged support for stabilising Rakhine, international monitoring, and confidence-building measures so that the Rohingyas integrate into Rakhine society. Yunus further called for fully funding the Joint Response Plan, pursuing accountability and restorative justice, dismantling the narco-economy, and tackling transboundary crimes.

"The world cannot keep the Rohingyas waiting any longer. Today, let us pledge to act together to resolve the crisis once and for all. Bangladesh stands ready to extend its full cooperation to this end."

As funding declines, he argued, repatriation remains the only sustainable option. "This will entail far fewer resources than continuing their international protection."

Saying Bangladesh was a victim of the crisis, Yunus added. "We are forced to bear huge financial, social

and environmental costs. Criminal activities, including narco-flows into Bangladesh through Rakhine, threaten our social fabric."

Meanwhile, the US announced more than \$60 million in assistance for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh. It pressed Dhaka for policy changes, allowing refugees' livelihoods.

US Special Envoy for Best Future Generations Charles Harder urged other governments and actors to step forward. "All nations, organisations, and private donors must share the burden by increasing their contributions."

The conference included an opening session, a plenary for member states, UNGA observers and civil society, and a closing segment. The president of the UN General Assembly will prepare a concise, action-oriented summary of the discussions.

Shefali Marma, standing in front of the DC, voiced her anger: "We are not beggars. My two shops were burned down. My house was burned down. Who will take responsibility for this?... Everything has been destroyed ... We want everything restored to the way it was."

### BLOCKADE SUSPENDED

The Jumma Chhatra Janata, through a Facebook post around 9:00pm yesterday, suspended its road blockade in Khagrachhari.

"Following the assurances and initiatives of the local administration and showing respect to Durga Puja, we have suspended the blockade from 11:00pm today until October 5," it said.

"However, if the administration fails to fulfil the eight-point demand presented, the organisation will launch a tougher programme."

## Locals speak of shattered lives

FROM PAGE 1

September 28 when a protest by Jumma Chhatra Janata, a platform of indigenous communities, against a recent alleged rape incident was attacked.

Three members of the hill community were shot dead and at least 11 others were injured in the attack.

Recalling the horrific incident, Angsanu said, "The boys [Jumma Chhatra Janata members] started gathering and shouting before the incident. Shortly after, the gunfire began. I ran with my wife and daughter."

Like Angsanu, many shopkeepers lost everything in the arson attack.

Visiting the Bazar yesterday, this correspondent saw destroyed shops and homes along both sides of the road. Entry to the market was

restricted by an army checkpoint where everyone was being questioned.

About 50 shops were reduced to rubble. The fire was so intense that nearby trees were scorched.

Jeweller Athaye Prue Marma said, "Masked men attacked. I lost Tk 33,000 in the fire."

Women's clothes seller Michen Rakhain told this newspaper, "Since our religious festival is approaching, I had stocked up on clothes and fabrics worth nearly Tk 20 lakh. Many of the garments were custom-stitched. Everything has been burnt. I don't know what to do now."

Former Guimara upazila chairman Usepru Marma told this correspondent, "This was the largest marketplace of the Marma community in the district."

The local administration has begun

diplomatic failure".

"In my estimation, it will also end in tears. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again," he said.

Trump's plan includes deployment of a "temporary international stabilisation force" – and the creation of a transitional authority headed by Trump himself and including former British premier Tony Blair.

During his press conference with Trump, Netanyahu cast doubt on whether the Palestinian Authority,

which nominally runs Palestinian population centres in the occupied West Bank, would be allowed a role in Gaza's governance.

Trump noted that during their meeting Netanyahu had strongly opposed any Palestinian statehood – something that the US plan leaves room for.

"I support your plan to end the war in Gaza which achieves our war aims," Netanyahu said.

"If Hamas rejects your plan, Mr

President, or if they supposedly accept it and then basically do everything to counter it, then Israel will finish the job by itself."

Trump said that Israel would have his "full backing" to do so if Hamas did not accept the deal.

Reaction was global, and swift. Key Arab and Muslim nations, including mediators Egypt and Qatar, hailed the agreement's "sincere efforts" in the wake of their own talks with Trump last week.

## Shot dead weeks before fatherhood

Tayiching's death shatters his family in Ramesu

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Just weeks before becoming a father, 21-year-old Tayiching Marma was shot dead at Ramesu Bazar in Khagrachhari's Guimara upazila, leaving behind a pregnant wife, grieving parents, and a community in shock.

His wife, 20-year-old Tuni Marma, is nine months pregnant. Doctors had given an expected date for the birth of her child on October 9.

The young couple used to live with his parents in Bottola, a small hillside community about a kilometre and a half from Ramesu Bazar. Tayiching, who drove a "Chander Gari" (an open people carrier), was well loved in his neighbourhood. His sudden death has plunged the community into grief.

His body was cremated Monday night in the presence of army and police personnel. When this correspondent visited the family home yesterday morning, his mother, Danu Marma, sat in silence, surrounded by mourners.

"My son was never involved in politics. He studied at BGB's Mushfiq School as a child. Since 2018, he had been driving our family jeep [Chander Gari]. Our family relied on his income," said Danu.

His father, Holachai Marma, recounted the last time he saw his son. "He was at home until 11 in the morning. Later, I saw a Facebook live showing an argument between locals and the army, but no shots had been fired then. Around noon, he went to Ramesu Bazar to buy fuel. Soon after, we heard gunshots and chaos.

"I tried calling him again and again but got no answer. In the evening, a police officer picked up his phone and told me it was in their custody. At that moment, I knew everything was over," he said, breaking down.

Tuni remembered her husband's last meal. "He had sat down to eat before leaving. Who knew that would be his last?"

Danu added, "Our happy little home, our dreams – everything has been shattered."

Asked whether he would file a case, Holachai replied, "Against whom? For what? We just want to live in peace. I only ask the government to give my daughter-in-law a job. How will she survive without her husband?"



## Jamaat, five parties

FROM PAGE 1

roundtable discussions, and seminars. The programmes also include rallies in Dhaka and all divisional cities on October 10, and the submission of memorandums to deputy commissioners on October 12.

Apart from Jamaat and Islami Andolan, the other parties joining this phase are Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa), and Nizam-e-Islam Party.

Like in previous phases, the parties' demands remain nearly identical and scheduled for the same dates. While some have outlined five points and others seven, the core demands are the same.

These include: holding the election based on the July Charter; introducing a proportional representation system in the national election for parliament (some propose only for the upper house); ensuring a level playing field for all parties and candidates; justice for oppression, killings, and corruption committed by the previous "fascist" regime; and banning the activities of the Jatiya Party and the 14-party alliance for supporting autocracy.

At a press conference at Al-Falah Auditorium in Dhaka's Moghbazar yesterday afternoon, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar announced his party's programmes.

"We want to declare unequivocally that our five-point public demands have already become rational and acceptable to the people. The people have extended massive support and joined the street movement for these demands.

"The current government must immediately accept the people's five demands and hold the 13th parliamentary election in February based on the July National Charter. If the government ignores these legitimate demands and fails to resolve the ongoing crisis, the people

will be forced to intensify their movement."

The BNP has maintained that reforms requiring constitutional amendment under the July Charter should be left to the next elected parliament.

Jamaat, on the other hand, wants constitutional amendments implemented before the election, either through an interim constitutional order or a referendum. It demands full implementation of the July Charter ahead of the polls.

In the morning, Islami Andolan Bangladesh Secretary General Maulana Yunus Ahmad announced a 12-day programme at a press conference at the party's central office in the capital's Paltan area.

Accusing the government of ignoring people's demands despite a series of programmes and dialogues, he said, "If a government formed by the people's blood continues to disregard their demands, it will lose its moral and legal legitimacy."

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, in a press release signed by party Ameer Mamunul Haque and Secretary General Jalaluddin Ahmad, announced an 11-day programme, including a mass rally in Dhaka, to press home its demands, including legal recognition of the July Charter.

The statement warned of tougher programmes if their demands are not met.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan said it would also join the second phase with a seven-point demand.

Jagpa Vice President and spokesperson Rashed Proddhan announced the party's programmes at a press conference at its Paltan office.

Nizam-e-Islam Party's Publicity Secretary Abdullah Al Masud Khan issued a press release outlining their programmes.

## Killings carried out at 438

FROM PAGE 1

and the Al Jazeera, which showed the atrocities against the protesters.

In his testimony, Alamgir said, "In my investigation, I found that the then government carried out enforced disappearances, killings, abductions, and acts of torture during the uprising, mainly to cling to power."

"For over 15 years, the then government resorted to killings, staged militant dramas, carried out abductions and enforced disappearances, rigged elections, and used every other possible means to

stay in power. As a result, people from all walks of life joined the movement in 2024."

The IO said his probe also found that the then government deliberately shut down the internet and took control over the media with the intention to suppress the uprising.

On July 10, the ICT-1 framed charges against the trio. The charges include murder, attempted murder, command responsibility, torture, and the use of lethal weapons and other crimes against humanity.



## NCP getting EC registration

### Says senior secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has decided to register the National Citizen Party and Bangladesh Jatiya League as political parties, said senior secretary Akhtar Ahmed yesterday.

He said 13 parties have been kept under review. Of these, three are undergoing further scrutiny, nine are facing more extensive investigations, and a decision on one party will be made after a High Court verdict.

Akhtar said 143 parties applied for registration, and information from field-level investigations was reviewed for 22. After assessment, only NCP and Bangladesh Jatiya League primarily fulfilled the requirements.

"We will issue a public notice to see if there are any objections or concerns," he said.

"There is an unresolved issue with NCP's symbol. The symbol they requested is not included in the EC's official list. We will send them a letter asking to confirm an alternative symbol. After we receive their reply, we will issue the public notice with the specified symbol."

The EC is also reviewing applications of Bangladesh Aam Janagan Party, Jatiya Janata Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JASAD - Shahjahan Siraj).



**A priest performs the rituals of Kumari Puja at Jagannath Temple in Barishal city yesterday on Maha Ashtami of Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus. Kumari Puja involves the worship of a prepubescent girl as the living embodiment of the goddess Durga.**

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## KHAGRACHHARI VIOLENCE

### 'Punish rapists, conduct probe into the killings'

#### 77 noted citizens demand justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens, in separate statements, yesterday demanded a transparent judicial probe into the killings of three indigenous protesters in Khagrachhari and urged the chief adviser to take urgent steps for lasting peace in the CHT.



In a statement, 36 citizens expressed outrage over the rape of a class eight Marma girl in Khagrachhari on September 23 while she was returning from tuition.

They also condemned the killing of three indigenous protesters during a blockade in the district.

The statement said this was not an isolated incident, pointing to a rape case of another indigenous woman in Khagrachhari on June 27 and the killing of three indigenous men last year after a clash over a motorcycle theft.

According to the statement, these incidents reveal a recurring pattern of looting and arson of indigenous homes, and killings of indigenous people by law enforcement, while perpetrators from the settler community face no action.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

## 24 killed, 21 hurt in mob violence last month

HRSS report says rights situation 'concerning' in Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) has described the human rights situation in Bangladesh in September 2025 as "concerning", citing incidents of mob violence, attacks on temples, and vandalism of idols.

In a statement yesterday, the organisation also noted continued interference with freedom of expression, attacks on journalists and workers, and deaths in custody throughout the month.

According to HRSS, at least 24 people were killed and 21 injured in 28 incidents of mob beating across the country in September. It said 133 children were victims of torture, among whom 25 lost their lives and 108 faced physical and mental abuse.

The statement said while political violence decreased slightly compared to August, the number of people killed increased. At least nine people were killed and 268 injured in 37 incidents of political violence last month.

Of them, eight were from BNP and one from Jamaat. In August, four people were killed and 514 injured in 67 incidents.

Of September's incidents, 24 stemmed from BNP's internal conflicts, leaving at least 192 injured and seven killed. Seven clashes between BNP and Awami League left one killed and 42 injured, while three clashes between BNP and Jamaat injured 32.

Four other incidents took place among different parties.

Most of the violence was linked to attempts at establishing dominance, political rivalries, rally-related clashes, conflicts over forming committees, extortion, and occupation of establishments, the report said.

At least 14 incidents involved miscreants attacking political leaders and activists, leaving nine killed, including three from AL and four from BNP.

The report said at least 42 journalists were assaulted or harassed in 32 incidents. Among them, 20 were injured, six threatened, and six named in cases.

It said at least 159 women and girls were victims of

abuse in September. Of them, 55 were raped, including 30 under 18. Ten were victims of gang rape, and one was killed after rape. A total of 20 women and girls were subjected to sexual harassment, including 12 children.

The report also documented eight attacks on the minority community, in which two temples were attacked and 20 idols vandalised.

At least seven workers were killed and 57 injured in 28 incidents of torture, while 18 more died in workplace accidents due to unhealthy environments and lack of protective equipment.

### AT A GLANCE

- ▶ 133 children abused; 25 died
- ▶ 159 women, girls faced violence
- ▶ 42 journo assaulted or harassed
- ▶ 9 killed, 268 hurt in political violence

According to the report, at the India-Bangladesh border in September, two Bangladeshis were injured in BSF attacks and 13 arrested. At least 132 Bangla-speaking people were pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF through different border points. On the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, the Arakan Army abducted 40 fishermen along with five trawlers from the Bay of Bengal.

Citing media reports and victims' accounts, HRSS said eight people were killed by law enforcement agencies in September – four in custody and four in shootings. At least five people died in prisons, of whom two were convicts and three under-trial prisoners.

HRSS urged the government to protect human rights and called on civil society, journalists, political leaders, and international groups to speak out against violations.

## 15 cases, 19 arrests over puja-related incidents: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 132 incidents at puja mandaps across the country have so far been reported through the "Sharodiya Surakkha" mobile and web application, while police confirmed that 49 of the incidents led to 15 cases and 19 arrests in September.

National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) Director General Maj Gen Abdul Quayyum Mollah disclosed the app-based figures yesterday at a views-exchange meeting at the NTMC headquarters in Tejgaon.

"Whenever any incident is reported – be it idol vandalism, obstruction of devotees, or rumours on social media – law enforcement is immediately notified and actions are taken on the spot," he said.

He said around 84,000 personnel are working simultaneously through the system, while over two lakh Ansar members have been deployed to secure 31,576 puja mandaps this year.

Of them, 80,000 are directly connected to the system, said the DG.

"The army, navy, police, Rab, coast guard, DGFI, NSI and SB are also linked, with 1,000 officials monitoring at upazila, district, divisional and central levels," said Quayyum.

Meanwhile, at a press briefing at the Police Headquarters yesterday, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said of the reported incidents, most were minor and resolved peacefully without causing communal unrest.

The IGP said some cases led to arrests, while others were recorded as general diaries.

On the spread of misinformation, Baharul said police cyber units were monitoring misleading posts, including the circulation of old vandalism videos.

## 9 more testify in cases against Hasina, Joy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine more prosecution witnesses yesterday testified in two cases filed against 18 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

They are Md Sefatullah, M Mejbah Ur Rahman, Mohammad Uzzal Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Mukti Tarafder, Kamrunnahar, Zahidur Rahaman, Mahbubur Rahman and Tayoba Rahim.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of the Special Judge's Court-5 in Dhaka recorded their statements in the two cases over plot allocation in Purbachal New Town from 11:32am to 12:20pm, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

The court also set October 15 for next hearings. Earlier, 21 witnesses gave their statements.

## 3 more die of dengue, 556 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died and 556 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the DGHS, all three deaths were reported from Barishal division.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 198, while total cases rose to 47,342.

Among the total cases, a total of 44,796 dengue patients have been released so far after treatment.

Currently, 2,348 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.



## To us, PR means public relations

### Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said conspiracies by both local and foreign forces are visibly afoot to obstruct Bangladesh's democratic transition, but the people are now united to foil such plots.

Talking to reporters at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave, Salahuddin said no one can deny that the people are now focused on elections, with potential candidates actively campaigning.

He opposed some parties' demand for the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) system in the next parliamentary election. "PR means 'permanent restlessness'. Experiences at home and abroad show that it creates constant instability. Governments are rarely formed based on a majority, and parliaments often remain hung, leaving the country in uncertainty."

He said for them, PR means "Public Relations" – connecting with people – and that everyone is now engaged in that kind of PR by campaigning and building unity with the people. "That is the PR we believe in. Those who want to impose proportional representation to create permanent restlessness will not succeed."



## Thousands entangled in July cases: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam yesterday said thousands of people have become entangled in case proceedings after the July uprising, with many facing unnecessary suffering.

Speaking to reporters at the Police Headquarters, he said charge-sheets have so far been submitted in 55 cases – 18 for murder and 37 for other offences such as "grievous hurt". A total of 1,941 accused were charge-sheeted in the murder cases and 2,185 in the other cases.

He said these were only a fraction of the total caseload.

"Police are investigating around 1,760 cases linked to the anti-discrimination movement – 766 murder cases and 974 others. Senior officers are directly supervising the probes to ensure transparency," he added.

Acknowledging complaints of false or targeted cases, Baharul said some police personnel may have been involved. "If any officer is found complicit, we will take the strictest possible action," he said.

He mentioned that Section 173(A) allows falsely accused individuals to seek exoneration through the superintendent of police.

"So far, 136 people have been cleared through this process, while 236 applications are under review," he added.

On fugitives, the IGP said Interpol had been requested to help trace suspects abroad and urged the public to provide credible information.

"Thousands may be entangled in the legal process, but we are committed to providing remedies where people are falsely accused and to ensuring justice is served," he said.

The IGP also said the force remains capable of ensuring a fair and festive national election.

**Charge-sheets have so far been submitted in 55 cases – 18 for murder and 37 for other offences such as grievous hurt. A total of 1,941 accused were charge-sheeted in the murder cases and 2,185 in the other cases.**



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# Netrakona locals trapped between outages, ghost bills

JAYDUL ISLAM, Netrokona

Frequent load-shedding and “ghost bills” have left Netrokona residents struggling to cope in the sweltering heat. From sleepless nights to sick livestock, the crisis has hit the district’s rural areas the hardest.

In villages across Netrokona’s 10 upazilas, electricity supply barely lasts four to five hours a day, sometimes even less, according to locals.

“We get four to five hours of electricity throughout the day. At night, we rely on candles and hand fans,” said Kharnai union chairman Obidul Haque.

Saiful Arif Jewel, a journalist from Mohanganj, said, “Last night, we didn’t even have three hours of electricity. My children couldn’t sleep.”

The crisis has also affected livelihoods. “Cows become agitated in the heat. We fetch water from the pond to cool them,” said Mahmudul Hasan Fahim, a dairy farmer from Amtala.

Traders reported losses due to prolonged outages. Schools and nurseries are also struggling.



Roman Khan, a Kendua resident and nursery school director, said children’s education is being severely disrupted by frequent load-shedding.

Locals also complained of receiving inflated monthly bills despite the inadequate power supply.

“No one seems to care about Khaliajuri, and rural people can’t even raise their voices,” said Niramay Sarker, a bank official from Shyampur village.

Netrakona Palli Bidyut Samiti General Manager Md Akram Hossain said the district’s peak demand is 157MW, but only 60-66MW is being supplied. Around 40,000 meters across the district are faulty, worsening billing chaos.

In Kendua upazila, the worst-hit area, power supply is less than half the demand. “Against 21MW demand, we get only 10-11MW. We had to shut down four of nine feeders,” said Deputy General Manager Md Omar Faruk, adding that nearly 8,000 faulty meters are awaiting replacement.

Authorities said the power crisis stems from reduced production at the Mymensingh Maona power station.

# Stronger laws, coordination vital to curb air pollution

## Speakers tell Bela public hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strict enforcement of laws and better coordination among ministries are essential to deal with air pollution in the capital, said speakers at a public hearing yesterday.

The hearing, titled “Measures to Prevent Air Pollution”, was organised by

the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) at the Shailapratap Auditorium in Dhaka.

Speakers said according to the Bangladesh National Air Quality Management Plan 2024-2030, six sectors contribute to PM2.5 pollution in Dhaka: household combustion, power

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



A man sells helmets for Tk 100-500 on the roadside, hoping to help motorcyclists comply with traffic rules if they lose their helmet or need an extra one for a passenger. Uniquely, he runs his shop without occupying the footpath or inconveniencing pedestrians. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Unlicensed diagnostic centres mushroom in Galachipa

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Dozens of diagnostic centres have sprung up in different markets and neighbourhoods of Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali, many of them operating without approval or licence renewal for years.

One such facility, Kajol Rekha Diagnostic Centre, is housed on the ground floor of a building in Closure Bazar of Char Biswas union, bordering Char Kajal. A large signboard bears the name along with two doctors who reportedly visit twice a week. But no equipment, technologists, or approval documents were found at the centre.

Similar unauthorised centres have been found in rural markets, including Family Care Diagnostic Centre in Kharijama Bazar, Islamiya Diagnostic Centre at Bokulbariya crossroads, and Katakhalai Diagnostic Centre in Ratanaditali union.

According to Galachipa upazila health department, 33 centres have so

far been listed. While some obtained initial approvals, most failed to renew their licences between 2021-22 and 2023-24.

Following pressure, 18 centres have recently applied for renewal. At least three have no approval at all, while several others remain unlisted.

Owner Kajol Rekha admitted she was unaware of the rules. “I don’t have any machines. The doctors bring their equipment when they visit. If they stop coming, I will close the centre,” she said.

A centre owner, requesting anonymity, alleged that inspection teams are often “managed,” allowing many to continue without renewal.

Galachipa Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Mejbah Uddin said every centre must renew their approval papers annually.

Contacted, Patuakhali Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Khaledur Rahman Miah warned that centres failing to comply will face legal action.

According to upazila health department, 33 centres have so far been listed. While some obtained initial approvals, most failed to renew their licences between 2021-22 and 2023-24.



# Demand soars for traditional ‘pera sandesh’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Pera sandesh, a traditional sweetmeat from Mymensingh region, is witnessing soaring demand during Durga Puja.

“Pera, which is mainly used as a ‘bhog’ item (offerings made during puja) round the year, is made by solidifying sweetened cow milk. The sale is good amid Durga Puja festivities,” said Pritam Sarker, proprietor of Loknath Mistanno Bhandar of Mymensingh city.

As devotees from the city and beyond throng different mandaps, many buy this traditional sweet to make offerings.

However, like many other traditional sweets, pera sandesh is struggling in the competitive market despite its cultural importance and rich history, said Porimol Sarker, 80. He said due to rising ingredient prices, the cost of pera has also increased. It is now sold at Tk 500-600 per kilo.

Makers also said over the past four decades, it has lost much of its appeal, with the younger generation largely unfamiliar with it.

Many still buy it as a gift for loved ones, said Sabita Rani Karmakar, 55, a schoolteacher.



# Jubo Dal leader hacked to death

UNB, Bogura

A ward level leader of Jubo Dal was hacked to death in Kahaloo upazila of Bogura yesterday.

The incident occurred around 2:00pm at UttarPara of Magura village, said police.

The deceased is Rahul Sarker, 35, organising secretary of ward-13 of Bogura city Jubo Dal, said Wasim Reza, its publicity secretary.

Inspector (investigation) of Kahaloo Police Station Mahbubur Rahman said Rahul went to UttarPara village to fish in a pond. Suddenly, a group of assailants armed with sharp weapons attacked him, leaving him dead on the spot, the official said.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College morgue for autopsy, he said, suspecting that personal disputes led to the killing.

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| 1158284 | 27.21.0000.649.07.031.25-26/05 and PGB/GCDS/2025-26/W4 | Annual maintenance works of 230 kV and 400 kV bays of Bhulta 400/230 kV Grid Sub-Station.                            |

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### ক্যালেন্ডার, ডায়েরি, ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার ও নোট বই মুদ্রণের জন্য ডিজাইনসহ দরপত্র আহবান

আল-আরাফাহ ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর ২০২৬ইং সালের জন্য ৫,০০,০০০ কপি দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার, ২০,০০০ কপি ক্যালেন্ডার কভার, ১৫,০০০ কপি ব্যাংক ডায়েরি, ২০,০০০ কপি ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার এবং ৩০,০০০ কপি নোট বই মুদ্রণ, বাঁধাই ও সরবরাহের জন্য ব্যাংকিং সেক্টরে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ডিজাইনিং ফার্ম/প্রথম শ্রেণির মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে ডিজাইনসহ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত সিডিউল প্রধান কার্যালয়স্থ জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন হতে আগামী ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার সিডিউল ৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা, ডায়েরির সিডিউল ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা, ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার সিডিউল ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা এবং নোট বই এর সিডিউল ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে সমগ্র করা যাবে। দরপত্র ও ডিজাইন সমূহ আগামী ১৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রধান কার্যালয়স্থ টেন্ডার বক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং এদিনই সকাল ১১:৩৫ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র সমূহ খোলা হবে। ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা ব্যতিক্রমের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ইঞ্জিঃ মোঃ হাবীব উল্লাহ  
সিনিয়র এক্সিকিউটিভ ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন  
আল-আরাফাহ টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৭)  
৬৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।

**aib**  
আল-আরাফাহ ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.  
AF-Arafah Islami Bank PLC.  
সদর দপ্তর

## Price Sensitive Information

With reference to our earlier Price Sensitive Information disseminated on 04 June 2025 regarding the “**BRAC Bank Social Subordinated Bond**”, we are pleased to inform that the **Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC)** has accorded its consent for issuance of the Bond.

The approved instrument is a Non-Convertible, Unsecured, Fully Redeemable, Coupon-Bearing, Floating Rate, Social Subordinated Bond of up to **BDT 1,000 Crore** (Taka One Thousand Crore only), with a tenure of seven (07) years, to be issued through private placement. Proceeds from the Bond will be utilized to strengthen the bank’s Tier-II capital under Basel-III as well as to reinforce its long-standing commitment to social development.

**M Mahbubur Rahman FCS**  
Company Secretary

September 30, 2025

**BRAC BANK**  
আমরা অগোচর



KEY POINTS OF  
PEACE PLAN

**WAR ENDS, HOSTAGE RE-LEASE:** Israel will immediately suspend military operations once the two sides agree, and Hamas then will have 72 hours to return all October 7 hostages, including the remains of those who are dead. Israel, in turn, will free Palestinian prisoners Israel will eventually withdraw from Gaza in phases.

**TRUMP IN TRANSITION BODY:** Trump himself will become chair of a transitional “Board of Peace” in Gaza that will include former British prime minister Tony Blair. The board will consider “exciting development ideas” and turn the war-ravaged territory into a special economic zone.

**NO FORCED DISPLACEMENT:** Palestinians would not be forced to leave Gaza and Israel will not annex the territory.

**HAMAS AND AMNESTY:** Hamas will play no role in future governance. However, Hamas members will be granted amnesty if they commit to “peaceful coexistence” and decommission their weapons.

**INT’L STABILIZATION FORCE:** The plan calls for an “international stabilisation force” to deploy immediately in Gaza, with support from Arab states. The force will train Palestinian police in Gaza and work to ensure security with Israel and neighbouring Egypt.

**UNCLEAR FUTURE:** The plan does not rule out a Palestinian state. “The conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood, which we recognise as the aspiration of the Palestinian people,” the plan says. The plan also suggests allowing a role for the Palestinian Authority once it has “completed its reform programme.”

Trump’s peace plan a ‘farce’

Say Gazans as 41 more killed across the territory

AFP, Gaza City

Residents of war torn Gaza expressed scepticism over the latest peace plan unveiled Monday by US President Donald Trump, dismissing it as a farce that fails to end the war. “It’s clear that this plan is unrealistic”, 39-year-old Ibrahim Joudeh told AFP from his shelter in the so-called humanitarian zone of Al-Mawasi in south Gaza. “It’s drafted with conditions that the US and Israel know Hamas will never accept. For us, that means the war and the suffering will continue”, said the computer programmer, originally from the southern city of Rafah, devastated by a military offensive that began in May. The residents spoke shortly after

Trump unveiled his 20-point plan at the White House. Abu Mazen Nassar, 52, was equally pessimistic, and feared that the plan aimed to trick Palestinian factions into releasing hostages held in Gaza and no peace in return. “This is all manipulation. What does it mean to hand over all the prisoners without official guarantees to end the war?” said Nassar, displaced from his home in north Gaza in central Gaza’s Deir el-Balah. “We as a people will not accept this farce,” he said, adding: “Whatever Hamas decides now about the deal, it’s too late.” “Hamas has lost us and drowned us in the flood it created.” Some, like Anas Sorour, a



31-year-old street vendor from the south Gaza city of Khan Yunis, also displaced to Al-Mawasi, dared to hope. “Despite everything we’ve lived through and lost in this war... I still have hope,” Sorour told AFP. “No war lasts forever. This time I am very optimistic, and God willing it will be a moment of joy that makes

us forget our pain and our anguish,” he added. But others like 29-year-old homemaker Najwa Muslim, could no longer imagine anything changing. “I haven’t only lost faith in the deal; I’ve lost faith in life,” Muslim told AFP from central Gaza, where she sought refuge after being displaced from Gaza City, currently under a massive Israeli military offensive. “If there was a real intention to stop the war, they wouldn’t have waited this long. That’s why I don’t believe any of their words.” On Monday, at least 41 people were killed across Gaza in Israeli strikes, according to Gaza’s civil defence agency, which operates under Hamas authority.

‘POISON PILL’

There is a poison pill in the proposed deal, which basically says that Israel gets to indefinitely occupy a so-called security perimeter inside Gaza, with no timeline for withdrawal, and, basically, Israel gets to decide on its own when it might feel like leaving, which might, in fact, never happen. Palestinians are being asked, once again, to live as a captive population under complete and total Israeli control and domination, with no prospect for being a free people in their own country. And that is simply a recipe for long-term failure.

Omar Baddar, a Palestinian-American political analyst based in Washington, DC

GLOBAL REACTION

We’re going to do about three or four days. We’re just waiting for Hamas, and Hamas is either going to be doing it or not. And if it’s not, it’s going to be a very sad end.

Donald Trump, US president

We will recover all our hostages, alive and well, while the [Israeli military] will remain in most of the Gaza Strip.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli prime minister

The State of Palestine welcomes the sincere and determined efforts of President Donald J Trump to end the war on Gaza.

Palestinian Authority statement

The EU is ready to help it succeed. Israel has signed on to the plan. Hamas must now accept it without delay.

Kaja Kallas, EU foreign policy chief

It is a historic missed opportunity ... and in my estimation it will end in tears. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again.

Bezael Smotrich, Israeli finance minister

The ministers affirm their readiness to engage positively and constructively with the United States and the parties toward finalising the agreement and ensuring its implementation, in a manner that ensures peace, security, and stability for the peoples of the region.

Joint statement by foreign ministers of UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey

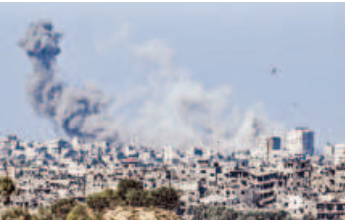
The plan provides a viable pathway to long-term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as also for the larger West Asian region.

Narendra Modi, Indian prime minister

It is a recipe for continued aggression against the Palestinian people. Through this, Israel is attempting via the United States -- to impose what it could not achieve through war.

Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian group  
Of course, we want this plan to be implemented.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov



China welcomes and supports all efforts conducive to easing tensions between Palestine and Israel.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman  
Guo Jiakun

India, Bhutan to have rail connectivity

AFP, New Delhi

India and Bhutan will build the first cross-border railway lines connecting both countries, New Delhi announced Monday, with the \$454-million project to be completed in four years. Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri said his country, which is Bhutan’s main trading partner, “has played a vital role” in the

modernisation of the Himalayan kingdom’s infrastructure and economy.

An initial 69-kilometre railway, estimated to cost \$390 million, will connect India’s northeastern city of Kokrajhar to Bhutan’s Gelephu. A second 20-kilometre railway line, expected to cost 5.77 billion rupees, will link Bhutan’s of Samtse to Banarhat in eastern India.

INDONESIA SCHOOL COLLAPSE

3 killed, 38 missing

AFP, Sidoarjo

Searchers yesterday raced to rescue at least 38 people still believed trapped a day after the collapse of an under-construction Islamic school building in Indonesia that has already left three dead, authorities said.

Tearful families desperate for news of their loved ones crowded around the flattened multi-storey building, as rescuers navigated

a maze of concrete rubble in the town of Sidoarjo on Indonesia’s main Island Java.

The building gave way on Monday, where students were gathered for afternoon prayers, said local reports, citing a witness.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) spokesman Abdul Muhari said 38 people were still unaccounted for while 77 injured victims had been evacuated to several hospitals.



**Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)**  
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
[www.tcb.gov.bd](http://www.tcb.gov.bd)  
**Commercial Section**


**Invitation For Tender (National) for Purchase of**  
**(a) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) piece of Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar of 100gm**  
**(b) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) piece of Laundry Soap Bar of 125gm**  
**(c) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) packet of Synthetic Detergent Powder of 500gm**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1  | Ministry/Division  | Ministry of Commerce.  |
| 2  | Agency   | Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)  |
| 3  | Procuring Entity Name  | Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.  |
| 4  | Procuring Entity Code  | Not applicable.  |
| 5  | Procuring Entity District  | Dhaka.   |
| 6  | Invitation for   | a) Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar b) Laundry Soap Bar c) Synthetic Detergent Powder   |
| 7  | Invitation Ref. No.  | a) 26.05.0000.016.25.585.25.2559, b) 26.05.0000.016.25.585.25.2560, c) 26.05.0000.016.25.585.25.2561   |
| 8  | Date   | 30-09-2025   |
| <b>KEY INFORMATION</b>   |  |  |
| 9  | Procurement Method   | Open Tendering Method (OTM) (National)   |
| <b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>   |  |  |
| 10   | Budget and Source of Funds   | TCB's Own Fund.  |
| <b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>  |  |  |
| 11   | Tender Package No.   | a) TCB/Imp-12/ Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar/2025-26, b) TCB/Imp-12/ Laundry Soap Bar/2025-26, c) TCB/Imp-12/ Synthetic Detergent Powder/2025-26   |
| 12   | Tender Package Name  | a) Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar b) Laundry Soap Bar c) Synthetic Detergent Powder   |
| 13   | Tender Invitation/ Publication Date  | 01-10-2025   |
| 14   | Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time  | Date: 14-10-2025 Time: 17:00 P.M   |
| 15   | Tender Closing Date and Time   | 15-10-2025 12:00 P.M   |
| 16   | Tender Opening Date and Time   | 15-10-2025 12:15 P.M   |
| 17   | Name & Address of the office(s)  | Address  |
| - Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column. |  | (1) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.  |
| -Receiving Tender Document   |  | In front of TCB's reception (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.   |
| - Opening Tender Document  |  | Board Room, TCB.   |
| <b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>  |  |  |
| 18   | Brief Eligibility of Tenderer  | Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions have been mentioned in the Tender documents.  |
| 19   | Brief Description of goods   | a) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) piece Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar. Per piece net weight will be 100gm. Partial quantity is allowed but not less than 1,00,000 (One Lac) piece.<br>b) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) piece Laundry Soap Bar. Per piece net weight will be 125gm. Partial quantity is allowed but not less than 1,00,000 (One Lac) piece.<br>c) 5,00,000 (Five Lac) packet Synthetic Detergent Powder. Per packet net weight will be 500gm. Partial quantity is allowed but not less than 1,00,000 (One Lac) packet.   |
| 20   | Price of Tender Document   | Price of (a) Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (b) Laundry Soap Bar tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) & (c) Synthetic Detergent Powder tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand)  |
|  | Lot No.  | Identification of Lot  |
|  |  | Location   |
|  |  | Tender Security Amount (BDT)   |
|  |  | Supply Schedule  |
| 21   | 1.   | a) Toilet Soap (Beauty Soap) Bar<br>b) Laundry Soap Bar<br>c) Synthetic Detergent Powder   |
|  |  | Offers are to be made on TCB's Godowns of Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal, Moulvibazar, Mymensingh, Cumilla.  |
|  |  | Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to:<br>a) BDT 3,50,000 (BDT Three Lac Fifty Thousand) Only.<br>b) BDT 2,00,000 (BDT Two Lac) Only.<br>c) BDT 4,80,000 (BDT Four Lac Eighty Thousand) Only.<br><br>NB. In case of partial quantity tender security will be proportionate.<br><br>in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. After issuing NOA, the awardee is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the similar form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. |
|  |  | Entire quantity of Goods is to be supplied within<br><br>(a) 31-10-2025<br>(b) 31-10-2025<br>(c) 31-10-2025  |
| <b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>  |  |  |
| 22   | Name of Official Inviting Tender   | Md. Golam Khorshed   |
| 23   | Designation of Official Inviting Tender  | Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.   |
| 24   | Address of Official Inviting Tender  | Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  |
| 25   | Contact details of Official Inviting Tender  | Telephone No. 55014272 Fax No. 88-02-55014269 E-mail: tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd  |
| 26   | <b>Special Instruction</b><br>a) All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document.<br>b) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/in part without assigning any reason. |  |



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

GD-2139



**BANGLADESH BANK**  
**Human Resources Department-1**  
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.  
Website: [www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

**INVITATION FOR E-TENDER**

**Tender No: 60/2025** **Date: 29/09/2025**


Sealed Tenders are invited from the bonafide Service Providers/Contractors/Firms for "Operation & Management of Bangladesh Bank Child Day Care Centre including cooking foods, feeding & nursing children situated at Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka".

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 01 | Name of Procuring Entity                    | Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.   |
| 02 | Procurement Method                          | Open Tendering Method (OTM)   |
| 03 | Source of Fund                              | Bangladesh Bank Own Source.   |
| 04 | Name of the work                            | Operation & Management of Bangladesh Bank Child Day Care Centre including supply & cooking foods and feeding children   |
| 05 | Eligibility of Tenderer                     | This invitation for Tender is open to all having following eligibilities:-<br>(a) General experience: Minimum period of general experience is 05(five) years.<br>(b) Experience of Satisfactory work of <b>TK. 75,00,000.00 (Seventy five lac)</b> in single work order of child day care or similar work i.e. Old care in any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous/Registered Company over a period of 05(five) years. The Tenderer will have to furnish certificate in this regard issued by the concerned authority.<br>(c) Liquid assets/Credit facilities: Minimum liquid assets/ credit facilities will be <b>TK. 20,00,000.00 (Twenty Lac)</b> .<br>(d) Turnover: Minimum average annual turnover (best 03(three) years' average out of last 05 (five) years preceding the date of submission of the tender) will not be less than <b>TK. 70,00,000.00 (Seventy Lac)</b> .<br>(e) Will meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in tender document. |
| 06 | Amount of Tender Security                   | <b>TK.10,00,000/- (Ten Lac only)</b> (refundable).  |
| 07 | Address of Receiving Tender Document        | BB website ( <a href="https://etender.bb.org.bd">https://etender.bb.org.bd</a> )<br>Tender security has to be submitted to Director(HRD-1), Human Resources Department-1, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Main Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka along with signed original tender submission letter (PSN-1).   |
|    | Address of Opening Tender Document          | Director (HRD-1), Human Resources Department-1, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Main Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.   |
| 08 | Tender Closing Date and Time                | 28 /10/2025 up to 12.00 PM.   |
| 09 | Tender Opening Date and Time                | 28 /10/2025 at 12.15 PM (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend).  |
| 10 | Brief description of the work               | Operation & Management of Bangladesh Bank Child Day Care Centre including supplying & cooking foods, feeding children, performing responsibility of upbringing & developing children physically, mentally, psychologically, emotionally, morally, culturally and socially; providing scope for play, teaching with fun to explore their creativity and caring like a mother for all the children. Maintaining personal health & hygiene and provide first aid care for minor injuries and primary treatment for the children.   |
| 11 | Name of Official Inviting Tender            | Md. Zabdul Islam, Director(HRD-1)   |
| 12 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender     | Director(HRD-1)   |
| 13 | Contact details of Official Inviting Tender | Phone: +8802 9530492 E-mail: gm.hrd@bb.org.bd   |

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-২৬৫০  
তারিখঃ ৩০/৯/২০২৫

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা  
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।



Director(HRD-1)  
Phone: +8802 9530492,  
E-mail: gm.hrd@bb.org.bd

GD-2147



## EC must not allow any fake observer

Guidelines should be applied diligently in the screening process

Investigations conducted into the authenticity of election observers provisionally registered by the Election Commission (EC) by two Bangla dailies—*Prothom Alo* and *Samakal*—have been quite revealing. These investigations expose a startling failure of the EC to properly verify the expertise and capability of aspirant poll-monitoring organisations. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, the EC received 300 applications for enrolment as election observers. After initial scrutiny and some field-level verification, it published a preliminary list of 73 organisations deemed eligible for registration.

But barring a handful of exceptions, as both newspapers reveal, most of these organisations do not fulfil the required criteria for becoming election observers. Some exist only on paper; they could not be traced at their listed addresses. Quite a few are linked with political figures, which is clearly against the EC's prescribed preconditions. Unfortunately, this echoes the scandals of fake observers seen during the last three elections held under the previous regime of Sheikh Hasina. It may be recalled that in those elections, the phenomenon of fake observers was not confined to national boundaries but extended to groups imported from abroad.

The EC's guidelines on election observation clearly state that organisations registered with the government and engaged in promoting democracy, good governance, and human rights are eligible to apply for accreditation as poll monitors. They are also required to submit reports of their organisational activities over the past two years. The media probes show that the EC did not rigorously apply its own guidelines when compiling the preliminary list of observer organisations, whether due to its lack of capacity or negligence. Neither is acceptable, and this must be rectified immediately. Bangladesh cannot afford to let fake observers again distort the credibility of its elections.

There is little doubt that election observation by neutral monitors with expertise in detecting manipulation, undue interference, and partisan behaviour of polling officials is crucial for ensuring electoral credibility. The infiltration of fake observers into election processes is not unique to Bangladesh—it has become a global problem. National and international actors with vested interests often use fake observers to influence public perception of the fairness and quality of an election. As such practices pose a serious threat to democracy and may legitimise manipulated outcomes, a number of leading international and regional bodies have developed toolkits to detect and counter fake observers. The EC should consider seeking technical assistance on detecting such groups from international organisations, including the United Nations and the European Union.

Since 1991, Bangladesh has experienced both the best and the worst of election monitoring. With the weakening of democracy and rise of authoritarianism, we witnessed staged elections and the proliferation of fake observers. Following the student-led mass uprising of 2024, we hoped that such practices would not be repeated. We, therefore, urge the EC to diligently scrutinise the suitability and integrity of any potential poll monitoring organisation.

## Protect children from abuse, violence

State must ensure our children grow up in a safe environment

We are alarmed by how our children are increasingly becoming victims of physical and sexual abuse despite there being enough laws and policies to protect them. According to the Local Education and Economic Development Organization (LEEDO), child rape cases rose by nearly 75 percent in the first seven months of 2025 compared to the same period last year. Between January and July, 306 girls were raped, up from 175 in the same period of 2024 and already exceeding the year-total of 234, according to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). Moreover, there have been many instances of children being murdered or suffering abuse, including physical assault, sexual violence, and corporal punishment.

The recent rape of a teenage girl in Khagrachhari, the sexual assault of a 7-year-old madrasa student in Cumilla, and the rape of a 12-year-old domestic worker in Gaibandha are just some of the cases reported in the media. The list goes on. The question is: how long must our children grow up in such an unsafe environment?

Children are being abused not only outside but also within their own homes. According to UNICEF, nine out of 10 Bangladeshi children aged 1-14 experience violent discipline at home at least once a month, which is quite troubling. Unfortunately, such harmful practice of parental violence is rarely discussed in our society. Moreover, online abuse has also increased alarmingly with the growing internet usage among children. Incidents of children being exploited to create online content have also emerged in the media. Meanwhile, a 2025 study by SpringerLink found widespread physical abuse among child labourers in rural informal sectors. Additionally, child marriage remains a major driver of both physical and sexual abuse. The situation is disturbing.

We, therefore, urge the government to take decisive steps to reduce all forms of abuse and sexual harassment of children. It must ensure safe environments and counselling support in schools, implement effective monitoring to prevent domestic abuse, end child labour by providing families with social protection and alternatives, and prioritise the investigation and speedy trial of child sexual abuse and rape cases. Raising awareness among parents, teachers, and employers is also essential. Equally important is the role of the media in promoting child rights and protecting children's identities while covering incidents of abuse. With online abuse on the rise, cyber laws must also be strengthened, and child-friendly helplines established to prevent further harm. Without such decisive actions, the safety and future of our children will remain at grave risk.

# How to overcome the impasse on July Charter



Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir  
is professor in the Department of Development  
Studies at the University of Dhaka.

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The idea of what we now call the July National Charter was born of collective sacrifice. In the July uprising in 2024, many people gave their lives and many more were injured or braved the risks of repression and mortal danger, for nothing more radical than what should have been theirs by right. For 15 and a half years, their voices had been stifled, their votes suppressed, and their futures mortgaged by an extractive state. Through their sacrifices, they hoped that democracy could be restored, not as a hollow form but as a living practice.

The charter was supposed to have been adopted in July this year, but that moment passed without resolution. Instead, it remains stalled over disagreements on how it should be implemented. The term of the commission entrusted with building consensus has already been extended twice. With its tenure now stretched to October 15, the nation hopes the task will finally be completed. Otherwise, uncertainty may deepen and further political instability may follow.

### The lure of misplaced proposals

A pervasive sense of mistrust, fuelled more by political calculation than by reality, has paralysed the charter's progress. The current dispute is not about its content but about the mode of implementation. The anxiety that the party winning the next election will simply disregard the charter has been politically manufactured, providing cover for proposals that veer towards impractical or even dangerous shortcuts.

One such proposal is the adoption of proportional representation (PR) system. The PR system works in settings with strong institutions and independent electoral management bodies, developed after years of mature discourse. Bangladesh, by contrast, has weak institutions as well as an electoral administration still struggling to regain public trust. In such a context, PR has proven to

be rather destabilising. In Sri Lanka, for example, experimentation with mixed systems failed to reduce polarisation. In Nepal, PR produced fragile coalitions that collapsed repeatedly, with 13 administrations in just over a decade since 2008, not counting the current one that emerged from a recent mass uprising.

Another suggestion is for the charter to be enacted through a decree or “constitutional order” by the interim government. While superficially appealing, such an approach suffers from a legitimacy deficit. International experience demonstrates that extra-constitutional decrees often backfire. In Pakistan, the state's repeated resort to constitutional orders by military-backed regimes eroded democratic institutions. In Latin America, presidential decrees imposed without parliamentary oversight triggered prolonged constitutional crises.

### Constituent power of the people

The interim government, with the Supreme Court's advisory reference under Article 106 of the constitution, operates under the doctrine of necessity, since power cannot remain in a vacuum after the fall of a discredited regime. The constitution remains in force, neither suspended nor abrogated. This is, therefore, not a revolutionary government.

The constituent power lies with the people, and it is through elections that this power is to be exercised. Any attempt to bypass electoral and parliamentary legitimacy would contradict the very spirit of the July uprising, which sought to reclaim democracy, not dilute it. A durable settlement, therefore, requires a return to the ballot box.

Therefore, a decent way forward is to place the charter before the people. There could be a referendum on the consensus points, which would give it unassailable legitimacy, after which the next parliament could

implement its provisions if endorsed. On contentious issues where political parties disagree, the electorate must arbitrate through their votes on party manifestos. This is the essence of democratic politics: compromise in some areas, contestation in others, with the people serving as the final judge.

A legal nuance can be advanced here. Some provisions of the charter touch upon the “basic structure” of the constitution. Jurisprudence across South Asia, most famously the Indian Supreme Court's *Kesavananda Bharati* case of 1973, holds that the basic structure cannot be altered by ordinary amendment. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has also adopted similar reasoning.

according to an estimate by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). Meanwhile, youth unemployment is escalating, with one in three graduates remaining jobless for up to two years, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' recent Labour Force Survey. Inflation has eroded real wages, particularly in the informal sector that sustains about 85 percent of the workforce. Global experience shows that prolonged political paralysis under such economic stress risks social unrest. Bangladesh cannot afford another erosion.

### Election is the only way out

The July Charter embodies the people's aspirations for a democratic, accountable and inclusive polity.



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

To overcome this, the referendum could include a clause asking for authorisation for the next parliament to amend those provisions relating to the basic structure.

Comparative experiences reinforce the importance of sequencing reform through electoral legitimacy. In Egypt, President Mohamed Morsi's attempt to impose constitutional changes by decree in 2012 sparked mass protests and political turmoil, contributing to his ouster and paving the way for renewed authoritarianism. The lesson is clear: legitimacy cannot be manufactured; it must be conferred through votes.

The danger of delay in this regard cannot be overstated. The country's economic condition is deteriorating. Extreme poverty has risen to 9.35 percent this year,

But those aspirations will remain unfulfilled if the charter is held hostage to mistrust or political manoeuvring. The process has already run past its original July deadline, so October 15 must mark the point of its completion. Anything less would prolong uncertainty, weaken public confidence, and risk squandering the momentum of the uprising.

The charter must not be imposed or toyed with; it must be owned and respected. That ownership comes only through the constituent power of the people. An election, to be held in the first week of February through consensus and with the charter as the central agenda, is the only viable path to overcome the impasse. This is a historic opportunity to unlock Bangladesh's untapped democratic potential.

# When the law of the crowd takes over



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specialising in world history, with a focus on  
South Asian migration.

TAHSINA NASIR

It often starts with a whisper. The whisper grows louder, the crowd gathers, and soon, violence erupts. By the time the police arrive, if they arrive at all, someone suffers serious injuries; sometimes, a life is lost. Since the July uprising, Bangladesh has witnessed scenarios like these repeatedly. Very recently, in Narayanganj, a suspected thief was beaten to death before law enforcement could intervene. In Bogura, a rumour of blasphemy sparked deadly violence that left a man dead and shops destroyed. On the outskirts of Dhaka, political disputes spilled into mob attacks. Together, these incidents tell a deeper story of a nation grappling with fear and uncertainty.

History shows that mob violence is not unique to Bangladesh. Communities under stress have long lashed out at their own. In 1692, in Salem, Massachusetts, US, fear of disease and religious anxiety turned neighbours against each other. Accusations of witchcraft spread, trials were staged, and more than 20 innocent people were executed. The trials were never truly about “witches.” They were about a community overwhelmed by fear and desperate to reassert control. A century later, revolutionary France followed a similar path. The monarchy fell, but joy gave way to paranoia. Fear transformed into the Reign of Terror.

Thousands were executed, not just as punishment but as public reassurance. The people, unable to shake their dread, tried to find safety in blood. Both Salem and Paris reveal the same pattern. When fear dominates, societies look for scapegoats. Violence becomes a way to quiet anxiety, even as it tears communities apart.

**A crowd lynching a man in a marketplace is not only committing violence; it is claiming authority, declaring who belongs and who does not. When state institutions falter, this diffuse power takes over. Fear and rumour become the new law.**

French philosopher Michel Foucault helps us see why. In *Madness and Civilization*, he explained that societies mark certain people as “dangerous” not only because of what they have done but because punishing them reassures everyone else. Excluding or attacking them draws a symbolic line between order and disorder. Foucault also reminded us that power does not belong only to kings or governments. It seeps into everyday life. It is exercised in schools, workplaces, and, in times of chaos, in mobs. A crowd lynching a man in a marketplace is not only committing violence; it is claiming authority,

police. And as faith erodes, reliance on mob action grows. It is a vicious cycle in which fear fuels violence and violence deepens fear.

History warns us of the cost of leaving fear untreated. Salem destroyed its own trust before realising the frenzy had gone too far. Revolutionary France spiralled into terror, and in the end, exhausted citizens gave up freedom for Napoleon's authoritarian stability. Violence meant to reassure ended up suffocating liberty. Bangladesh must not repeat those mistakes. The answer cannot only be force. Policing mobs is necessary, but why mobs form must also be addressed. The deeper task is to rebuild trust so people no

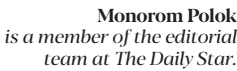
longer feel compelled to take justice into their own hands. That means institutions must work faster and more fairly. Communities must also play a role. Schools and universities can equip young people with the skills to question rumours, test information, and resist mob mentality. A generation trained to pause before condemning is less likely to join in violence.

Perhaps the most important step is to recognise that mob violence is not just about crime. It is also about fear and psychological stress. Economic hardship, political upheaval, and long-term frustration create a climate where people act on dread rather than reason. To treat mob violence only as a legal problem is to miss the root of the issue. Bangladesh must begin to treat mental health as part of its national resilience. Counselling services should be expanded in schools, workplaces, and local clinics. Public awareness campaigns can challenge the stigma around seeking help. Community dialogues can give people safe spaces to express grievances before they erupt.

The July uprising showed the power of ordinary people to demand change. But the harder test comes now. Can that power be turned into stability? If Bangladesh can rebuild institutions that deliver justice fairly, if communities can speak against rumours before they escalate, and if citizens are given the tools and support to process uncertainty without violence, then this moment need not be remembered for mob killings. But if fear is left to spread, whispers will keep turning into shouts, and shouts into blows. The uprising will then be remembered not for what it promised but for what it lost. Bangladesh must decide whether it will let crowds rule through fear, or whether it will build the trust and resilience needed for lasting freedom.



# Dhaka is not for old people, but it is their city too



The first obstacle is mobility. We are

Once we reach the bank, a new challenge begins. Often there is a lot of walking, waiting in queues, and going from one counter to another. Some people do try to be mindful of his age and limited mobility and help as much as possible, but the truth is most places in this city simply aren't designed with elderly people in mind.



Affordable home-based medical check-ups that are so vital for those with mobility

Perhaps what's the most heartbreaking for people like my grandfather is loneliness. While he lives with us, his daughter and grandchildren, that is the full extent of his social life. He calls relatives occasionally, but

To truly honour our elders, we must do more than care for them. We must uphold their rights, protect their dignity, and let their voices be heard in decision making. From designing accessible buildings and transport systems to reforming bureaucratic processes and healthcare, we need policies that reflect the reality of ageing. We must end age discrimination and build communities where everyone, regardless of their age, can live with dignity, purpose, and opportunities. If we begin to see our elderly citizens as central to our shared future rather than “burden” from the past, we will not only make their lives better, but make our society more humane, more inclusive, and as a consequence be more prepared for our own future.

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Although tariffs are collected at the border, their impact passes through wholesalers and retailers, resulting in higher prices for shoppers. Importers push part of the duty forward while pressing

If there were any doubt about these possibilities, model-based exercises provide confirmation. A recent assessment by Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), drawing on simulations with the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) framework, shows the US apparel market may shrink by around 12 percent, equivalent to nearly \$10 billion. Bangladesh's shipments to the US are set to fall by

Trade negotiations form another strand of response.

# Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Controller of Stores (East)

Bangladesh Railway  
CRB, Chattogram-4000.  
www.railway.gov.bd

No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-

Dated: 29-09-2025

## e-Tender Notice

Notice no-54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02

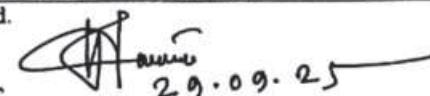
## Amendment/Corrigendum

e-Tender is invited in the National eGP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) by Controller of Stores (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram (Tender ID: 1142053) for the Procurement of Goods as stated below:

| Description   | Old Value   | New Value   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Experience Criteria</b>  | <p>(a) <b>General Experience:</b> The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 3 (THREE) years.</p> <p>(b) <b>Specific Experience:</b> The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods (similar goods means any Mechanical Item for Bangladesh Railway) of at least 1 (ONE) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 (THREE) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 74 (Seventy Four) LAKH).</p> <p>Documentary Evidence for Specific Experience i.e. R.Note, Completion certificate must be submitted along with tender.</p> <p>c) <b>Supply and/or Production capacity:</b> The minimum supply and/or production capacity of Goods is/ are: 850 Kg Per Month.</p> <p>Liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line: The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 95 (Ninety Five) Lakh)</p> | <p>(a) <b>General Experience:</b> The Tenderer Shall have a minimum 03 (Three) years General/Overall Experience in Supply of goods and related services. Documentary evidence (Completion Certificate from the end user) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website</p> <p>(b) <b>Specific Experience:</b> Specific Experience in supply of similar goods (similar goods means any Mechanical Item for Railway Rolling Stocks) at least 01 (ONE) Contract successfully completed within the last 03 (THREE) years each with a value of at least Tk 5500000.00 (Fifty Five lakh). Documentary evidence (Completion certificate) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website.</p> <p>(c) <b>Supply and/or Production capacity:</b> Supply and/or Production capacity: 10000 kgs per year.</p> <p>Liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line: The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 6000000.00 (Sixty Lakh)</p> |
| <b>The Tenderer shall submit with its e-Tender the following additional documents</b> | <p>1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter for the Offered Goods</p> <p>2) Proof of Successful Acceptance of the Similar Goods by the procuring Entity as mentioned as the specific experience criteria.</p>   | <p>1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter or Distributor's Authorization Letter for the Tendered Items. In Case of Authorized Dealer/Distributor, Dealership/Distributorship Certificate must be submitted.</p> <p>2) Valid ISO 9001 certificate or any other International Quality Assurance Organization's Certificate for the Manufacturer must be submitted. The scope of the certificate must be related to the tendered goods.</p> <p>3) Manufacturer's and their Authorized Distributor's address, email and telephone number should be stated clearly in consent letter.</p> <p>NOTE: All submitted Documents shall be Verified by PE in Tender Evaluation.</p>   |

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

S(25)(65)

✓   
29.09.25

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

☎ 01711-692931

GD-2143



BLENDER'S CHOICE-THE DAILY STAR OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS

Celebrating the unprecedented success

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Yesterday felt special, as winners of *Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2024* gathered for an afternoon filled with warmth and laughter. The winners came together under one roof at The Daily Star office, not just to share a meal, but also to relive those unforgettable award moments through the newly released supplement.

The room was vibrant with familiar faces. From celebrated actors like Runa Khan, Zinnat Ara, and director Kajal Arefin Ome with his 'Bachelor Point' team Marzuk Russell, Saidur Rahman Pavel, Touhid Talukder, Chashi Alam, Sanzida Mahmood Nandita, Angel Noor, Sadat Hossain and Priyontee Urbee—to the talented technicians Zannat Mouri, Shihab Nurun Nabi, Saleh Sobhan



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Auneem, and designer Safia Sathi. Influencer Nafees Salim also joined, adding to the cheerful atmosphere. The afternoon began with a heartfelt

welcome from Aasha Mehreen Amin, Joint Editor of The Daily Star, who expressed her gratitude to all the winners for joining the lunch. The event ended on

a high note with Angel Noor mesmerising everyone with his soulful rendition of Jodi Abar.

Between laughter and conversations, Runa Khan reflected on the joy of reconnecting after the awards: "The food was great, and the company, even better. It was wonderful to see everyone again after the event. I couldn't have asked for a better evening."

Designer Safia Sathi also shared her excitement at seeing her creations showcased in the OTT supplement: "It feels amazing to see my designs being featured so beautifully. I loved working with this award show, and my heart was full watching all of the hosts wear my designs this year."

Amid the hearty lunch, everyone came together to enjoy a wonderful time, even as Dhaka's rainy weather lingered outside.

## Def Leppard to receive star on Hollywood Walk of Fame this October

Def Leppard will receive the 2,825th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on October 9, at 11:30 am PT, in front of Capitol Records at 1750 N. Vine Street.

The ceremony will feature Jon Bon Jovi and Universal Music Enterprises CEO Bruce Resnikoff as guest speakers, hosted by Sirius XM's Bob Buchmann, with a live stream available worldwide.

The honour follows the

‘Ontoheen’ heads to South Korea’s prestigious arts platform

Katthakiya Center of Arts has earned a significant international milestone as its acclaimed production *Ontoheen* has been selected to participate in the '2025 Next-Generation Asian Artistes Community Initiative – Beyond Borders: Asia's New Wave', organised by the Asian Culture Center in South Korea.

Chosen after a rigorous evaluation process, *Ontoheen* will be staged on October 3, representing Bangladesh at one of Asia's most dynamic cultural platforms.

The team is led by Katthakiya's founder and director, S M Hasan Ishtiaque Imran, and features three distinguished independent artistes – Anandita Khan, Asif Muhammed



Musaddeque, and Annessha Biswas Agni. Together, they will bring Bangladeshi theatre to the international stage, carrying the nation's artistic spirit beyond borders.

Alongside their performance, the troupe will also take part in a series of workshops designed to foster cultural exchange, dialogue, and collaboration among emerging Asian artists, creating opportunities for new creative connections.

With this selection, Katthakiya Center of Arts not only celebrates its own achievement but also strengthens Bangladesh's presence in the global arts scene.

NEWS

Economic recovery at risk from tariffs

FROM PAGE 12  
governance reform."

The ADB highlighted Washington's August decision to impose a 20 percent tariff on Bangladeshi exports as a threat to external performance. These exports amounted in FY2025 to 18 percent of total exports and 1.9 percent of GDP.

The tariffs could undermine the country's dominant garment sector, a key driver of export earnings and employment. The ADB warned that the tariffs would disproportionately affect women workers. While less stringing than those applied to India or China, they could erode demand for Bangladeshi exports to the US.

Industrial output is also expected to grow more slowly due to the US tariffs, the ADB said.

"In addition, exports to the European Union will face stiffer competition, forcing exporters to lower prices unless they diversify markets, pursue new trade agreements, and enhance competitiveness," the report said.

Despite these risks, the ADB expects modest economic acceleration

compared with last fiscal year's sluggish pace. Consumption will be the main growth driver in FY26, with public consumption rising ahead of the elections. Imports are expected to increase as the central bank lifts restrictions on letters of credit.

Services are also expected to expand, supported by stronger household purchasing power and election-related spending. Agriculture should return to more normal growth, "assuming favourable weather and government policy support."

Tight monetary and fiscal policies could dampen both private and public investment, but investor confidence should improve with the general election planned for February and finance sector reforms ongoing.

Inflation, meanwhile, is projected to stay elevated at 8 percent in FY26, unchanged from the ADB's April forecast.

"Inflationary pressures are likely to moderate, assuming favourable weather, lower global oil prices despite Middle East conflict, and tighter monetary and fiscal stances," the

report said.

The central bank has pledged to maintain restrictive policies, focusing on inflation control. It is expected to keep policy rates steady unless headline inflation falls below 7 percent.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday agreed with the ADB's 5 percent GDP growth projection but rejected its inflation forecast.

"I'll be happy if growth reaches 5 percent. But inflation will be below 7 percent," he told reporters in Dhaka.

He said inflation could be contained with proper budget monitoring and easing supply constraints.

"It is true that during election time, more money flows into the market. People won't just have tea and snacks anymore – they'll go for 7 Up and chicken fry."

Ahmed added this surge in consumption is not negative as it benefits rural communities. "The US economy grew on high consumption. This isn't bad – but we must secure both food and non-food supply chains."

Little headway made in stolen arms recovery

FROM PAGE 12  
in whose hands the missing weapons have ended up.

"Some may have gone to separatist groups, some to hill people, and some possibly to groups like ARSA. These are all possibilities, and we are working on every lead," he said while speaking at a press briefing at the PHQ.

**NO LICENCES AHEAD OF POLLS**  
The government has suspended the issuance of new firearm licences before the next election, expected in February.

"In view of the upcoming election, we are not issuing firearm licences to anyone except members of the armed forces, certain high-ranking officials, and for bank security," said a district deputy commissioner.

After August 5, Dhaka's administration issued about 45 licences.

Between 2009 and 2024, the Awami League government issued some 17,200 firearm licences. The interim administration suspended these and ordered surrender of the weapons by September 3, 2024. Of these, 13,340 were deposited while 3,860 were not.

Those not surrendered are now deemed illegal, with police drives under way to recover them.

After scrutiny, the government has so far returned around 3,000 weapons submitted last year.

Officials confirmed that no more arms would be returned before the polls, and even those released could be asked to return.

Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Ahmed said, "We are discouraging civilian applicants for new licences unless there is an urgent and unavoidable need."

**LICENCES CANCELLED**  
The home ministry has cancelled 1,177 licences, mostly linked to AL politicians and businesspersons. The highest number of cancellations was in Dhaka 796, followed by Pabna 141, Chattogram 73, Jashore 66, Sylhet 63, and Cox's Bazar 38.A

Police officials said many licence holders have left the country, while others are hiding. Several claimed their weapons were stolen during the uprising.

Sources confirmed that AL leaders, including Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Nizam Uddin Hazari, Shamim Osman, Kamal Ahmed Mojumder, Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, and Gazi Golam Dastagir, failed to deposit their arms within the deadline.

**SECURITY THREAT**  
Experts warn that the large number of

missing firearms poses serious risks ahead of the polls. This raises fears of violence, political intimidation, and crime.

Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research, said, "The reward initiative is a good idea, but it may not be effective now since a year has passed. These firearms were looted by criminals and used or rented out for crimes. They may have been kept in stock to create instability before the election."

Police say their challenge is twofold – recovering looted arms and cracking down on illegal possession of once-licensed weapons.

"The unrecovered arms and illegally keeping licenced ones is a major security concern. Unless there is strong cooperation from the public, recovery will remain slow," said a senior officer, wishing not to be named.

Asked if the missing weapons pose a threat ahead of polls, Additional IG Rafiqul Islam said, "Illegal arms are already available in the black market. But carrying high-powered, long-barrelled firearms openly is not so easy. So, I don't think the missing weapons create any new kind of fear."

## JOY SHAHRIAR releases ‘Tomake Bhulte Shomoy Lagbe’ from upcoming album ‘Boka’

After six years, singer-songwriter Joy Shahriar is releasing his fifth studio album *Boka*, featuring eight tracks, with the first release, *Tomake Bhulte Shomoy Lagbe*, now available on his official YouTube channel.

Shahriar wrote and composed the track, incorporating the final line from late poet-filmmaker Abul Hossain Khokon's poem: *Tomake bhulte arektu shomoy lagbe amar*. He dedicated the song to Khokon calling him *Mama*.

The album includes *Dukkho Elegy*, *Ekla Thakar Gaan*, *Baba*, and *Shopno Protarito*. Musicians featured are Tanim Hasan and Maruf-ul Haque on bass, Mahaan Fahim, Ahnaf Khan Anik, Ontu Das, and Michael Shirsho Das on guitars, Rafiqul Islam Forhad on keyboards, and Jalal Ahmed on flute. Sound design is by Amjad Hossain Bappi. All eight songs will be released on streaming platforms this November.

Lifting ban on AL activities

FROM PAGE 12  
not behaving as a political party.

"They have not expressed remorse that they have killed people. They have not taken responsibility for anything that they have done during this period. Not a word. Instead, they're always alleging that somebody else is responsible for that," he said.

**'STAY 5 YEARS'**  
During the interview, Mehdi questioned the interim government's time in power, asking why it is taking too long – 18 months – to hold the election while Nepal's interim leader promised to hand over power after six months.

Yunus replied, "You said people are saying it takes so much time. There are also people who say, 'Stay 5 years, stay 10 years, stay 50 years.' So, people are saying all kinds of things."

He said no one defined how long the interim government should be in power. "It's our decision how long we should be there. But we have an understanding that we have three tasks to perform. One's reform. And there's a trial. The last one is election."

The chief adviser said reform was a

"big agenda" to have "a different kind of structure that will block the path for "fascism to come back".

If the election is held without the reforms, the "same old stuff will happen again under different names, different pictures and so on", he said.

**ATTACKS ON HINDUS**  
The chief adviser dismissed the allegation that violence targeting Hindus increased since he took charge after the uprising.

"One of the specialties of India right now is fake news. A barrage of fake news," he claimed.

Mehdi then asked if Yunus was insisting that there is no anti-Hindu violence.

At that, the chief adviser said there were "some conflicts" that were not communal in nature, but related to issues like land and family disputes.

When Mehdi noted that The New York Times and other independent media have reported that attacks on Hindus have increased, Yunus said, "No, it has not increased. I would say [the] government is very alert on that one because this is the one thing India is always pushing that we are..."

Social bonds

FROM PAGE 12  
age, says the research published in the journal Brain, Behavior & Immunity – Health.

Researchers analysed data from more than 2,100 people who participated in a study called the Midlife in the United States.

They noted that people with greater "cumulative social advantage" showed slower rates of biological ageing and reduced levels of chronic inflammation. "Cumulative social advantage is really about the depth and breadth of your social connections over a lifetime," study co-author Anthony Ong said.

The study focuses in particular on the body's epigenetic clocks, which are molecular markers that estimate how quickly one is ageing. Two such clocks are DunedinPACE and GrimAge.

These markers on the DNA are among the best predictors of disease risk and lifespan, the study explains.

The participants with consistent social networks showed notably younger biological profiles on both these body clocks.



Taslima Islam, chief executive at Bela, said poor enforcement, manpower shortages, and overlapping jurisdictions worsen the crisis. "We need a holistic approach to tackle pollution."

# PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 1



|        | Fazr | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN   | 4-45 | 12-45 | 4-15 | 5-53    | 7-30 |
| JAMAAT | 5-20 | 1-15  | 4-30 | 5-56    | 8-00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Nosimons, vans, battery-run autorickshaws and other locally made vehicles ply the highways and main roads around Rajshahi city. They often try to squeeze through small gaps between buses and trucks, but frequently end up in accidents. Despite repeated warnings from the authorities, the owners of these vehicles refuse to comply. The photo was taken from the Mohonpur area recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

# COX'S BAZAR SADAR HOSPITAL

## ICU limps on amid fund, staff crisis

## MOKAMMEL SHUVO, COX'S BAZAR

The intensive care unit at the 250-bed Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital is now running at limited capacity due to strained funding and shortage of manpower.

The hospital originally had no ICU facility in its organogram. During the pandemic, UNHCR and WHO helped establish the unit in June 2020 under a project, equipping it with 18 modern ICU beds, syringe pumps, PEEP machines, CPAP machines, portable ultrasound and X-ray machines, and adequate medicines.

Initially, the ICU had 14 doctors, 24 nurses and other staffers. Later, 20 more beds were added, while staff strength rose to 125, including 26 doctors and 29 nurses.

Until June 2022, the unit remained fully operational. From July that year, the number of beds was reduced to 10. With financial support from the IOM, 10 doctors and 26 nurses continued to serve.

The project was scheduled to end in June 2024 but was extended until September that

year at the hospital's request.

After the funding stopped, most doctors and nurses gradually left, leaving the ICU functional with limited resources.

At present, the ICU is operating with only six beds, seven doctors and 16 nurses.

Four doctors from the project are serving without pay, while three others have been assigned from the hospital's revenue stream to keep the facility running for the past three months, said Dr Kafil Uddin Abbas, in-charge

of the ICU.

With no active project funding now, medicine and manpower provided by the government are keeping the unit running, but none of the staff receive salaries.

Many nurses and staff have left due to unpaid wages.

Some equipment, including portable X-ray and ultrasound machines, remains non-functional due to lack of maintenance.

Hospital superintendent Dr Mounq Ting Neo said, "Through different sources of medicine and manpower, we have kept the ICU services running. Soon, with support from the World Bank and IOM, a fully functional 10-bed ICU will become operational. Recruitment and other preparations are ongoing."

“Cox’s Bazar has around 3 million residents and 1.5 million Rohingya refugees. Thousands of tourists also visit each year. Given these numbers, a hospital capable of providing advanced medical care is crucial. Without a modern facility, patients would have to travel at least six hours to Chattogram, which is extremely risky for critically ill patients,” he added.

# Punish rapists

**FROM PAGE 3**  
The citizens expressed concern that the home adviser had neither visited the violence site nor taken action, instead advising the indigenous community to remain calm, which they described as “shirking responsibility”.

They said decades of discrimination against indigenous communities in the CHT remain unaddressed, and basic security continues to be denied despite the stated goals of the interim government.

The statement placed five demands: arrest and punishment of rape suspects and perpetrators of violence; a transparent judicial probe into the rape, killings, and arson, alongside a commission to probe excessive force by law enforcement; protection and compensation for victims and families; medical and rehabilitation support; and a review of CHT policy through a political process involving the army, ministries, indigenous representatives, experts, and civil society to develop short, medium, and long-term strategies for sustainable peace.

Signatories include economist Prof Anu Muhammad, rights activists Sultana Kamal and Nur Khan, TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzaman, former adviser Rasheda K Choudhury, lawyer ZI Khan Panna, ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, and writer Rehenuma Ahmed.

In another statement, 41 eminent citizens also expressed shock over the incidents and violent clashes, saying at least 30 indigenous people were injured, with allegations of excessive force by law enforcement.

Their demands largely echoed the first statement, including justice for the survivor, protection of victims, an independent inquiry into police action, punishment of perpetrators, compensation, ending "covert state support" to anti-indigenous groups, and ensuring the rights and dignity of indigenous people.

Signatories include  
photographer Shahidul  
Alam, journalist Saydia  
Gulrukh, musician Bithi  
Ghosh, writer Firoz Ahmed,  
Dhaka University teachers

**According to the statement, these incidents reveal a recurring pattern of looting and arson of indigenous homes, and killings of indigenous people by law enforcement, while perpetrators from the settler community face no action.**

Samina Luthfa, Moshahida  
Sultana, Rushad Faridi,  
and Tasneem Mahboob,  
and lawyers Barrister Sara  
Hossain and Manzur Al  
Matin.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord Implementation Movement held a rally at Shahbagh in Dhaka, demanding swift trial of the perpetrators, protection for the survivor, compensation for victims, and full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

Speakers included BSD leader Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Dhaka University Prof Khairul Islam Chowdhury, and student leader Numongpru Marma.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Integrated Services and Livelihood Improvement Project (ISLIP)

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)

DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sarani,

Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Memo: 46.03.2600.546.14.93.2025-30

Date: 28/09/2025

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR  
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGN, MONITORING, AND SUPERVISION (Firms selection)**

[Quality and Cost-Based Selection] [National] [Time based]

**Project Title:** "Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project"

**Assignment:** Consultancy Services for Design, monitoring, and Supervision

**Package No:** S-01/ DPHE

- The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a grant [Grant No-0000] and loan (Loan No.-0000) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to partly finance the approved "Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project". Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under Local Government Division of ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives (LGRD&C) will implement the project. There will be improvement/ construction of infrastructure including a water treatment plant, water transmission line, and distribution network, mini-piped water supply system etc. Part of the project financing (grant) will be used to engage a Design, Monitoring, And Supervision Consulting Services firm for DPHE.
- The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of "Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project", DPHE now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed eligible national consulting firms ("the interested Consultant") for short-listing in order to provide consulting services in the area of "Consultancy Services for Design, monitoring, and Supervision". The PIU of "Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project" is going to initiate the procurement process of the above-mentioned package. This is to be noted that, the "Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project" will be a continuation of the "Emergency Assistance Project (EAP), DPHE Part".
- The scope of the consulting services ("the Services") is to assist the PIU in Procurement, Contract Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Supervision; with Safeguards, Environmental Management Plan, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan; in Financial Management; to Undertake Due Diligence for Proposed Subprojects as outlined in the Development Project Proposal (DPP) of GOB and Project Administrative Manual (PAM) of ADB including feasibility study for further scope of investment by additional financing.
- The main objectives of the service are (i) to support O&M of built service under EAP (including additional finance); review and update the design, estimate, specification and bidding document (as necessary); support to procurement; finalize the safeguard document, due diligence report; supervision of the project components; and (ii) to conduct feasibility study, design; prepare estimate, specification and bidding document; support to procurement; prepare the safeguard document, due diligence report; and supervision of the project components. Details tasks and responsibilities of Consultant are available in Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Services.
- The Evaluation Committee of PIU will conduct the short-listing along with ranking of the interested consulting firms for the Services. The firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The key qualifications and experiences of the Consulting firms required are as follows:

The following lists of competencies are required to be shortlisted of Firms on reviewing EOI documents:

- Shall be registered as company/consulting firm having legally established office in its country of business; these shall be supported by proven document(s) i.e., certification of incorporation/ registration from the competent authority (ies). In case of Firm registered in Bangladesh shall provide proven documents of valid Trade License, Tax Identification Number (TIN) Business Identification Number (BIN) with latest tax payment certificate and online VAT registration certificate.
- Shall have minimum of 5-years of experience in Drinking Water Supply related project service and related supervision;
- Shall have at least one contract of similar nature of services of value of minimum equivalent to BDT 13,00,00,000 (Thirteen Crore) successfully carried out within the last three years-counted backward from the date of publication of Request for EOI, in any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Organization. Similar nature of work will mean that the Firm holds working experience on Drinking Water Supply related project as Design, Monitoring and Supervision Consultant. (Only relevant experiences documents shall have to be submitted with the EOI)

- Shall provide availability of appropriate skills among staff with demonstrated corporate capability in performing such assignment, provided with a list of key professionals with their nature of association with the Firm;
- Shall provide corporate financial capacity of the Firm (Annual turnover and financial information supported by audited reports and financial statement for at least three years over the past five years- counted backward from the date of publication of Request for EOI);
- Must provide/propose a Consultants as stipulated in the TOR. A short description on key expert's qualifications and experiences is desirable. **The detailed CV of the expert is not encouraged to submit with EOI-** as such CV will be required with the proposal submission stage.
- Technical Competence: General experience, specific experience in similar assignments. Similarity of assignment will be based on the following two parameters:
    - design review/ detailed design and project management consulting services with comparable scale and technical specifications. Firms with previous experience in working with Displaced People from Myanmar will be given preference;
    - prepare feasibility study report for large projects and other related documents for project preparation and execution like- specification and bidding documents, safeguard document, different types of due diligence report etc.
  - Geographic Experience: Experience in similar geographic area (Rohinga Camp Area in Bangladesh);
  - Summary of relevant permanent professional employees and resource persons;
  - Experience in working with Multilateral Development Banks (i.e. ADB, World Bank etc.).
- Expected date for commencement of the Services is April 01, 2026 and it is to be implemented over 30 (Thirty) calendar months from the commencement date.
- The Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method following the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).
- According to the latest ADB procurement regulations, the REOI for this Consultant Service will be available electronically in the ADB Consultant Management System (CMS) which can be accessed through the following link:  
[https://selfservice.adb.org/OA\\_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsmFwd.jsp?sel=215924](https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsmFwd.jsp?sel=215924)  
The interested consulting firms are hereby advised to access the REOI through the above link. If any contradiction is found between ADB CMS website notice and newspapers & other website notice, the information on CMS notice shall prevail. The Consultants shall have to submit their EOIs electronically through the ADB CMS by 11:59 PM (Manila local time) on 30 October 2025. For technical inquiries/assistance, the interested consulting firms may seek advice by emailing to the following email address: [cmshelp@adb.org](mailto:cmshelp@adb.org).
- Offline submission of EOIs Address is: One Original and Two photocopy of the EOI shall have to submit to Level-6, DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shahid Capt. Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka.
- A Consulting Firm may associate with other firms to enhance its qualifications, clearly indicating whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy. In case of a JV, all the partners in the JV shall be individually and jointly liable for the entire contract. The EOI should mention the qualifications and experiences of each member of the association as well as contribution of each member in delivering the Services. If a Joint Venture submits an EOI, they must submit a Memo of Intent to form a Joint Venture that explicitly identifies the lead entity entitled to conduct all business on behalf of the joint venture and commits to submitting a joint venture agreement on required terms and conditions if shortlisted.
- The Consulting services contract award and signing will be subject to ADB's approval. The EOI submitted by a consulting firm will be rejected if it or its associated firm has been debarred by GoB or the ADB.
- Further information can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below during office hours preferably by email.
- The Client will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI.
- The Client reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

  
(Mohammad Golam Muktar)  
Project Director

Integrated Services and Livelihood Improvement Project for  
Host Communities and Displaced People from Myanmar  
Email: [miltonbuet@yahoo.com](mailto:miltonbuet@yahoo.com)





“We will remain committed to the path of peaceful development, and join hands with all people around the world in building a community with a shared future for humanity.” President Xi Jinping

76 years of endeavor, 50 years of partnership — Together for a Better and Shared Future of China and Bangladesh



This October marks the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Bangladesh.

The year 2025 is of great significance and far-reaching impact for China. Over the past five years, the Communist Party of China with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has exercised overall leadership and provided strong guidance, while the entire nation has united together and worked in solidarity to concentrate on its own tasks. Not only has China withstood immense pressure and overcome severe tests, but also achieved significant progress in economic and social development. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), China's gross domestic product (GDP) has maintained an average annual growth rate of 5.5%, with

the total reaching approximately US\$19 trillion, while consistently contributing around 30% to world economic growth. China has become the most stable, reliable and positive force for global development.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Chinese President Xi Jinping solemnly reaffirmed that "the Chinese people firmly stand on the right side of history and the progress of human civilization. We will remain committed to the path of peaceful development, and join hands with all peoples around the world in building a community with a shared future for humanity." 80 years ago, with huge national sacrifice, the Chinese people made major contributions to save human civilization and safeguard world peace. Today, among the world's major countries, China has the best track record with respect to peace and security. It created the miracle of eliminating absolute poverty, and has always been a force for global peace, stability and progress.

The year 2025 is also a crucial year for the international community. It marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The world today is undergoing accelerated changes unseen in a century, with frequent regional turmoil, impeded economic development, gaps in rules and rule of law, and an intensifying deficit in governance. Humanity again has to choose between peace and war, dialogue and confrontation, win-win cooperation and zero-sum game. Upholding peace and development, safeguarding the U.N. Charter, and defending international fairness and justice are not only the urgent expectations of the international community, but also our shared responsibility.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Tianjin Summit, President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Governance Initiative(GGI). The five core concepts of the GGI, namely, adhere to sovereign equality, abide by international law, practice multilateralism, advocate the people-centered approach, and focus on taking



real actions, are in line with the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. The GGI complements the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative, injects stability and certainty into a turbulent world, and further contributes Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to improving global governance. China solemnly proclaimed to the world a few days ago that, as a responsible major developing country, China will not seek new special and differential treatment in current and future negotiations at the WTO. This move stands as a testament to China's resolve to safeguard the multilateral trading system and advance relevant global initiatives, and is set to inject new impetus into optimizing the global economic governance system.

The year 2025 carries exceptional importance for China-Bangladesh relations. It marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries, as well as the China-Bangladesh Year of People-to-People Exchanges. Looking back over the five-decade journey, China and Bangladesh have always been good neighbors, sincere friends, and reliable partners. This March, Hon'ble Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus chose China as the destination of his first bilateral visit. In Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Chief Adviser Professor Yunus. The two leaders provided strategic guidance for the long-term development of bilateral relations. High-level delegations of several major political parties have visited China respectively with great success. A consensus on advancing friendly cooperation between China and Bangladesh has been reached among political parties.

Both sides have adhered to the principle of win-win cooperation and jointly advanced high-quality Belt

and Road cooperation. China has remained Bangladesh's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years. Since last August, over 20 Chinese companies have signed investment agreements with Bangladeshi partners, with a total intended investment exceeding US\$800 million. China has become the largest source of FDI in Bangladesh since the interim government took office. Both sides have adhered to mutual support. Together, we provided joint medical care for the victims of the July Movement and delivered urgent aid to children injured in the heartbreaking jet crash. Exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy, defense, culture, education, health, sports, media, and youth affairs have grown steadily closer. By the end of September, the number of personnel exchanges between China and Bangladesh had exceeded 200,000 this year, bringing our peoples ever closer together in friendship and mutual understanding.

The spirit of sharing weal and woe together has always defined the essence of China-Bangladesh relations. China supports the interim government of Bangladesh in its governance and backs the efforts of Bangladesh to hold the general election smoothly and successfully and to pursue a development path that suits its national conditions. China and Bangladesh now stand at a new historical starting point. China remains ready to continue working hand in hand with Bangladesh in our modernization efforts, and to jointly write a new chapter in building a China-Bangladesh community with a shared future.

May the friendship between China and Bangladesh grow even stronger! May our nations prosper hand in hand, and bring more well-being to our peoples!

**Pioneering in Global Peace**

**80 YEARS**  
of the Chinese people's victory against fascism

**1ST COUNTRY**  
to sign the UN Charter, China has made a major contribution to establishing world peace.

**A Global Powerhouse**

**770M People**  
lifted out of poverty by China, contributing to over 70% of global poverty reduction

**35 TRILLION+ YUAN**  
in economic growth from 2021 to 2025 and 30%+ contribution globally

**LARGEST MANUFACTURER**  
in the World for 15 consecutive years, with over 220 major industrial products ranking #1 globally

**LARGEST POOL OF R&D PERSONNEL**  
#1 ranked globally in human resources for science and technology

**10 MILLION+**  
new energy vehicles were produced in one year

**12 MILLION+**  
new urban jobs have been created annually since 2021

**Bangladesh-China People to People Relationship**

**1000+**  
**Healthcare Travel**  
from Bangladesh since May

**50%**  
**Visas Increased**  
Y-O-Y growth since Jan to Sep

**100000+**  
**Chinese Language Learners**  
at 30 schools and universities and 4 Confucius Institutes

**72**  
**Direct Flights**  
weekly between two countries

**Largest Trading Partner of Bangladesh**

**\$24.05B**  
Bilateral Trade

**\$800M**  
Intended Investment from Chinese companies since last August

Video Message by  
**H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus**  
Hon'ble Chief Adviser on the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Bangladesh-China Diplomatic Relations and the National Day of China

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**  
As Salamu Alaikum. Good Evening. Wǎnshàng Hǎo. On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh, I extend my warmest greetings to His Excellency President Xi Jinping, to the leadership of the People's Republic of China, and to the friendly people of China on the auspicious occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh-China diplomatic

relations and the 76th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China.

This year, our two nations proudly celebrate fifty years of diplomatic ties. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh and China have nurtured a relationship that has steadily grown in depth, breadth, and strength—evolving into a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership. This partnership reflects not only mutual trust and goodwill but also the enduring resolve of our two nations to walk together in peace, cooperation, and prosperity. Indeed, our relationship today stands as a shining example before the world of how countries, bound by friendship and mutual respect, can achieve greater progress together.

**Excellencies,** China's transformation over the past seven decades is one of the most inspiring stories in human history. From a country struggling with poverty, China has become the second largest economy in the whole world. It has become a leader in science, technology and innovation. This remarkable journey was guided by the foresight and long-term vision of the Chinese leaders over the years which placed people at the center of development and lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty. This achievement has not only reshaped China, but also benefited the world at large. For Bangladesh, this is a profound source of inspiration.

**Distinguished Guests,** Bangladesh values China as one of its closest friends and trusted partners. Since establishment of diplomatic ties in 1975, our cooperation has expanded across diverse fields: trade, investment, infrastructure, education, culture, and vibrant people-to-people exchanges.

Bangladesh takes pride in being the first South Asian country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Our future prosperity and progress are intertwined, and I firmly believe that our two countries will continue to move forward hand in hand—building a future marked by peace, stability, and inclusive development.

My visit to China in March this year and bilateral meeting with President Xi added a new momentum in our multifaceted bilateral relations. I have had long association and deep attachment with China stemming from the partnership with funding the poor cooperatives under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for microfinance program and poverty alleviation over decades. I am delighted to witness growing exchanges among our youths, students, entrepreneurs, and cultural groups.

**Dear Friends,** In this global stage, China is a strong advocate for the Global South and a partner for developing nations in their pursuit

of growth and equity. Its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 — a vital contribution to global climate action—is also closely aligned with my own vision of "Three Zeros": zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions. Together, Bangladesh and China can help shape a fairer, greener, and more sustainable world.

**Excellencies,** As we celebrate this golden jubilee of friendship, I am confident that Bangladesh and China will continue to stand together—bringing peace, prosperity, and happiness to our peoples, and contributing together to a better world.

On this joyous occasion of the celebration of Golden Jubilee of our diplomatic relations and the National Day of China, I wish the people of China continued success, good health, and enduring peace.

May the friendship between Bangladesh and China grow ever stronger and last forever.

Thank you all.

**Long Live Bangladesh- China Friendship!**





## Stay order reshapes polls field

SPORTS REPORTER

A fresh twist has surfaced in the upcoming Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) election yesterday after a High Court bench issued a stay order on former president Faruque Ahmed's writ petition challenging the inclusion of 15 clubs in the board of directors' election, scheduled for October 6.

The bench of Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury and Justice Syed Hasan Zobair also issued a rule, asking why the inclusion of these clubs should not be declared illegal given allegations of corruption against them.

"These clubs are currently under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission; therefore, the court stayed their inclusion," Deputy Attorney General Ershadul Bari Khandaker told The Daily Star, added that while they cannot vote in the upcoming polls, they may appeal to the chamber court against the order.

The 15 clubs, absent from the draft but later added to the final voter list after EC hearings, now face a race against time to appeal before election day, with holidays and court closures leaving only extraordinary measures as their hope.

**Club candidates may withdraw nominations**

The stay order also prevents Israfil Khosru of Axiom Cricketers and Iftekhar Rahman Mithu of Vikings Cricket Academy from contesting, despite both having purchased nomination forms under Category-2, where 12 directors are to be elected.

"I'm really surprised this happened again," Mithu said, hinting that more club candidates may withdraw their forms in protest at what he termed a "mockery election".

Chief election commissioner Mohammad Hossain said his office was not yet formally aware of the court order but stressed they must "proceed by law".

Hossain confirmed that the nominations of S M Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan and Hasibul Alam had been approved after their hearings satisfied the commission. Redwan, councillor from Jamalpur District Sports Association, is now clear to contest in Category-1 Dhaka Division alongside sitting board president Aminul Islam Bulbul and vice-president Nazmul Abedeen Fahim. Hasibul, representing Rajshahi Divisional Sports Association, will run from Rajshahi Division against three other candidates.

In contrast, the appeal of Md Sawkot Hossain, councillor of Chandpur District Sports Association and an aspiring director from Chattogram Division, was rejected due to "a dispute in the signatures", said the chief election commissioner.

Two directors will be elected from Dhaka Division and one from Rajshahi Division in the October 6 polls.

Hossain added that five appeals were heard on Tuesday; two were granted and three rejected. The final list of candidates will be announced today at 2 pm, while approved nominees may withdraw between 10 am and 12 pm the same day.



India's Amanjot Kaur (L) celebrates her half-century with Deepti Sharma during their 59-run win (DLS method) in the opening match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup against Sri Lanka in Guwahati yesterday. Amanjot's 57 and Deepti's 53 helped the hosts post 269 for eight in 47 overs in the rain-curtailed match. Chasing a revised target of 271, the Lankans were bowled out for 211 runs in 45.4 overs.

PHOTO: AFP

## Yamal takes centre stage as Barca host PSG

STAR SPORTS DESK

Lamine Yamal, fresh off almost becoming the youngest Ballon d'Or winner at 18, will be the centre of attention when Barcelona host defending champions PSG in Wednesday's Champions League group-stage clash at the Olympic Stadium.

With the new Ballon d'Or holder, PSG star Ousmane Dembele sidelined through injury, the stage is clear for his Barcelona successor to stake an early claim for next year's crown. Yamal has already returned from a groin problem to inspire Barca's win over Real Sociedad at the weekend, a result that pushed them above Real Madrid in La Liga.

PSG, however, remain a daunting hurdle. The French champions have haunted Barcelona in recent years, knocking them out in the 2021 round of 16 and again in the 2024 quarterfinals, winning on both trips to Camp Nou.

Even so, the stakes are not as brutal under the competition's revamped group format. Both sides are also heavily weakened by injuries. PSG will miss captain Marquinhos, Dembele, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Desire Doue, while Barcelona will be without goalkeeper Joan Garcia, winger Raphinha and long-term absentee Gavi.

"It's a different competition and we're playing against last season's best team. I loved what I saw from them last year," Barcelona boss Hansi Flick said on Tuesday. "It's a big challenge and we're looking forward to this match. We are Barcelona, and we like being favourites for the Champions League, but we know it



Since winning three straight Champions League games against PSG in 2014-15 -- all of which came under Luis Enrique - Barcelona have only won two of their last six meetings with the French side in the competition (D1 L3).

Robert Lewandowski has only scored one Champions League goal against PSG, netting for Bayern Munich in December 2017. His ratio of 450 minutes per goal against them is his worst versus any side in the competition.

takes a lot of work."

Flick also tried to keep the spotlight from burning too hot on Yamal. "I don't like this 'super' label. He's exceptional, but he's 18 and needs to focus on working hard. He has the talent to take another

step forward, but it's about effort and improving all aspects of his game, including defensively."

With 35-year-old Wojciech Szczesny expected to start in goal, Barca will lean on youthful flair and veteran stability.

## Tilak unlocks common sense

KHALID HOSSAIN

A rose in the battlefield: that's how Tilak Varma's innings felt.

As the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday pulsed with tension amid the politically charged theatre of the Asia Cup, a young player stood still in the storm, showing cricket's enduring principles could still survive spectacle and suspense alike.

Tilak walked in after India's chase of 147 began in turmoil. Their top order collapsed to 20 for three inside the Powerplay, with Pakistan's bowlers circling like wounded predators sensing overdue prey.

Yet his composure made the chaos recede -- a chaos feeding the revival narrative of Pakistan, who lost their last nine wickets for just 33 runs. In 53 balls, the southpaw scored an unbeaten 69, decorated with three boundaries and four sixes, forged not by force but judgment.

After Shivam Dube joined him at 77 for four, with required run rate going up, Tilak kept guiding his partner with steady presence. Near the crescendo, 10 runs were needed off the final over, and his towering six on the second delivery had all but sealed the fate of the game.

In the triumphant moment, Tilak became an ambassador of batsmanship, bridging modern aggression to the classical principles. India's No. 4 offered lessons beyond the runs and the corresponding strike rate: a study in technique and temperament.



Bangladesh cricket, in particular, must take note. The Tigers' own campaign in the UAE was a cautionary tale. In a virtual semifinal fixture against Pakistan, they collapsed in a chase of 136 as nerves overwhelmed skill and fundamentals were forgotten -- a far greater embarrassing batting than what preceded in their 169-run chase against India.

Wasim Akram, Sunil Gavaskar, and other legendary figures noted, what was missing was the very "basics" Tilak dumbed down for all to perceive, especially for young batters across cricket academies in the country. A masterclass worth revisiting over and over again, it also provided a minor but no-less-useful lesson.

After he went out to bat, Pakistan wicketkeeper Mohammad Haris verbally poked him in a non-English language which both teams understood: "This isn't Mumbai [Indians], and this isn't the IPL," said Haris. This could have rattled a youngster given the occasion.

However, the 22-year-old hailing from Hyderabad chose the only path approved by the so-called -- or what used to be -- gentleman's game. By letting the willow speak, he also reaffirmed the Indian Premier League's reputation in battle-hardening young talents.

Call it damage control at the end of the night, but Tilak -- like a chemist expert in titration -- did end up extracting a pure solution from a toxic mixture, sparing the spirit of cricket from further breaking bad, giving fans of the sport some scope to reflect on the refreshing, cricketing side of things.



Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuyan leads the rest of the players as they make out of the pitch and into the dressing room of the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday afternoon following a thunderstorm. The first training session of the team ahead of this month's Asian Cup Qualifiers fixtures against Hong Kong was cut short by the elements, with only a media briefing and warm-up session taking place.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



PHOTO: REUTERS

World number one Carlos Alcaraz of Spain celebrates with the Japan Open trophy after beating USA's Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 in the final in Tokyo on Tuesday. However, the Spaniard then announced he was pulling out of this week's Shanghai Masters because of "physical issues".





# Economic recovery at risk from tariffs, inflation: ADB

Manila-based lender expects a lift from public consumption ahead of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's growth prospects face headwinds from global trade shocks, persistent inflation, and domestic financial sector fragilities, the Asian Development Bank has warned, even as the economy is expected to expand moderately in the current fiscal year.

In its Asian Development Outlook published yesterday, the Manila-based lender projected Bangladesh's GDP to grow 5 percent in FY26, slightly lower than its April forecast.

"Trade uncertainty arising from new US tariffs and potential disruption from geopolitical tensions could hinder export growth," the ADB said. It added that "poor implementation of the new managed float exchange rate policy could worsen external imbalances".

It also warned that "higher election-related spending and unsterilised liquidity support to weak banks may raise inflation and pressures in the foreign exchange market while weakening

» ADB forecasts 5% GDP growth in FY26

» Consumption before election will be main growth drive

» Inflation projected to remain at 8%

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# IMF wants banking sector, NBR reforms before polls

Says finance adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Monetary Fund has urged the interim government to complete key economic reforms – including in the banking sector and the National Board of Revenue – before the upcoming national election.

"You have three to three-and-a-half months left – use this time to push through as many reforms as you can. If a political government doesn't do it, it will be difficult," Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters yesterday, quoting the IMF chief.

The IMF made the call during a phone conversation between its Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on September 16.

The IMF's reform agenda includes



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Security personnel guard the entrance to Ramesu Bazar in Khagrachhari. Hardly anyone was seen yesterday at the bazar devastated by the violence on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

# Lifting ban on AL activities a possibility

Yunus tells journalist Mehdi Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said that the Awami League's activities are suspended for the time being and "anytime it will be open".

"They [Awami League] remain valid as a party, but activities for the time being are suspended. Anytime it will be open," he said in a recent interview with news organisation Zeteeo on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Asked by Zeteeo's Mehdi Hasan whether he meant that AL's activities could be "unsuspended", Yunus said, "That's a possibility."

The chief adviser also said Amartya Sen and others' criticisms about the action against the AL are wrong because the interim government has not banned the party, which was ousted through the July uprising.

Asked how banning a group from contesting polls could be democratic, the chief adviser said the matter rests with the Election Commission, which considered the possibilities and the characteristics of the party that may disrupt the whole election.

"So, they [EC] thought it's better not to...," he said.

When Mehdi said the AL has millions of supporters in Bangladesh, Yunus said, "I wouldn't say millions. They have supporters, but I don't know how many [are] left."

The chief adviser added that bowing to a group just because it is powerful does not mean supporting it.

He alleged that the Awami League is

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# Little headway made in stolen arms recovery

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DIPAN NANDY

It has been over a month since the government announced hefty rewards for tip-offs on firearms looted during last year's mass uprising, but recovery efforts made negligible progress.

Since the rewards declaration, only 25 firearms and 190 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

Police Headquarters (PHQ) shows that 5,763 firearms and 6,52,008 rounds of ammunition, including bullets, teargas shells, gas and smoke grenades, were looted from stations and outposts across the country in July and August 2024.

And the whereabouts of 1,350 weapons and over 2,57,659 rounds of ammunition remain unknown as of September 30.

When Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury first announced the rewards on August 10, the number of missing arms was 1,375 and ammunition 2,57,849.

According to the ministry declaration, Tk 5 lakh was promised for the recovery of every light machine gun, Tk 1.5 lakh for a sub-machine gun, Tk 1 lakh for a rifle, Tk 50,000 for a pistol or shotgun, and Tk 500 for every bullet.

Khondokar Rafiqul Islam, additional inspector general (crime and operations) at the PHQ, told The Daily Star on September 25, "There is no immediate solution. These weapons have already gone to different hands, and it will take time to track them down."

"In the early days, we recovered a significant number... but it is unrealistic to think all of them can be recovered quickly."

Police have interrogated suspects, conducted waterbody searches, and carried out routine drives. Yet, recovery remains stalled.

"We see a lack of cooperation even after declaration of reward," said a top police official, requesting anonymity.

Among the unrecovered weapons are rifles, sub-machine guns, light machine guns, pistols of various calibres, shotguns, gas guns, and teargas launchers. Officials fear many have been sold to criminal groups, while others may have been dumped into rivers.

Yesterday, IGP Baharul Alam said the police are yet to determine

The whereabouts of 1,350 weapons and over 2,57,659 rounds of ammunition remain unknown as of September 30.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# Social bonds slow ageing

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Strong and sustained supportive relationships over a lifetime can lower inflammation and slow down biological ageing, according to a new study.

Such relationships and engagement in community life may "reset" the body's internal clocks to lower the person's biological

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3



## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

হজ-৩ শাখা

বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

নং-১৬.০০.০০০০.০০৩.১৮.০০৬.১৯.৪৩৩

তারিখ: ১৫ আশ্বিন ১৪৩২  
৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫

## হজ প্যাকেজ ও গাইডলাইন ২০২৬ এর আলোকে চূড়ান্ত নিবন্ধন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হজ প্যাকেজ ও গাইডলাইন ২০২৬ গত ২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। সৌদি সরকারের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী আগামী ১২ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে ২০২৬ সনে হজে গমনেচ্ছুদের আবশ্যিকভাবে নিবন্ধন করতে হবে।

| ক্রমিক | মাধ্যম           | হজ প্যাকেজের নাম                    | টাকার পরিমাণ |
|--------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ০১     | সরকারি           | হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ)*               | ৬,৯০,৫৯৭     |
| ০২     | সরকারি           | হজ প্যাকেজ-২                        | ৫,৫৮,৮৮১     |
| ০৩     | সরকারি           | হজ প্যাকেজ-৩                        | ৪,৬৭,১৬৭     |
| ০৪     | বেসরকারি/এজেন্সি | বেসরকারি মাধ্যমের সাধারণ হজ প্যাকেজ | ৫,০৯,১৮৫     |

\* শুধু হোটেলের দরজা ও মিনা-আরাফায় সার্ভিস ক্যাটাগরি (ডি+সার্ভিস) বিবেচনায় এই প্যাকেজকে বিশেষ হিসেবে গণ্য করা হয়েছে

\*\* কুরবানীর অর্থ প্যাকেজ অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হয়েছে

| আবাসন/সার্ভিস       | সরকারি মাধ্যম   |  | বেসরকারি মাধ্যম  |  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
|                     | 'হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ)'  | 'হজ প্যাকেজ-২'   | 'হজ প্যাকেজ-৩'   | 'সাধারণ হজ প্যাকেজ'  |
| মক্কায় আবাসন       | হারাম শরীফের বহিঃচত্বর হতে ৭০০ মিটারের মধ্যে                                | হারাম শরীফের বহিঃচত্বর হতে ১.২-১.৮ কি.মি.এর মধ্যে                          | আজিজিয়া এলাকায়। দূরত্ব ৬-৮ কি.মি. (পাঁচ ওয়াস্ত নামাজ আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে বাসে যাতায়াত) | হারাম শরীফের বহিঃচত্বর হতে ৩ কি.মি. এর মধ্যে (বাসে যাতায়াত)               |
| মদিনায় আবাসন       | মদিনায় মারকাজিয়া (সেন্ট্রাল এরিয়া) এলাকা                                 | মদিনায় মারকাজিয়া এলাকা   | মদিনায় মারকাজিয়া এলাকার বাহিরে   | মসজিদে নববী হতে ১ কি.মি. এর মধ্যে  |
| মিনা-আরাফার সার্ভিস | জোন-২ এ তাঁবু এবং 'ডি+' ক্যাটাগরির সার্ভিসসহ মোয়াজ্জেম কর্তৃক খাবার সরবরাহ | জোন-২ এ তাঁবু এবং 'ডি' ক্যাটাগরির সার্ভিসসহ মোয়াজ্জেম কর্তৃক খাবার সরবরাহ | জোন-৫ এ তাঁবু এবং 'ডি' ক্যাটাগরির সার্ভিসসহ মোয়াজ্জেম কর্তৃক খাবার সরবরাহ             | জোন-৫ এ তাঁবু এবং 'ডি' ক্যাটাগরির সার্ভিসসহ মোয়াজ্জেম কর্তৃক খাবার সরবরাহ |

\* প্রত্যেক হজযাত্রীর খাবার বাবদ প্রতিদিন ৩৫ সৌদি রিয়াল (কম/বেশি) ব্যয় হতে পারে। সে অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজনীয় সৌদি রিয়াল সঙ্গে নিতে হবে এবং নিজ দায়িত্বে খাবার ক্রয় করতে হবে।

হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ) এবং হজ প্যাকেজ-২ এর রুম আপগ্রেডেশন:

সরকারি মাধ্যমে হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ) এর হজযাত্রীদের জন্য মক্কা ও মদিনায় বাড়ি/হোটলে প্রতিক্রমে সর্বোচ্চ ৫ সিট এবং হজ প্যাকেজ-২ এর প্রতিক্রমে সর্বোচ্চ ৬ সিট থাকবে। তবে নির্ধারিত অর্থ পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে ২ অথবা ৩ সিটের রুম আপগ্রেডেশন এবং শর্ট প্যাকেজে গমনের সুবিধা গ্রহণ করা যাবে, যা নিম্নরূপ:

| সরকারি মাধ্যমের হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ) এর হজযাত্রীদের পরিশোধযোগ্য অর্থের পরিমাণ |                      |                            |                                 |                            |                                     |   |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ক্রম  | প্যাকেজের ধরন        | প্যাকেজ মূল্য জনপ্রতি টাকা | প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধনের টাকা সমন্বয় | প্রাক নিবন্ধন সমন্বয় টাকা | চূড়ান্ত নিবন্ধনকারী প্রদেয় (টাকা) | শর্ট প্যাকেজ গ্রহণকারীর ক্ষেত্রে টাকার পরিমাণ |
| ১   | হজ প্যাকেজ-১ (বিশেষ) | ৬,৯০,৫৯৭.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ৩,১১,৫৯৭.০০                         | ৩,৪৪,৪৪৭.০০                                   |
| ২   | ২ সিটের রুম          | ৯,৭৯,০৮৪.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ৬,০০,০৮৪.০০                         | ৬,৬৫,৭৮৪.০০                                   |
| ৩   | ৩ সিটের রুম          | ৮,৮২,৯২২.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ৫,০৩,৯২২.০০                         | ৫,৫৮,৬৭২.০০                                   |
| সরকারি মাধ্যমের হজ প্যাকেজ-২ এর হজযাত্রীদের পরিশোধযোগ্য অর্থের পরিমাণ         |                      |                            |                                 |                            |                                     |   |
| ৪   | হজ প্যাকেজ-২         | ৫,৫৮,৮৮১.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ১,৭৯,৮৮১.০০                         | ২,১২,৭৩১.০০                                   |
| ৫   | ২ সিটের রুম          | ৭,৩৪,৩১২.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ৩,৫৫,৩১২.০০                         | ৪,২১,০১২.০০                                   |
| ৬   | ৩ সিটের রুম          | ৬,৭৫,৮৩৫.০০                | ৩,৫০,০০০.০০                     | ২৯,০০০.০০                  | ২,৯৬,৮৩৫.০০                         | ৩,৫১,৫৮৫.০০                                   |

\* ভাড়াকৃত হোটেল রুমের সিটের প্রাপ্যতা অনুসারে ৪ সিটের রুম ২ সিটে এবং ৫ সিটের রুম ৩ সিটে রূপান্তর করে আপগ্রেডেশন হিসাব করা হয়েছে। এক্ষেত্রে উক্তরূপ আপগ্রেডেশন অনুযায়ী সিট বরাদ্দ প্রদান করা না হলে অনুলিপিত হারে অর্থ ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

হজযাত্রী নিবন্ধনের শর্তাবলী:

- ১২ বছরের ঊর্ধ্বে হজপালনে যোগ্য বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মুসলিম নাগরিক চূড়ান্ত নিবন্ধন করে হজে যেতে পারবেন
- নিবন্ধনের জন্য হজযাত্রীর পাসপোর্টের মেয়াদ ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ পর্যন্ত থাকতে হবে
- ই-হজ সিস্টেমে (www.hajj.gov.bd) ভাউচার তৈরি করে ভাউচারে উল্লিখিত পরিমাণ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে বা অনলাইনে পরিশোধ করে প্রাক-নিবন্ধন করা যাবে
- হজ অফিস, আশকোনা, ঢাকা, ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান কার্যালয়, বায়তুল মোকাররম, বিভাগীয় ও জেলা কার্যালয়ে প্রাক-নিবন্ধন/প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধন/নিবন্ধন ভাউচার তৈরি করা যাবে
- হজ প্যাকেজ ঘোষণার পূর্বে প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধিত হজযাত্রী ই-হজ সিস্টেমে প্যাকেজ নির্বাচন করে ১২ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে চূড়ান্ত নিবন্ধনের ভাউচার গ্রহণ করতে হবে
- প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধিত হজযাত্রীকে প্যাকেজ মূল্যের অবশিষ্ট অর্থ ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে আবশ্যিকভাবে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে পরিশোধ না করলে প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধন বাতিল হবে
- প্যাকেজ নির্বাচন অথবা চূড়ান্ত নিবন্ধনের পর প্যাকেজ পরিবর্তনের সুযোগ থাকবে না
- ২০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ এর পর নিবন্ধন বাতিলের আবেদন করা হলে ব্যয়িত সমুদয় অর্থ (সৌদি পর্বের ব্যয়সহ) কর্তন করা হবে
- হজের খরচ কোন কারণে বৃদ্ধি পেলে তা প্যাকেজ মূল্য হিসেবে গণ্য হবে এবং হজযাত্রীকে পরিশোধ করতে হবে
- হজ কন্সল্টেন্টস ১৬১৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করে তথ্য প্রদানের মাধ্যমে হজের প্রাক-নিবন্ধন/প্রাথমিক নিবন্ধন/নিবন্ধন ভাউচার তৈরি করা যাবে
- মেডিকেল ফিটনেস ব্যতীত কোন হজযাত্রী হজে গমন করতে পারবেন না
- দুরারোগ্য ব্যাধিতে (হৃদরোগ, ফুসফুস, লিভার সিরোসিস, কিডনি রোগে আক্রান্ত, নিউরোলজিক্যাল, মানসিক রোগ, ব্লাকপূর্ণ গর্ভাবস্থা, যক্ষ্মা এবং খোঁপা গ্রহণকারী ক্যান্সার রোগী) আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তি হজে গমন করতে পারবেন না

### বেসরকারি মাধ্যমে হজযাত্রী নিবন্ধনের অতিরিক্ত শর্তাবলী

- এজেন্সিসমূহ সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত "বেসরকারি মাধ্যমের সাধারণ হজ প্যাকেজ" গ্রহণ করবে এবং মক্কা ও মদিনায় হোটেল/বাড়ির মান ও দূরত্ব, পরিবহন, তাঁবুর জোন ও মিনা-আরাফায় সার্ভিস ক্যাটাগরি বিবেচনায় অতিরিক্ত দুটি প্যাকেজ ঘোষণা করে হজযাত্রী নিবন্ধন করতে পারবে। তবে সরকার ঘোষিত সর্বনিম্ন প্যাকেজ (হজ প্যাকেজ-৩) এ বর্ণিত সেবা-সুবিধাদি কমিয়ে কোন প্যাকেজ ঘোষণা করা যাবে না। উল্লেখ্য, লিড এজেন্সির সাথে সমন্বয়কারী সকল এজেন্সিকে একই ধরনের (Unique) প্যাকেজে হজযাত্রী নিবন্ধন করতে হবে
- হজযাত্রীর সঙ্গে হজ এজেন্সির লিখিত চুক্তিতে মক্কা ও মদিনার বাড়ি/হোটেলের মান ও দূরত্ব, মিনায় তাঁবুর জোন ও সার্ভিস ক্যাটাগরি, সৌদি আরবে মোট অবস্থানকাল, খাবার এবং অন্যান্য সুযোগ-সুবিধার বিবরণ আবশ্যিকভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে
- হজের টাকা নগদ জমা না দিয়ে এজেন্সির নির্ধারিত ব্যাংক হিসাবে জমা দিতে হবে। ব্যাংক একাউন্টের তথ্য হজ পোর্টালের এজেন্সি প্রোফাইলে পাওয়া যাবে

হজে গমনের শর্তাবলী, করণীয় ও হজযাত্রীর সুযোগ-সুবিধা 'হজ প্যাকেজ ও গাইডলাইন-২০২৬' হতে বিস্তারিত জানা যাবে। সরকারি ও বেসরকারি মাধ্যমের পূর্ণাঙ্গ হজ প্যাকেজ হজ পোর্টাল (www.hajj.gov.bd) হতে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে এবং নিম্নোক্ত কিউআর কোড স্ক্যান করে পাওয়া যাবে।

০৩। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করা হ'ল।

হজ প্যাকেজ ও গাইডলাইন-২০২৬' পেতে স্ক্যান করুন



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