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JULY CHARTER

Next JS may get 90-120 days for implementation

Consensus commission mulls proposing Constitution Reform Assembly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission is considering a proposal to allow the next parliament to function as a Constitution Reform Assembly for three to four months to implement the July Charter.

At an unofficial meeting yesterday, the commission discussed possible recommendations for the interim government on implementing the charter, including holding a referendum.

It also considered recommending a "July Sanad Bastobayan Bishesh Adesh" (Special July Charter Implementation Order) to be issued by the president and that the referendum will be held under that order.

However, the commission will not propose any specific date for the referendum.

It has not yet finalised the exact wording of the question to be asked in the referendum, said Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission.

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ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED

Under which process, law, order, or ordinance the referendum will be held

What questions will be included in it

When it will take place



FOUR YEARS IN FILTH

A man in a wheelchair makes his way through ankle-deep, pitch black water on the Pipe Rasta of North Jurain in Dhaka yesterday. Residents say the area's drainage system collapsed four years ago, but Dhaka South City Corporation has yet to act. They suffer all the time, especially during rain.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Ctg port tariff hike sparks outrage

Business leaders fear blow to competitiveness, allege move to benefit operators

 In my 29 years of experience, I've never seen the port incur losses. Then why increase tariffs by 41 percent?

Salim Rahman, first vice-president of BGMEA



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong-based business leaders yesterday warned that the 41 percent hike in service charges at Chittagong Port would seriously erode Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market.

The decision came at a time when exports are already under strain due to additional US tariffs, and it would make Chittagong "the costliest port in the region", they said.

At a coordination meeting held at Radisson Blu Chittagong Bay View, they demanded immediate suspension of the new tariff schedule until discussions are held with all stakeholders.

The meeting was organised under the banner of "Chittagong Sorbostorer

Byabsayeebrindo" and chaired by Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Several speakers questioned the interim government's haste in enforcing the tariff hike and alleged that it was done to pave the way for foreign port operators.

"The interim government does not have such responsibility and accountability that it should rush for increasing port charges," said former CCCI president Amir Humayun. "It is alleged that some foreign port operators like DP World, who intend to operate port terminals, want such tariff hikes so they can easily make profit."

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3 terminals to get foreign operators by December
Says shipping secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to hand over the operations of at least three terminals, including Laldia and New Mooring Container Terminal, to foreign operators by December, said Shipping Secretary Mohammed Yousuf.

"There are still issues under negotiation, but by December, we hope to move forward with these three key projects," he said at a seminar on the potential of investment in the ocean-going shipping industry.

The ports' low efficiency is one reason behind Bangladesh's low foreign direct investment inflows compared to its regional peers, he said at the seminar organised by the Economic Reporters Forum at its office yesterday.

"We often say FDI isn't coming, but look — Bangladesh received only

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Awami League ran a 'monstrous regime'

Prosecution tells ICT in closing argument of a case against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aided by the administration and the judiciary, the Awami League established a "monstrous regime" during its 15-year rule, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told the International Crimes Tribunal-I during the closing argument of a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

This is the first closing argument in any case filed with the ICT relating to crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings committed during the 15 years. Hasina and her two top aides are accused in this case.

Comparing the AL's post-independence years to its 2009-2024 rule, Tajul said both periods were marked by unlawful detentions, torture, and election rigging.

Tajul began by outlining the historical and political background, arguing that the AL's practices had roots in its early post-independence rule. He cited the formation of the Rakhi Bahini in 1972, the killing of leftist leader Siraj Sikder, creation of BAKSAL, and what he termed "farcical elections" in 2014, 2018, and 2024.

He alleged that the 2009 BDR mutiny was a "deliberate attempt to cripple the military's backbone" and claimed that the then government did not bring the perpetrators to justice.

Comparing the AL's post-independence years to its 2009-2024 rule, he said both periods were marked by unlawful detentions, torture, and election rigging.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Detained army officers must be produced before court
Says chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam yesterday said the 15 army officers currently held in military custody must be brought before the court to face trial.

Tajul made the remarks at a briefing at the tribunal premises yesterday, a day after the army told journalists that 15 officers were taken into custody after being formally charged in three ICT cases.

Asked whether the army officers in military custody were under arrest, Tajul said that despite the cantonment's press briefing, the tribunal had not been formally notified of the detention. "Therefore, I can't clarify the matter."

The chief prosecutor instead cited legal provisions requiring law enforcement agencies to produce any arrestees before a court within 24 hours of arrest, after which the court decides whether to extend custody or grant bail.

"That's the law, whether under the constitution, the ICT Act, or the Code of Criminal Procedure."

On October 8, the ICT prosecution formally charged 28 people, including

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MPO teachers call strike after police 'excess'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers from non-government MPO-listed institutions across the country declared an indefinite work abstention from today, protesting police action during their sit-in in the capital yesterday.

The announcement came from a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar around 4:30pm, hours after police dispersed the demonstrators in front of the Jatiya Press Club using water cannons, baton charges, and sound grenades.

Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, announced the decision, saying, "Teachers were brutally attacked in front of the Press Club. In protest, we will observe a full day work abstention at all MPO-listed institutions across the country from tomorrow [today]."

He said the protest would continue until the government meets their demands and releases the detained teachers unconditionally.

The day began with thousands of teachers from schools, colleges, and madrasas gathering in front of the Jatiya Press Club around 10:00am. Many had arrived in Dhaka since Saturday to join the sit-in, demanding implementation of their three-point charter.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A protester falls to the ground as several police officers move in on him during a demonstration by teachers of MPO-enlisted educational institutions in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Police used water cannons and sound grenades to disperse the protesters, who were demanding that their house rent allowance be increased to 20 percent of their salaries.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Israel declares victory over Hamas in Gaza

Rivals to swap hostages, prisoners as Trump to host peace summit in Egypt

AGENCIES

Israel declared victory yesterday in its war with Hamas as the Palestinian group prepared to release its surviving hostages, a key step in Donald Trump's Gaza plan hours before he hosts a peace summit in Egypt.

Under the US president's proposed roadmap, once the Palestinian militants have handed over the hostages, Israel will begin releasing around 2,000 detainees in exchange.

But negotiators were still wrangling late yesterday over the final arrangements, with two Hamas sources telling AFP the group was insisting that Israel include seven senior Palestinian leaders on the list of those to be released.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was nevertheless confident.

"This is an emotional evening, an evening of tears, an evening of joy, because tomorrow our children will return to our borders," Netanyahu said, quoting a biblical verse.

"Together we achieved tremendous victories, victories that amazed the whole world ... But at the same time I must tell you, the fight is not over," he said.

Israel's army chief, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, also claimed victory.

"The military pressure we applied over the past two years, together with complementary diplomatic measures, constitute a victory over Hamas," Zamir said.

Shosh Bedrosian, a spokeswoman for Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu's office, said the hostage release "will begin early Monday morning", with Israel "expecting

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MY DHAKA

What I learned from Dhaka

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

The city has quite a reputation. It is cruel, unforgiving, and even hostile to newcomers. However, Dhaka simultaneously embraces all, gives a chance to anyone who dares to venture into its crowd, and most importantly, teaches everyone some valuable lessons.

Here are some of the things that I learned from Dhaka.

Time management

Elsewhere, outside Dhaka, one can complete a few chores within a short period of one hour. In Dhaka, it feels like there is no such thing as "one hour". Everything takes more time, and in order to function in this city, one has to learn how to manage one's time. One has to learn what needs to be done immediately, what can be saved for later, and what can be done over the weekend.

My years in Dhaka have taught me how to properly manage my time, and hard as it can be, it's a useful skill.

Prepare for everything

Dhaka can be unpredictable. The sun can be too much, it may rain quite



heavily, and you might need to stay in wet shoes for hours. Sometimes, there might be a commotion coming your way, and you might be stuck in traffic for a while.

It could also happen that you face absolutely no issues, no traffic on your way, and arrive an hour earlier than you hoped. Anything can happen in Dhaka, so the average Dhaka resident should be prepared for anything.

Dhaka has taught me to carry a

backpack everywhere. In it, I keep a first aid bag, a small towel, a pair of extra socks, an umbrella, a book, a battery pack, sunglasses, a headset, a waterproof folder, one hundred takas in change, and several other items. All of these were found to be necessary at one time or another, and I have learned to be prepared for any situation that might occur.

Learn your variables

When I used to live in my hometown, I never bothered to learn about the surroundings much because it was not really needed. In Dhaka, you learn

to check the weather before going out. You wonder if any processions or exams are going on in any particular area that might cause congestion. You wonder if any particular roads might be blocked for construction or any other reason.

Dhaka has taught me to learn about variables as much as possible, and it has taught me to plan.

Value of a holiday

I never knew the value of my free time in my earlier years. The busy and routine-confined life in Dhaka has taught me how important holidays are and how great it feels to just sit back and enjoy a day off. I imagine most of Dhaka feels this way, which must be why Friday morning starts rather slowly in Dhaka.

Courage to fight

My early days in Dhaka were challenging. Being new to the city, I got on the wrong bus more than a few times. I ended up in new and unfamiliar places, and sometimes, due to my own fault, I got into worse situations. However, this is Dhaka and tough as this city can be, it also taught me how to get back up from those places and situations, and I returned home a little wiser. All these experiences taught me courage and how to keep my head in difficult situations.

As unforgiving as Dhaka can be, it can also be nurturing and a land of chances. And a great teacher, especially to the young adults. I certainly learned a lot from Dhaka. What about you?



PHOTO: STAR

Next JS may get

Awami League ran a 'monstrous regime'

FROM PAGE 1

"The culture of extrajudicial killings began with Siraj Sikder's murder," Tajul continued.

At one stage, tribunal member Justice Md Shoiful Alam Mahmood reminded the prosecution, "We are trying individuals."

Tajul then said explaining the political context was essential to understanding the motives of the accused.

Speaking to journalists during a recess, Tajul said, "Our argument began by describing how the Awami League government turned into an authoritarian regime where misrule and oppression became institutionalised."

He said the background was crucial to understanding how the three accused became perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

The other two accused in the case are former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun.

Tajul argued that the July 2024 uprising was the outcome of years of repression and fear under what he called a "tyrannical rule". He claimed that the military-backed caretaker regime of 1/II paved the way for AL's

return to power through a "stage-managed election" in 2009.

He said the regime later turned Bangladesh into "a land of enforced disappearances and killings". Crimes were carried out systematically by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

He alleged that the government amended the Code of Criminal Procedure so that ruling party members are not prosecuted.

Tajul further accused Hasina's government of destroying the election system by abolishing the caretaker government system. "The judiciary was exploited as a tool to establish fascism."

At that point, tribunal Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder remarked that he had once proposed to a Judicial Reform Commission, a mechanism to ensure judicial accountability, but it was ignored.

"Judges cannot be allowed to act as they please. There is no system to hold anyone in the Supreme Judicial Council accountable if they commit an offence," he added.

The chief prosecutor detailed alleged patterns of state atrocities, including secret detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings disguised as "crossfire".

He described the use of a so-called

"Aynaghor", where detainees were reportedly tortured, given shocks to their genitals, and lethal injections.

Victims' bodies, he said, were often dumped on railway lines to make it appear as accidents or thrown into rivers, after the bodies were disembowelled and tied to cement bags.

According to Tajul, such actions were carried out under "direct orders from the then prime minister and her associates". He said the commission on enforced disappearances received 1,800 complaints, though the actual number of victims was around 6,000, with about 1,000 still missing.

As a result of the continuation of such atrocities, the previous government used its full force against the unarmed young people and killed over 1,500 people and injured over 30,000 others.

Tajul said the regime used lethal weapons, drones, and armoured personnel carriers to crush protesters. If the government had not fallen on August 5, it would have killed many more to cling to power, he said, adding that orders were issued to shut down TV stations.

The prosecution will resume its arguments today.

Ctg port tariff hike

FROM PAGE 1

He warned that the impact would go beyond industry. "It's not only the businessmen who will suffer. The burden will fall on the common people, the end consumers."

Mohammad Amirul Haque, a former director of CCCI, termed the hike "a conspiracy to cripple Chattogram Port".

"You haven't raised tariffs in Mongla or Payra Port. So why only here? Please, do not carry out such conspiracies against Chittagong," he said.

He dismissed the claim of a 41 percent increase as misleading. "You have increased the tug charge five times and show us fancy calculations. Do you think we are children?"

The government announced the decision to increase service charges at the port on September 14, to be effective from October 15.

Under the new schedule, the tug charge for vessels exceeding 20,000 GRT has been raised from \$632 to \$3,415 – a 440 percent increase.

"The law clearly says charges must be cost based. It doesn't say you should make Tk 2,913 crore net profit," Haque said, urging a dialogue. "If the government must raise it, then talk to us first."

He also criticised the move to lease the fully equipped New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to UAE-based DP World.

"If you need investment, take 40 percent from the private sector or go to the stock market. But why hand it over to a foreign operator?" he asked.

"We know who's behind whom – who's with DP World, who's linked with Maersk or MSC, who visits which office. We have got all the information. If you want, we can give it privately," he said.

Exporters also fear losing international orders due to rising costs.

"Our cost of doing business is already higher than in Vietnam, India or Malaysia," said Salim Rahman, first vice president of Bangladesh

Yunus reaches Rome to join WFF event

BSS, Rome

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus reached Rome yesterday evening to join the annual World Food Forum (WFF).

Bangladeshi Ambassador to Italy ATM Rokeya Haque received Prof Yunus at Rome Fiumicino Airport around 5:00pm (local time), according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

Earlier in the day, a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying the chief adviser and his entourage departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 11:30am (Bangladesh time).

According to the tour schedule, Yunus will deliver a speech as a guest at the main session of the WFF.

He will also hold meetings with prominent figures on the sidelines of the event. In those meetings, talks will focus on global issues such as food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.

The WFF is a flagship event of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, where policymakers, researchers, and entrepreneurs from across the globe exchange views on the future of food systems.

Public admin secy vows neutrality during polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed senior secretary to the public administration ministry, Ehsanul Haque, said yesterday that he has taken responsibility to ensure the field administration acts neutrally during the upcoming general election.

"We, the officers of the administration, can conduct the election impartially if we are given the scope," he said while speaking to reporters at his office.

He said that if the field officers get an appropriate atmosphere and scope to work independently, they will be able to hold polls neutrally. "If the field administration does not work neutrally, we will take action," he said, adding that officers inclined to any political party will be out of the election duties.

Yesterday, the government appointed Ehsanul Haque, who was serving on contract as senior secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division, as senior secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA).

On the same day, Siddique Zobair, senior secretary (contractual) attached to the MoPA, was posted to the National Academy for Planning and Development (NAPD) as a senior secretary.

All political parties have agreed to hold a referendum," Riaz said. "Now the commission is trying to bring them to a common ground on the remaining three issues, and that is why we are holding informal talks with them. We have made progress on those issues as well."

Although Riaz claimed progress made, a commission member said leaders of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in separate unofficial meetings with Riaz yesterday stood firmly on when the referendum should be held.

The BNP insists the referendum be held on the same day as the national election, while Jamaat demands it be held before the polls.

During the meeting, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed discussed the pros and cons of both options and reiterated his party's firm position.

A source present quoted Salahuddin as saying a pre-election referendum would be costly, could see low turnout, and might delay the polls due to uncertainty over results.

"If the referendum is held along with the polls, it will save costs, ensure better turnout, and eliminate fears of delaying the elections," he told the commission.

A three-member Jamaat delegation of Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdulllah Muhammad Taher, Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad and party leader Shishir Monir also met the commission.

They reiterated the party would not change its position on when the referendum should be held.

"We have announced programmes demanding that the referendum be held before the election," Azad told reporters.

who refused were briefly detained, but there is no intention to file cases or cause harm."

Following the police action, teachers and employees regrouped at the Central Shaheed Minar to continue their protest.

Teachers said they have long faced discrimination compared to their counterparts in government institutions. They described the government's recent decision to increase their house rent allowance by only Tk 500 as "disrespectful and unrealistic."

"We work as hard as government teachers but face discrimination. We get only Tk 1,000 as house rent, and recently the government proposed raising it to Tk 1,500, which is a mockery to us," said Mostafa Kamal, a madrasa teacher from Noakhali.

Kawsar Mahmud, a teacher from Bogura's Sherpur upazila, said, "Our total salary is only Tk 14,600. We cannot rent a house for less than Tk 3,000, but the government wants to give us only Tk 1,500. How can we run a family on such a meagre income?"

Leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP) joined the rally to express solidarity with the teachers. Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (South) of the NCP, said, "After serving for 32 years, a teacher earns only Tk 22,000. They live like third- or fourth-class citizens but are expected to deliver world-class education."

"Teachers are being humiliated and beaten on the streets. Such actions have no place in a civilised country. The authorities must apologise and release the detained teachers immediately," he added.

MPO teachers call strike after police 'excess'

FROM PAGE 1

Their demands include raising the house rent allowance to 20 percent of the basic salary, increasing the medical allowance to Tk 1,500 for both teachers and employees, and raising the festival allowance for non-teaching staff to 75 percent of their basic pay.

As the teachers occupied the road, traffic in the Palta area came to a standstill. Police diverted vehicles through alternative routes, while commuters were seen walking to their destinations.

Around 11:00am, a 13-member delegation of the teachers met with finance ministry officials at the Secretariat. After returning, they said the discussion had yielded no progress and vowed to continue their movement.

Police moved in around 1:50pm after the demonstrators had blocked the road for several hours.

Witnesses said over a hundred police personnel, led by Rangam Division Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam, fired sound grenades and used water cannons to disperse the crowd. As some teachers refused to leave, police baton charged them, reportedly leaving several injured.

The protesters returned to the streets multiple times, chanting slogans and resuming their sit-in despite repeated attempts to remove them.

Speaking to media, DC Masud said police used sound grenades to disperse teachers after repeated requests to clear the road went unheeded.

"We urged and warned them to move to restore traffic flow. Those

who refused were briefly detained, but there is no intention to file cases or cause harm."

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"Teachers are being humiliated and beaten on the streets. Such actions have no place in a civilised country. The authorities must apologise and release the detained teachers immediately," he added.

"We will continue the movement until the government accepts the just demands of the teachers," he said.

Earlier on August 13, teachers had issued an ultimatum to nationalise MPO listed institutions by September 14 but postponed their strike after assurances from the ministry. Recently, the finance ministry approved a proposal to raise the house rent allowance for teachers and staff by Tk 500, prompting the teachers to return to the streets.

The army said it issued an attachment order on October 8, instructing the serving officers and one on LPR (leave preparatory to retirement) to report to a designated facility at Dhaka Cantonment by October 15.

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Put women, youth at centre of climate action

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Effective climate action in Bangladesh requires inclusive participation, social coordination, and transformation, with women and youth at the centre of policy and funding decisions, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The roundtable titled "Empowering Women and Youth for Climate Resilience: Bridging Policy and Funding Gaps" was organised by The Asia Foundation with support from the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The event was held at the

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Gender, youth-responsive climate financing
- Stronger coordination, accountability
- Shift from rhetoric to concrete action
- Inclusive data, community participation
- Changing social norms for equality

capital's The Daily Star Centre. Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said the government must move beyond rhetoric and act decisively on climate commitments.

"We have repeatedly raised concerns over weak inter-ministerial coordination and inadequate investment," she said.

"Women and youth are no longer passive beneficiaries; they are leading real solutions, from agriculture to renewable energy, grounded in their lived experiences. Yet, despite their contributions, funding gaps remain vast."

"What's missing is not capacity but political will. Bangladesh needs gender- and youth-responsive financing, stronger accountability, and sustained activism to ensure climate resilience is built from the ground up, by the

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Speakers at a roundtable on "Empowering Women and Youth for Climate Resilience: Bridging Policy and Funding Gaps" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Asia Foundation with support from the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research and the Kingdom of the Netherlands organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt to merge 2 divisions under health ministry

AT A GLANCE

Divisions are: Health Services Division, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

- Proposal awaits pre-NICAR approval
- Split in 2017 created duplication, poor coordination
- Merger to streamline services
- Move follows merger of 2 divisions under home ministry in Sept

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After the home ministry, work has begun to merge the two divisions of the health ministry to ensure better coordination and improved medical services for the people.

The health ministry has already approved the merger, and the proposal will soon be placed before the pre-NICAR (National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms/Reorganisation), officials said.

In this context, no new secretary has been appointed to the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division since its former secretary retired on August 28, they added.

"The government has taken the merger decision in principle. The health ministry has already given the go-ahead, and it will be placed before the pre-NICAR soon," Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, told The Daily Star on October 11.

The pre-NICAR, headed by the cabinet secretary, scrutinises proposals for forming new ministries, city corporations, municipalities, divisions, districts and

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CU STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Dhrubo wants 'Campus Charter' to make CU safe

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Dhrubo Barua, vice-president candidate from the "Boichitrer Oikya" panel in the upcoming Cucusu elections, has pledged to build a democratic, occupation-free, and safe campus by introducing a "Campus Charter" with active participation of students, if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Dhrubo, a student of the Department of Bangla (2018-19 session), said, "My goal is to form a united resistance with students against occupation, ensure administrative accountability, and build a democratic campus by eliminating the influence of different organisations within the administration."

He described their panel as an alliance of members from various social, cultural, and political organisations. "We have significant participation from women. Our main motto is to build resistance through unity in diversity," he said.

Asked why resistance has become their key theme, he explained, "Our campus has a long history of violence and occupation over power and dominance that disrupted campus safety



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Srabon vows a women-friendly campus

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Chowdhury Tasneem Jahan Srabon, general secretary candidate from the "Binirman Shikkharthi Oikya" panel in the upcoming Cucusu elections, has pledged to work towards creating a women friendly campus if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Srabon, a student of the Department of Physics (2019-20 session), said, "I am running in this election out of a sense of responsibility. As a student of Chittagong University, I feel I owe something back to this institution. I have witnessed the university's problems closely, and to solve them, we must work from the ground up."



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'Every adviser has already secured their future'
Alleges NCP leader Samantha Sharmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samantha Sharmin, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party, yesterday alleged that every adviser has already secured their future.

She made the remark while expressing solidarity with a teachers' protest at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

Samantha said the interim government came to power through the sacrifices of students, teachers, and professionals who shed their blood for change.

"Yet, with deep regret, we now see that the same government, established with such high hopes, has turned against the people -- against education," she said.

"The government is spending Tk 300 crore to buy cars for a ministry, but whenever the question of increasing teachers' salaries and allowances arises, we are told 'the government has no money'. Each adviser is busy securing their own benefits," she said.

"Sheikh Hasina deliberately pushed Bangladesh's education system towards destruction, we thought the interim government would try to stop that. But sadly, we now see the entire nation being dragged into election mode, while no steps have been taken to fulfil the hopes and expectations of teachers and students," she said.

"Taking lives with bullets is a crime, but destroying the education system is no lesser crime," she added.



Two little friends glide through the calm waters of Chakai Beel in Narail, their laughter echoing across the serene wetland. Surrounded by lush greenery and floating leaves, their simple joy reflects the pure beauty of rural life -- untouched by the rush of modern distractions. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Six more die of dengue, 953 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six dengue patients died while 953 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, showing an alarming trend this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, two were reported in Dhaka South City Corporation and one each in Dhaka North City Corporation, Barishal, and Rajshahi divisions.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of fatalities rose to 230, while total cases reached 54,559.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said, "Our forecasting model shows that cases will peak in October, start to decline in November, but continue significantly until January. Stopping it completely now is almost impossible."

He said while city corporations must intensify source reduction, breeding site management, hotspot control, and other measures, community involvement is equally crucial.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, also urged intensified mosquito-control drives in hotspots, including targeted breeding site eradication, adult mosquito elimination, and sustained nationwide action.

He further called for community mobilisation through awareness campaigns.



DATA ORDINANCES

Quality was not compromised

Says Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government held consultations with relevant stakeholders before the Personal Data Protection Ordinance-2025 and the National Data Governance Ordinance-2025 were approved, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser for telecom and ICT, said yesterday.

"The law had to be enacted in the shortest possible time. But this urgency did not compromise its quality," he said.

The stakeholders include the business community and major global tech platforms such as Meta and Google.

Briefing journalists in Agargaon's ICT Division, he made the remarks on the approval of three ordinances, the ordinances of personal data protection, the national data governance, and the cyber security (amendment) ordinance 2025, which were approved on Thursday.

Eighteen months have been given for the implementation of the Personal Data Protection Ordinance. On this, Taiyeb said, "How many days does it take to build a data centre? From the Bangladesh Computer Council's end, we are implementing three data centres -- not one, but three. We have given vendors six months to a year."

He questioned why private platforms could not build data centres within 18 months when the government could do it within a year. "I urge the media to come to us, ask questions, and report based on understanding."

On Saturday, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said in a statement that the ordinances of personal data protection and the national data governance had been approved hastily and without adequate transparency.

Taiyeb admitted that there had been a mistake in the previous Cyber Security Act, which had been corrected this time. If any errors are found in the new law, those will also be fixed, he added.

He also welcomed all forms of constructive criticism and said the government remained open to discussion.

The ordinances have raised concerns as they grant the proposed National Data Management Authority broad executive power to issue orders to tech platforms if their operations are deemed detrimental to users.

The authority's power to inspect stored data or devices has also raised privacy concerns.

At the same time, the ordinances mark a major step towards safeguarding citizens' privacy.

Taiyeb said the authority had not been given unlimited power. A judicial council has been included to ensure accountability, and citizens can also approach this council for arbitration. "There is no non-bailable clause in this law."

He said data ownership lies with individuals, while the authority will verify whether an organisation has the capability to handle data properly.

"If you call this excessive power, I have nothing to say. I would humbly say such power is necessary."

He said the government had brought both local and international platforms, including Meta and Google, under legal accountability.

Taiyeb said the laws would soon be published and that government agencies would receive training to ensure proper implementation.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion leaves over 200 families homeless

S DILIP ROY, *Salmonirhat*

As floodwaters recede in the northern districts of Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, and Nilphamari, erosion has intensified along the banks of the Teesta, Dhara, Brahmaputra, and Dudhkumar rivers, with at least 60 points now severely affected.

Farmlands, homesteads, orchards, and other structures are being devoured by the rivers, leaving many riverside families homeless. Fearing further collapse, some residents have dismantled their homes and moved to safer places.

According to sources at the district administration and the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office, river erosion along 60 points of the Teesta, Dhara, Dudhkumar, and Brahmaputra rivers between October 7 and 11 has rendered 230 families homeless.

Of them, 160 families lost their homes in Kurigram, 40 in Lalmonirhat, 20 in Rangpur, and 10 in Nilphamari. Farmlands and homesteads in these areas have been swallowed by the rivers.

Erosion has worsened in Kurigram's Sadar, Nageshwar, Rajarhat, and Ulipur upazilas; Lalmonirhat's Sadar, Aditmari, and Hatibandha upazilas; Rangpur's Gangachara and Kaunia upazilas; and Nilphamari's Dimla upazila.

Meher Jamal, a resident of Banipara village in Kurigram Sadar, said, "Over the past few years,

Engineer Rakibul Hasan said, "After the floods, several spots have started eroding. Controlling the erosion at Jatrapur requires a large quantity of geo-bags, but there are fund shortages."

"We are dumping sand-filled geo-bags at some vulnerable points



I lost seven bighas of land to the river. I was living on just ten decimals of homestead land -- and that too went into the river on Wednesday morning. I somehow managed to move my belongings to safety."

Villagers, Mohosena Begum and Mominul Islam echoed him.

Kurigram WDB Executive

and have sent a letter to higher authorities requesting urgent allocation," he said.

Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Sifat Mehnaz said, "The affected families are being given the government's emergency relief assistance, and they will be rehabilitated."

Put women, youth at centre of climate action

FROM PAGE 3
communities themselves," she added.

Dhrubo Haider, programme specialist at UN Women, said Bangladesh needs to strengthen coordination and data-driven action to make climate policies effective. "Progress has been slow, but we cannot afford to stop," she said.

The involvement of 25 ministries in climate work is not fragmentation -- it's progress, because climate change, gender, and disaster risk reduction are crosscutting issues that demand an all-of-government and all-of-society approach. What we need is stronger coordination to prevent duplication and ensure impact."

"Equally vital is collecting disaggregated data to set clear targets. But without shifting deep rooted social norms towards gender equality, no policy can bring lasting change," she said.

Dr Tania Haque, professor of Dhaka University's Women and Gender Studies department, said, "To bring real change, we must bridge knowledge gaps between weather and climate and address the intersectional failures in research and policy."

"Heat stress affects women differently based on class, occupation, or physical condition. These inequalities reduce productivity and harm national growth. We must shift from a victim-

oriented to a rights-based approach, value indigenous knowledge, ensure inclusive data systems, and engage youth as active participants, not passive recipients," she said.

Sohanur Rahman, executive coordinator of YouthNet Global, said, "I come from the grassroots -- my activism began a decade ago in Barishal. We've long spoken of meaningful participation and equality, yet real gender mainstreaming still lags. Women, youth, and people with disabilities remain excluded from adaptation and mitigation decisions."

"Diversity in gender and identity must be represented, not just discussed. We

need to move from gender-sensitive to gender-transformative approaches that include men and farmers too. Most importantly, Bangladesh still lacks a youth ministry or budget for climate action. Without structural reform, youth remain sidelined. It's time to ensure real inclusion, resources, and leadership for women and young people in climate policy."

AKM Sohel, additional secretary and chief of the UN Wing at the Economic Relations Division, said no government can achieve true climate resilience without inclusive and coordinated action.

"Bangladesh has made remarkable progress -- identifying 113 intersections, and outlining more than 7,000 activities under its climate framework," he said.

"However, the lack of clear budgeting continues to create major funding gaps, hindering engagement with global partners. We must build stronger financial systems, ensure credible data, and embed gender- and youth-focused mechanisms in all climate financing," he added.

Nafisa Nowrin Chowdhury, resilient infrastructure specialist at C3ER, delivered the keynote presentation.

Among others, Farah Anzum, country lead of the Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC); M Zakir Hossain Khan, chief executive of Change Initiatives; Banasree Niqee Mitra, programme director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Kamal Ahmed, consultant editor of The Daily Star; and other climate and gender activists also attended the event.

Dhrubo wants

Slabon vows a women-friendly

FROM PAGE 3

and put students' academic careers and even lives at risk. There's a fear that such incidents could happen again, which is why we are determined to resist it."

He stressed the need for a long-term framework

to build a safe campus. "I want to introduce a 'Campus Charter' involving all stakeholders

students, teachers, and staff. Whenever the administration fails or acts irresponsibly, this charter will function as a guiding law for everyone."

Dhrubo said, "Our

plan is clear and multi-dimensional. We will include the Cucus elections in CU's academic calendar, ensure that elected representatives can participate in the Senate, and prepare a roadmap to address issues of food, accommodation, and transportation."

"Since 2019, I have been actively involved in movements and struggles at CU. During the July movement, I played the role of a co-coordinator, and afterwards I continued the fight by standing with the people, free from greed or temptation. I think my organisational ability to coordinate work at the grassroots level makes me capable of representing the students," he said.

Dhrubo also called for printing ballot papers in Braille for visually impaired students.

cottages or buildings to accommodate students.

For the long term, we can utilise abandoned buildings and unused land on campus to create housing facilities. I will initiate steps towards that," she added.

Improving the transport system would also be one of her priorities, alongside solving other basic issues such as medical services, medicine supply, and food quality.

"There is no separate day-care centre for female

students with children. The one that exists for teachers is also used by students, but it is not very effective. As a result, many female students with children struggle to continue their studies.

Their rights must be ensured -- so I plan to set up day-care centres in every faculty," she said.

She also pledged to

ensure prayer spaces, sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities, access to medical services, and strengthened campus security for female students.

"We will form an effective anti-sexual harassment cell and ensure a safe, supportive campus environment for women," she said.

"We kept our manifesto realistic -- all promises are achievable," she said.

Regarding the election, she called for uninterrupted vote counting with live broadcast to ensure transparency.

"I believe the students will choose the most deserving candidate through a free, fair election," she added.

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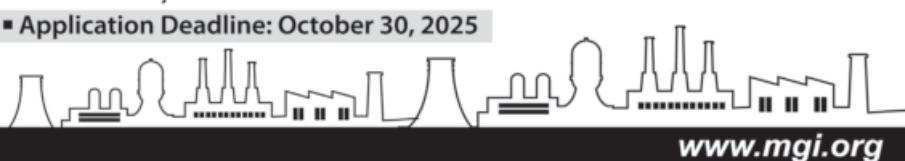
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'No one has been given a symbol outside of EC list'
Says CEC Nasir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said the Election Commission has not yet made any decision regarding the National Citizen Party's proposal to use "shapla" (water lily) as its election symbol.



The commission has no scope to go beyond its officially reserved list of election symbols.

Nasir Uddin said NCP leaders are aware of the EC's limitations and expressed hope that they would not create any obstacles to the democratic process in the country.

The CEC made the remarks after addressing a special meeting at the Chattogram Circuit House with deputy commissioners (DCs), senior law enforcement officials, and election-related officers from the Chattogram division.

Replies to a question about the possibility of adding the shapla symbol to the list, the CEC answered, "The rule is that parties must choose symbols from the EC's list. So far, no one has been given a symbol outside of the list."

MYANMAR BORDER
BGB man loses right foot in landmine blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

A member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was injured in a landmine explosion along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Naikongchhari upazila of Bandarban yesterday.

The incident occurred around 12:25pm near pillar no 41 along the Tumbru-Baishfari border under Ghumduhun union, said BGB officials.

The injured Nayek Akhtar Hossain was stationed at the Reju Amtali Border Outpost (BOP) under the Cox's Bazar Battalion (34 BGB). The explosion severed his right foot up to the ankle and left him with serious injuries to his left leg.

Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, commander of the Ramu Sector, said Akhtar was immediately taken to the Combined Military Hospital in Ramu.

According to the BGB, the explosion occurred while a patrol team from the Reju Amtali BOP was on duty at a proposed temporary outpost in the Pairabunia area.

তিকারননিসা নুন স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ
১/এ, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিকারননিসা নুন স্কুল এন্ড কলেজের জন্য অর্থাৎ ড্যান স্টেজ টু এন্ডেলাপ পর্যবেক্ষণে নুনগত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

তিকারননিসা নুন স্কুল এন্ড কলেজের জন্য ৫০ টি কম্পিউটার ও ৩০টি ইলেক্ট্রিশেস সরবরাহ করার জন্য সীল মোহরকৃত খামে অর্থাৎ ড্যান স্টেজ টু এন্ডেলাপ পর্যবেক্ষণে নুনগত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

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তিকারননিসা নুন স্কুল এন

INTERNATIONAL

“



We warn about the tricks and betrayals of the Zionist regime [Israel] regarding previous agreements... There is absolutely no trust in the Zionist regime.

Abbas Araghchi
Iranian foreign minister says he has no confidence that Israel would respect the terms of the Gaza ceasefire

US explosives factory blast kills 16

AFP, Washington

A huge blast at an explosives factory in Tennessee killed 16 people, authorities said Saturday, lowering the toll after locating two people who were previously missing and presumed dead.

The explosion Friday in the town of Bucksport took place at a factory owned by Accurate Energetic Systems, which makes explosives for both military and demolition purposes.

The blast destroyed an entire building at the plant's large campus, shook homes miles away and sent debris flying, news reports said.

After initially reporting a toll of 18 people presumed dead, "we have been able to locate and determine the two other folks (were) not on the site," Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said.

Their vehicle and personal items were found at the scene, leading to the initial belief they were among the victims.

In a statement, the company called the blast "a tragic accident."

But Brice McCracken, an official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, told reporters late Saturday that authorities "are not any closer today to determining the origin and cause of this explosion."

DNA testing will be used to identify remains.



Palestinians collect aid supplies from trucks that entered Gaza in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kremlin warns West of 'dramatic' escalation

Says Tomahawk supply to Ukraine 'unacceptable'



REUTERS, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said Russia was deeply concerned about the possibility of the US supplying Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine, warning that the war had reached a dramatic moment with escalation from all sides.

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that before agreeing to provide Tomahawks, he would want to know what Ukraine planned to do with them because he did not want to escalate the war between Russia and Ukraine. He said, however, that he had "sort of made a decision" on the matter.

Tomahawk missiles have a range of 2,500 km, meaning Ukraine would be able to use them for long range strikes deep inside Russia, including Moscow. Some retired variants of Tomahawks can carry a nuclear warhead, according to the US Congressional Research Service.

"The topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russian state television reporter Pavel Zarubin in remarks published on Sunday. "Now is really a very dramatic

moment in terms of the fact that tensions are escalating from all sides."

Peskov said that if Tomahawks were launched at Russia, Moscow would have to take into account that some versions of the missile can carry nuclear warheads.

"Just imagine: a long-range missile is launched and is flying and we know that it could be nuclear. What should the Russian Federation think? Just how should Russia react? Military experts overseas should understand this," Peskov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that it was impossible to use Tomahawks without the direct participation of US military personnel and so any supply of such missiles to Ukraine would trigger a "qualitatively new stage of escalation".

The Financial Times yesterday reported that the US has been helping Ukraine mount long-range strikes on Russian energy facilities for months. The FT said US intelligence helps Kyiv shape route planning, altitude, timing and mission decisions, enabling Ukraine's long-range, one-way attack drones to evade Russian air defences.

sector had six.

Today, private operators handle most of the freight but receive no government privileges, he said.

"I believe the movement we have been seeing in Bangladesh is fundamentally about equal rights -- that all sectors should have equal opportunities."

He also highlighted bureaucratic hurdles, including the requirement for ministerial approval to sell ships, and urged reforms to prepare for upcoming International Maritime Organisation (IMO) rules mandating zero-emission fuels by 2020.

Delivering the keynote, Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), cautioned that increasing protectionism and stricter climate regulations are transforming global shipping.

"This goes against fundamental rights. The private sector, while being praised verbally, was being discriminated against in practice."

He said the move seems to be to favour the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), which at the time had only three ships, while the private

French PM races against time to form government

AFP, Paris

French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu was negotiating yesterday to form a government after losing a key political ally, with time running short before a fast-approaching budget deadline.

France has been gripped by political instability since President Emmanuel Macron called snap polls last year that he hoped would consolidate power but instead resulted in a hung parliament and gains for the far right.

Macron reinstated Lecornu late Friday, just four days after the premier resigned and his first government collapsed, triggering outrage and vows from opponents to topple any new cabinet at the first chance.

The former defence minister must now assemble a government to present a 2026 draft budget before a Tuesday deadline, giving parliament the constitutionally required 70 days to scrutinise the plan before year's end.

But the right wing Republicans (LR), a key political ally, dealt a blow to his chances Saturday by announcing they would not take part in the new government but only cooperate on a "bill-by-bill" basis.

For his part, the premier has pledged to work with all mainstream political movements and vowed to select cabinet members who are "not imprisoned by parties".

The French president, facing the worst domestic crisis since the 2017 start of his presidency, has yet to address the public since Lecornu's first government fell.

Lecornu's reappointment comes as France faces political deadlock and a parliamentary impasse over an austerity budget against a backdrop of climbing public debt.

US-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

Trump's envoy 'optimistic' after meeting Modi

AFP, New Delhi

Newly confirmed US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor used his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk trade, defence and critical minerals, as the nations seek to amend sour ties.

Relations between the world's two largest democracies have plummeted in recent months over tariffs, ongoing negotiations for a trade deal and policy changes like an annual \$100,000 fee for H-1B skilled worker visas.

Trump imposed among the heaviest tariffs in the world on India, punishing it for purchasing Russian oil, which Washington says helps finance Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Ahead of his confirmation by the Senate last week, Trump acolyte Gor had voiced hope for keeping New Delhi in US good graces.

"We just finished an incredible meeting with Prime Minister Modi where we discussed bilateral issues including defence, trade, and technology," Gor said in a statement released by the US Embassy in New Delhi late Saturday.

"We also discussed the importance of critical minerals to both of our nations."

Gor said the United States values its relationship with India.

"I am optimistic about the days ahead for both of our nations."

Modi said he was "glad" to meet Gor and wished him a "successful tenure" in India.

"I am confident that his tenure will further strengthen the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership," Modi posted on X.

Gor also met India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, top diplomat V.K. Misri and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

3 terminals to get foreign operators by December

FROM PAGE 1
\$3 billion in FDI in 2023, while Vietnam received \$18 billion, and India \$28 billion. Why such a difference? It is because of structural bottlenecks."

One such bottleneck is in Chattogram Port, where syndicates have controlled operations for 50 years, Yousuf said.

"Without expanding capacity, port performance will never improve. So, we are bringing in international terminal operators to boost efficiency."

Currently, Bangladesh's logistics cost is 15-16 percent of GDP, one of the highest in the world, whereas most countries average around 8 percent.

"With such high logistics costs, how can we compete globally?"

About the new tariff structure, Yousuf said the last major revision occurred in 1986, nearly four decades ago. Although partial updates were attempted in 2007-08 and again in 2012, they were never fully implemented.

"We finally appointed a

consultant in 2020, and only now, in 2025, have we been able to finalise and enforce a new tariff. Yes, the rate has increased somewhat, but after forty years, it was unavoidable and necessary."

The tariff increase per container is about \$170-\$180.

"If we cut turnaround time even slightly, the savings per container will offset that increase. We must reduce turnaround time. There's no alternative -- globally, you have to compete."

The turnaround cost per container at Sri Lanka's port is \$0.86, while in Bangladesh it is \$3.23, he said.

If that gap could be reduced, about \$15,000 could be saved per vessel per day, he said.

"If we can implement our short- and medium-term plans properly, export competitiveness could rise by 90 percent."

The government must also ensure that international terminal operators remain profitable under fair and transparent terms.

A negotiation committee,

Mexico flood toll rises to 41

AFP, Tenango De Doria

Floods caused by torrential rains have killed at least 41 people in Mexico in recent days and left behind a trail of destruction, the government said Saturday.

Mexico's civil defense authorities reported intense rainfall in 31 of 32 states, causing rivers to overflow, flooding entire villages, triggering landslides and collapsing roads and bridges.

The central state of Hidalgo has been among the worst affected areas, with authorities there reporting at least 22 dead, 1,000 homes damaged and 90 communities inaccessible to rescuers.

He also highlighted bureaucratic hurdles, including the requirement for ministerial approval to sell ships, and urged reforms to prepare for upcoming International Maritime Organisation (IMO) rules mandating zero-emission fuels by 2020.

Delivering the keynote, Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), cautioned that increasing protectionism and stricter climate regulations are transforming global shipping.

In the future, the shipbuilding industry has the potential to export over \$1 billion. Therefore, it is essential to ensure financing facilities, including bank guarantees, he said.

Israel vows to destroy Gaza tunnels once hostages free

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel plans to destroy what remains of Hamas's network of tunnels under Gaza, working with US approval after its hostages are freed, it said yesterday.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said the operation would be conducted under an "international mechanism" led by the United States, sponsor of the three-day-old Gaza ceasefire.

"Israel's great challenge after the hostage release phase will be the destruction of all Hamas terrorist tunnels in Gaza," Katz said in a statement.

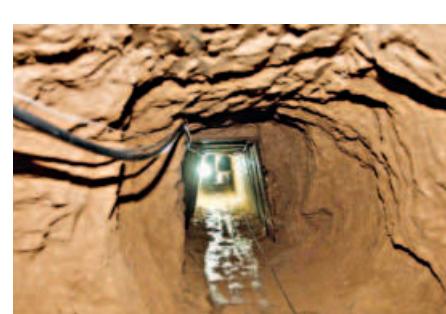
"I have ordered the army to prepare to carry out this mission."

The Palestinian group Hamas operates a network of tunnels under Gaza, allowing its fighters to operate out of sight of Israeli reconnaissance.

Some have passed under the border fence into Israel, allowing surprise attacks.

Many have already been destroyed during the two-year war triggered by the group's October 7, 2023 cross-border assault into Israel.

Katz said the remainder would be destroyed under the framework of Hamas's disarming and demilitarisation,



foreseen in the next stages of the US-backed ceasefire plan.

Hamas has agreed to the first stage of the plan, which led to a ceasefire on Friday and on Monday should see the release of 48 Israeli hostages, living and dead.

In exchange, Israel is expected to release 250 "national security prisoners", including several blamed for deadly attacks, and 1,700 Gazans detained by the military.

But Hamas has resisted calls to disarm, and on Sunday senior official Hossam Badran told AFP the second phase of the US plan "contains many complexities and difficulties".

Army cooperation with ICT trials vital

Meaningful reform of security agencies can prevent reversion to old practices

We welcome the Bangladesh Army's decision to act on the warrants issued by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against 16 in-service ranking officers recently indicted for crimes against humanity, including enforced disappearance and torture in custody. Its announcement in this regard—that all but one of those accused officials have been placed under custody—has reassured observers and the public, dispelling social media rumours meant to create sensation and stir unwarranted political tension. These trials are vital to ensuring justice for the many victims of cruel and inhumane suffering.

It was also reassuring to hear Adjutant General Md Hakimuzzaman affirm, at a press briefing held at the Army Headquarters on Saturday, that "Bangladesh Army respects all laws recognised by the Constitution." We hope that this spirit will be carried through in all its future actions. The nation and the international community will be watching closely to ensure that the army's public pledge to cooperate with the ICT's judicial process is followed through. We can recall that the United Nations fact-finding mission's report on the July uprising atrocities also called for ensuring accountability of members of security agencies. Any issue with technical clarity in the ICT Act, hopefully, will not affect the administration of justice.

We also note the adjutant general's assertion that those named by the ICT for alleged crimes were charged for their actions while working at the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and that these agencies at that time were not under the Army HQ. Distancing the accused from the army as an institution certainly deserves due consideration, as the DGFI functions under the Prime Minister's Office—currently under the Chief Adviser's Office—and Rab is an arm of the police.

Here comes the question of how the army as an institution can protect its sanctity and integrity from those who may tarnish it by committing criminal acts during their secondment to other agencies. An institutional mechanism of rigorous screening before their reinstatement must be developed. The question of differentiating between the army and its officers serving in various security agencies outside the force also reminds us of the need to reform these agencies.

There must be effective legal deterrents to prevent politicians from misusing security agencies—particularly the DGFI—for partisan purposes. Equally important is ending the abuse of power and impunity these agencies have long enjoyed on flimsy security grounds. Besides political workers, student activists, rights defenders, and academics, we in the media have also experienced DGFI's overreach. It intimidated newsrooms so often that a climate of fear persisted for quite a long time, affecting press freedom.

We echo the calls made by some civil society organisations such as the Transparency International Bangladesh and the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh that the interim government must initiate meaningful reform of these security agencies, so that the incoming political government post-elections can carry the process forward. We need reforms that can prevent a reversion to the old practices of power abuse and the weaponisation of these agencies by political masters.

Leave no room for misuse

New data protection and governance ordinances need consultations

The Advisory Council's approval of the Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025 and the National Data Governance Ordinance, 2025 is a significant development in Bangladesh's digital governance. While there is an undeniable need for a comprehensive legal framework to protect personal data, there are concerns, as voiced by the likes of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), about the possibility of the laws being misused.

According to TIB, the two ordinances with some questionable provisions were approved hurriedly, without adequate expert consultations or stakeholder engagement, which is concerning. During the last regime, stakeholders and experts had criticised the draft data protection law, particularly for the way it enabled surveillance. This time, an inclusive and extensive dialogue was expected, especially given its implications for privacy, civil liberties, and state accountability. While that expectation was not met, the dilution of internationally accepted data protection principles—such as lawfulness, transparency, and confidentiality—raises serious concern.

Especially alarming is the draft's subsection 15(4), which allows exemptions for data controllers, as well as Section 24, which gives access to personal data for "crime prevention" without judicial oversight. These provisions have the potential to become tools for surveillance and control, leading to violations of constitutional privacy rights. Extensive powers have been granted to the proposed National Data Management Authority, which will operate under the office of the prime minister or chief adviser. Furthermore, Section 23 mandates all "significant data controllers" to appoint a Chief Data Officer (CDO) but fails to specify whether these officers will be accountable to any government authority. Section 24 allows the government to access personal data without consent for reasons such as national security, defence, public order, or crime prevention and investigation—without clearly defining these terms, thereby heightening the risk of misuse. Section 50 empowers the government to issue directives to the authority on matters concerning sovereignty, security, public order, or foreign relations, while Section 55 authorises it to issue any order regarding data storage or transfer in cases deemed urgently necessary.

Undoubtedly, some provisions of the ordinances—mandating informed consent, securing sensitive data, empowering citizens with rights over their data, and introducing penalties for breaches—are crucial for safeguarding user privacy. But the lack of transparency in their drafting and the risk of increased state surveillance are issues that must be addressed. The government should pay heed to TIB's call not to enforce the ordinances now without meaningful consultations with experts and stakeholders.

We need a data privacy law that serves the people, not power

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is senior member at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and PhD candidate at Concordia University, Canada.

KHAN KHALID ADNAN and AZFAR ADIB

Bangladesh stands on the cusp of a defining choice for its digital future. On October 9, the interim government approved the long-anticipated Personal Data Protection Ordinance 2025, aimed at protecting citizens' data privacy and creating a comprehensive legal framework to regulate the collection, storage, processing, and sharing of personal information in the digital sphere. The ordinance promises consent, transparency, and accountability, gesturing towards the gold standard set by the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). However, a proposed draft circulating online shows that the ordinance has deviated at least in certain respects. The draft sketches a regulator, data breach duties, and individual rights. Yet beneath the headline goals lie structural flaws that highlight the need for further checking control reflexes and turning policy slogans into enforceable guarantees.

Let's begin with exemptions. Section 28 of the draft creates a wide escape hatch for crime fighting, investigations, regulatory work, statistics, and even open-ended categories that regulators can later expand. Interestingly, the proposed version did not include the terms "national security" or "public order" under the exemption category, but these have been included into the approved ordinance. Given the country's history of legal abuse, such exemptions risk legitimising arbitrary surveillance, discriminatory profiling, and control over information, particularly in situations involving political dissent or journalistic work. Without clear safeguards and effective independent oversight, activists, journalists, and minority communities may remain exposed to abuse and retaliation. The solution is straightforward: every exemption must comply with the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality—supported by judicial approval, clearly

defined purposes, independent audit mechanisms, and regular public transparency reports.

Regulatory independence is the second fault line. The draft grants the National Data Governance and Interoperability Authority broad powers, yet tethers its major actions to prior government approval, including for standard operating procedures and core classifications. The remedy for this is both boring and vital: appointment by parliament with cross-party consent, fixed terms, protected budgets, and transparent rule-making that cannot be vetoed by the Cabinet Division. Such administrative hygiene is also enshrined in Article 52 of the GDPR, which hardwires independence into the supervisory model.

check. Data residency can be legitimate for certain categories such as defence or critical registries. Mandating wholesale localisation through broad classifications is not a good strategy. Bangladesh should localise where risk demands it, and otherwise optimise for secure, lawful, and fast transnational data flows. If the government still wants an industrial policy dividend, tie any localisation to clear technical benchmarks and measurable service gains rather than symbolic flags on servers.

Proper infrastructure matters. The country already runs a tier-4 National Data Centre at Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (which has been renamed after the 2024 uprising) and has a sovereign government cloud. Private

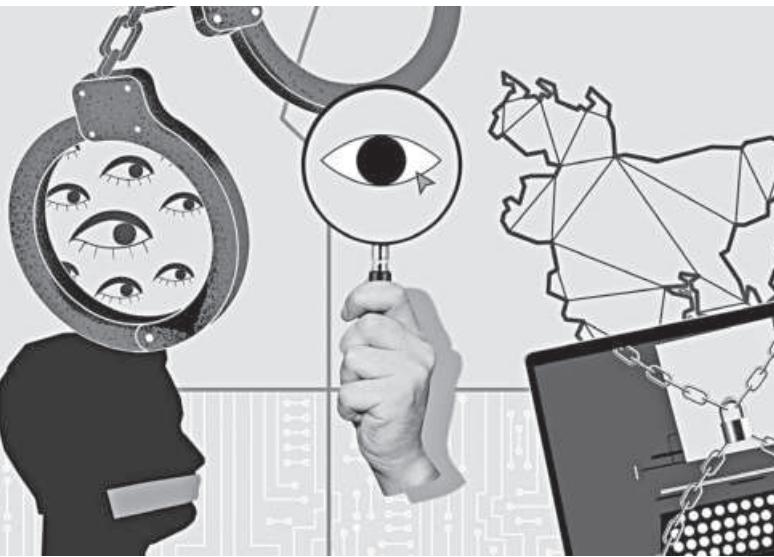
encouraged, not disrupted by ad hoc directives. Local edge keeps costs down and speeds up the internet for everyone. So, publish a cache policy, make it stable, and get out of the way.

Satellite communication is no longer a side quest. With Starlink now in the market, the government can require open peering and transparent quality metrics while removing regulatory frictions that block enterprise and rural adoption. A satellite backbone that rides above terrestrial politics raises the cost of network shutdowns and creates redundancy during disasters. Write those expectations into licensing and procurement so that resilience becomes a deliverable.

Rights without remedies are just vibes. The final law should give citizens fast redress. That includes a clear path to complain, statutory deadlines for decisions, meaningful compensation, and collective actions for systemic abuse. Timely breach notification is part of that social contract. Seventy-two hours to the regulator is a sensible default already supported by global practice. Pair it with a duty to notify affected users when the risk is real.

The government has already drawn criticism for the hurried approval of the ordinance. What it should do is put the text through a real public feedback mechanism, publish a dispositions memo showing what has changed and why, and invite external security testing of the regulatory machinery before it goes live. What should an ideal situation look like? A regulator that can say no to executive overreach. Exemptions that are narrow, time-bound, and court-supervised. Cross-border rules that companies can implement without guesswork. Local infrastructure that competes on reliability and price, not proximity to a ministry. Connectivity that is diverse by design. Breach duties that actually inform people. A playbook that treats citizens as rights holders, not data sources for administrative convenience.

Bangladesh can still choose that path. Build a regulator that can stand up to politics. Replace vague exceptions with hard tests and hard logs. Swap fuzzy localisation for practical safeguards that travel across borders. Double down on world-class infrastructure and stable connectivity policy. We must remember that a privacy theatre will not age well; a proper rights law will.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Cross-border data transfers are the third trouble spot. Section 34 ties data flows to a new state run taxonomy and hints at fees on data generated in Bangladesh, while Section 35 enables transfers for trade and reciprocity without a clear risk assessment framework. That is an invitation to rent-seeking, forum shopping, and regulatory arbitrage. A credible system needs a simple ladder—adequacy decisions for trusted destinations, standard contractual clauses for everyone else, binding corporate rules for global groups, and explicit risk assessments for high-impact processing. The policy shelf already has these tools. They are tested, interoperable, and predictable. Use them.

Localisation deserves a reality

sector builds are coming online. These are serious assets that can anchor a privacy-first economy if they meet global standards and deliver reliable uptime at competitive price points. That means formal certification, independent audits, smart peering, and energy-efficient operations. It also means aligning operator practices with international reliability norms.

Connectivity is a multiplier. The new SEA-ME-WE 6 cable will expand capacity and improve path diversity, reducing the fragility we saw when previous systems went dark and traffic had to limp through terrestrial routes. The policy task is to accelerate landing timetables, streamline repairs, and guard against single-vendor choke points. Meanwhile, caches and content delivery networks should be

The politics of peace, sponsored by the powerful



MIND THE GAP

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NOSHIN NAWAL

Once upon a time, peace used to be noisy. It marched through the streets, shouted through megaphones, and dared to disturb those who mistook silence for stability. Gandhi did not fast for brand partnerships. Martin Luther King Jr did not ask his oppressors to like and subscribe. But in 2025, peace has found a new aesthetic: carefully worded, media-trained, and proudly retweeted by the very people it is supposed to hold accountable.

This year, the Nobel Peace Prize went to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado for her "tireless work promoting democratic rights." It sounds noble enough—until she thanked US President Donald Trump for his "decisive support." The same Trump who once tried to deploy the National Guard against his own citizens and dismantled USAID under the spiritual guidance of Elon Musk. Apparently, world peace is now part of his portfolio, somewhere between space tourism and meme posting.

The irony here is not subtle. In the same breath that the White House accused the Nobel Committee of "placing politics over peace," Machado graciously dedicated her prize to a man whose presidency was practically a four-year war on empathy. One could almost hear Alfred Nobel rolling in

his grave, whispering, "This isn't quite what I meant by peace."

Trump, of course, responded with the self-restraint of a toddler denied dessert. He congratulated Machado, repaid her praise, and then declared that the Nobel Prize had "lost credibility." Which, to be fair, might be the first time Trump has ever been right by accident. Because if peace prizes are now handed out like influencer collaborations—complete with cross-platform gratitude and mutual back-patting—then credibility is not the only thing that has been lost.

Let's pause to admire the absurdity. Russia's Vladimir Putin, not usually known for his love of peaceful resolutions, praised Trump for "doing a lot to resolve complex crises." Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu chimed in too, hailing Trump as a global peacemaker. When the planet's most conflict-committed leaders start agreeing on who deserves a peace prize, one begins to wonder whether "peace" has been redefined to mean "PR coordination between autocrats."

This is not the first time the Nobel Committee has found itself tangled in contradictions. Obama's 2009 win for "promoting dialogue" came just months before he authorised drone strikes that did quite the opposite. But

at least Obama did not dedicate his award to George W Bush. Machado's decision to thank Trump feels like the diplomatic equivalent of applauding your arsonist for keeping the fire warm.

It's not that she is undeserving of recognition; Venezuela's struggle for democracy is real, brutal, and courageous. But the optics of praising a man cheered on by Netanyahu and Putin make the whole ceremony feel less like a celebration of courage and more like a LinkedIn endorsement exchange.

Even the Nobel Committee's citation sounded as if it had been drafted by ChatGPT on polite mode: "For tireless work promoting democratic rights." You could slap that line on half the world's think tanks and three-quarters of its hypocrites. It is the kind of praise that means everything and nothing, the award equivalent of a participation trophy at the apocalypse.

Meanwhile, Trump continues his second term, still auditioning for "Most Improved Peacemaker." His administration, armed with slogans and surrounded by billionaire-turned advisers, has reshaped global diplomacy into a corporate strategy deck. Peace, to him, is no longer a value but a deliverable, preferably one announced two days before Nobel nominations close.

And the Nobel Committee? It seems caught between nostalgia and naivety. It wants relevance in a world where activism has been rebranded as content creation. But in trying to stay modern, it has started mistaking visibility for virtue. It is no longer about who risked their life for peace; it is about who can fit "peace" into a

trending hashtag without losing their donor base.

Perhaps the real tragedy is not that Trump did not win, or that Machado did—it is that the award itself has stopped meaning anything beyond optics. When activists must thank their benefactors, and world leaders must feign enlightenment for applause, peace becomes performance art. And the Nobel stage, once sacred, now looks suspiciously like a red carpet, complete with moral sponsorships and ideological brand deals.

There was a time when peace prizes embarrassed the powerful—when they provoked, irritated, and disrupted. Today, they flatter. They've gone from defiant to diplomatic, from firebrand to photo op. The new age of peace is not about ending wars; it is about editing them for prime time.

Maybe the Nobel Committee should be honest and update the prize categories: "Best Supporting Role in a Ceasefire," "Outstanding Achievement in Selective Outrage," "Lifetime Contribution to the Illusion of Global Stability." That way, at least the rest of us would know what we're applauding.

Because peace, the real kind, is not polite. It does not thank its sponsors. It does not survive on applause from Netanyahu or compliments from Putin. It does not dedicate its victories to men who once bragged about building walls.

The truth is simple: when peace starts needing permission from the powerful, it stops being peace. It becomes PR—a beautifully packaged illusion, complete with hashtags, handshakes, and a trophy for whoever looks best holding it.

Why Bangladesh should end the death penalty



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Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

ESHA SRABONI

The 23rd World Day Against the Death Penalty was observed globally on October 10. However, Bangladesh is at a crossroads as our government, despite having prominent human rights defenders in its ranks, including some who once campaigned to abolish the death penalty, now seeks to expand crimes punishable by death even as most of the world moves away from executions. More than 140 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In South Asia, Nepal and Bhutan abolished it decades ago, while Sri Lanka and the Maldives have refrained from executions for over 40 years. India retains the death penalty but reserves it for the "rarest of the rare." A study on 1,486 death sentences issued by trial courts in India between 2000 and 2015 showed that only 4.9 percent remained on death row after appeal.

In Bangladesh, however, successive governments have widened the scope of capital offenses beyond international standards. Of the 33 death penalty offenses in the country, 23 were added after 1971, and 25 are for non-fatal crimes. Bangladesh's intentional homicide rate is typically below the South Asian average, yet a large number of people remain on death row every year. Currently, 18,000 people are awaiting execution. In 2024, 2023 and 2022, Bangladesh imposed over 165, 248, and 169 death sentences, respectively. These statistics force us to reassess what the death penalty achieves and what justice requires.

The defence of capital punishment in Bangladesh often leans on nationalist rhetoric, portraying abolition as a foreign imposition. For example, our Supreme Court has observed that the death penalty is indispensable for Bangladesh, warning against "alien jurisprudence" because "our social conditions, social and cultural values are completely different from those of western

countries... [and] we would not incorporate principles foreign to our Constitution."

The irony is that the institutionalisation of the death penalty in Bangladesh is a colonial legacy. The Penal Code of 1860, drafted by British colonial administrators, was designed to discipline colonised subjects in the Indian subcontinent, not to reflect local norms. As Partha Chatterjee, an Indian political scientist and anthropologist, notes, new states reproduce colonial techniques of rule in the name of sovereignty, and Bangladesh is no exception. The stage has moved from the public gallows to concealed prison yards, but the underlying logic endures—to display state power, rather than to ensure justice through fairness.

Even if one accepts the argument that capital punishment suits "our" conditions, does the death penalty make us safer? States legitimise capital punishment by claiming it deters crimes, but no credible evidence supports this view. From a methodological perspective, there is no ethical way to design a rigorous study to test whether capital punishment deters crimes. A truly rigorous study would, for example, require randomly exposing people to the risk of execution, which is ethically indefensible. The US National Research Council's review of three decades of deterrence research concluded that research "is not informative" on whether executions decrease, increase, or have no effect on homicide. In countries such as Bangladesh, with uneven crime data, claims of deterrence are even more speculative.

What reliably prevents violence is not Foucault's "spectacle of the scaffold," but the certainty and swiftness of sanctions delivered by competent institutions. Bangladesh's experience with reducing acid violence bears this out. Acid attacks declined when the state restricted access to acid and enforced licensing through strict monitoring, and not

by severe penalties alone.

Irreversible errors, fragile justice, and unequal burdens

Errors in regular sentences can be corrected; errors in a capital sentence are final. Research on wrongful convictions shows us how misidentification, unreliable forensics, and coerced confessions produce catastrophic errors that appeals miss. Bangladesh's justice system contains the same risks: allegations

criminal justice institutions as "selective in their blindness," harshest towards those least able to defend themselves. Bangladesh's death-row prisoners are overwhelmingly young, poor, with little schooling, and often with no prior criminal record. This skew is not accidental, but structural. Capital punishment is a form of necropolitics: it reproduces inequality by channelling the state's lethal power toward the most

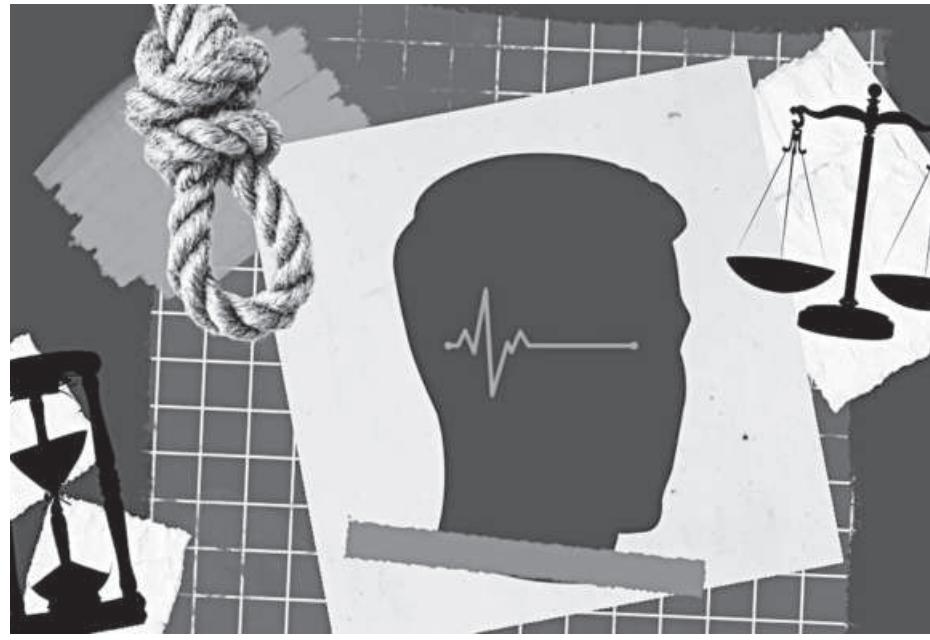
whether the death penalty is ever acceptable, and the data from 2017-2020 indicate an approval of around 15 percent in Bangladesh, far from a majority. Small, non-representative studies with students find some support for the death penalty, which drops when life imprisonment without parole is offered as an alternative. These studies also show that support for the death penalty often reflects frustration with a justice system perceived as corrupt and a desire for safety. Taken together, this is a mandate to repair everyday justice, not a licence to expand an irreversible penalty.

The way forward

More than a decade ago, Bangladesh's higher judiciary marked a milestone in the *Shukur Ali* case by declaring the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional. The next step is abolition. Our justice system must honour victims and discipline the state. Capital punishment does neither. It brutalises the state by normalising violence and replacing institution-building with spectacle and performativity. And it fails victims, who deserve the truth, safety, and support—not a distant promise of execution after years of appeals.

Abolition is, thus, a project of state-building, a break with colonial logics of spectacular violence and fear as authority. When a state repeatedly resorts to the death penalty, it admits its failure to invest in the slow and painstaking labour of justice: truth-finding, reasoned judgment, due process, and punishment that respects rights, even for those undoubtedly guilty of the gravest of crimes. A democracy cannot be sustained on the deprivation of life.

The path to abolition is challenging, but the steps towards it can begin now through a phased approach. First a moratorium can be declared, temporarily pausing executions, independently reviewing all death-row cases, guaranteeing access to competent legal counsel and impartial adjudication, and publishing transparent death-row data. At the same time, investment can be made in a system that prevents harm: for example, prohibiting torture and coerced confessions, expanding survivor-centred services, and ending prolonged death-row confinement. Our constitution promises dignity and the rule of law; upholding that promise leaves no place for the death penalty in our justice system.



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

of torture, limited forensic capacity, planted evidence, inadequate defence, thinly reasoned judgments, and arbitrary sentencing. Without sentencing guidelines, capital cases often proceed in an ad hoc manner, and identical facts can yield divergent outcomes.

These harms are compounded by time. As Albert Camus wrote in his *Reflections on the Guillotine*, "Two deaths are inflicted on him, the first being worse than the second, whereas he killed but once." Capital appeals often stretch a decade, while prisoners endure the "death-row phenomenon"—prolonged confinement in harsh conditions, isolation, and constant anticipation of execution—a treatment deemed inhuman and degrading by international courts.

Nor are these burdens borne evenly. The French sociologist Loïc Wacquant describes

marginalised in society.

In fact, the death penalty in Bangladesh is a political instrument that legislators repeatedly resort to in the wake of horrific crimes, in response to public anger. These punitive surges, exemplified by the mass death sentences that rights groups have criticised for failing to follow due process, do not strengthen the rule of law; they only signal courts swayed by populist pressure. Claims of broad support for the death penalty in Bangladesh often rest on observations from these moments of outrage. However, evidence for public support for capital punishment beyond transient moments is scarce. There is a lack of reliable, nationally representative polling to show durable support for capital punishment. Where data does exist, it complicates the picture. Global values surveys have asked

Banks must embed climate risk across their operations



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KARIMUL TUHIN

Bangladesh's banking industry stands on the frontline of climate change. The recent circular on Sustainability and Climate-Related Financial Disclosure Guidelines by the Bangladesh Bank (BB), in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) S1 and S2, signals a new era in financial supervision. The country is one of the most vulnerable ones to climate change due to extreme weather events and erratic rainfall. Climate change-induced frequent floods, cyclones, droughts, and salinity intrusion are disrupting livelihoods, demolishing assets, and weakening borrowers' ability to repay. Unless the banking sector responds proactively, climate risks will harm the financial system as a whole. Climate change can no longer be overlooked as merely an environmental issue; it is now a firm concern for financial stability.

Climate risks affect banks in two interconnected ways. The first is through physical risks, which arise from direct impacts of climate events on borrowers, collateral, and operations. A cyclone that washes away shrimp farms in Khulna, for example, not only wipes out the borrowers' income but also devalues the mortgaged land, creating a double exposure to trouble for lenders. These are not theoretical risks; they are present realities.

The second pathway is through transition risks, which arise as the world moves towards decarbonisation. Stricter environmental, social, and governance (ESG) regulations, the phasing out of coal and high-emission industries, and changing consumer preferences can all impact the profitability of businesses that banks currently finance. While

transition risks can be transformed into opportunities for green lending, the physical risks almost always lead to higher default rates and asset impairment.

International evidence supports this reality. Research shows that climate shocks increase non-performing loans (NPLs) and reduce credit supply. Banks exposed to high-carbon sectors also face reputational risks, regulatory penalties, and stranded assets as policies tighten. In Bangladesh, where a significant portion of formal lending is concentrated in climate-exposed sectors—agriculture, cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), and power—the climate-related risks are higher. Without

integrating climate risks into credit appraisal and portfolio management, banks will struggle to sustain asset quality and long-term profitability.

This is where the new disclosure guidelines come into play. By requiring banks to assess and publish information on climate-related risks, BB has taken an important step towards aligning the financial sector with global frameworks, such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) standards. But disclosure is only the beginning. Banks must not treat it as a box-ticking exercise. Instead, they need to embed climate risk management into their core operations, governance, and strategy.

The first priority is stress testing. Banks must develop models to simulate how different climate scenarios, such as a major cyclone hitting coastal Bangladesh or a sudden increase in carbon tax on export industries, would affect their loan

books. These exercises will indicate sectoral vulnerabilities and guide adjustments in lending strategies. For example, excessive exposure to high-risk coastal agriculture without adequate insurance or resilience measures could be flagged and reduced.

Second, banks need to integrate climate considerations into credit decisions. This means going beyond traditional financial ratios, and examining whether clients are vulnerable to flooding, whether they use energy-intensive technologies, or whether they have transition plans. Carbon-intensive projects should carry higher risk premiums, while low-carbon and climate-resilient investments should be incentivised. Already, some global banks are linking loan pricing to borrowers' emission reduction targets, thus, Bangladeshi banks cannot remain far behind.

Third, the industry must significantly expand its green and sustainable finance portfolio. In 2024, banks disbursed around Tk 30,653.78 crore as green finance, up from Tk 19,304.31 crore in 2023. While this growth is encouraging, much of it still appears to be compliance-driven rather than driven by the strategic vision of the banks. Banks need to innovate by issuing green bonds, developing sustainability-linked loans, and mobilising concessional finance in partnership with development agencies. Climate-resilient agriculture, renewable energy, energy-efficient machinery, and waste-to-resource projects—all represent opportunities for profitable and impactful lending.

Transitioning into these areas is not just good for society; it is good business.

Fourth, banks must strengthen disclosure and transparency. Under the new guideline, publishing climate risk exposure and climate-related financial disclosure will be mandatory by 2027. But the credibility of these disclosures will depend on data quality and methodology. Boards and senior management must take ownership of climate reporting, rather than relegating it to related

departments. Transparent disclosure will not only meet regulatory requirements but also enhance investor confidence, especially as global financiers increasingly demand climate accountability.

Of course, the central bank itself has a critical role. BB has long been recognised as a pioneer in green banking, not only in South Asia but also globally. Yet, the challenge now is enforcement and capacity building. Guidelines alone will not deliver change unless backed by strict monitoring. The central bank should make climate stress testing mandatory for all scheduled banks, supported by globally accepted standardised scenarios and methodologies.

Equally important, the central bank must provide incentives. Low-cost refinance schemes, such as the Green Transformation Fund (GTF), Technology Development Fund (TDF) for green projects, and recognition in sustainability ratings can all encourage banks to scale up their efforts. Just as importantly, BB should promote capacity building—training bank staff, developing tools, and fostering partnerships with international climate finance institutions. Without these enablers, disclosure may remain a compliance burden rather than a catalyst for genuine transformation.

Ultimately, the stakes are clear. If banks ignore climate risks, they risk rising defaults, stranded assets, and declining profitability. But if they embrace climate resilience, they can unlock new growth opportunities and support Bangladesh's national development goals. Financing climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and adaptation projects will not only safeguard bank balance sheets but also protect millions of people living on the frontlines of climate change.

The time for incremental change is over. Bangladesh's financial industry must now decide whether it will be a passive victim of climate risks or a proactive agent of climate resilience. The central bank has set the direction; it is up to the industry to follow through with conviction.

CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
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25 Frank McCourt book
27 Baby baldies
31 Flat fish
33 Join the choir
34 Lotion additive
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36 In the past
37 Primary color
39 - Aviv
40 UFO pilots



FRIDAY'S ANSWERS
A T E A M C H E T
L E M M A A L I V E
C A P E R P O R E S
A C E S A R D E N T
P A R C H I S T Y
P R O T R A C T
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T A U N A S C O W
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FILMFARE AWARDS 2025

'Laapataa Ladies' ties 'Gully Boy' record with 13 wins

Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred upon Zeenat Aman and, posthumously, filmmaker Shyam Benegal. The RD Burman Award for Upcoming Talent in Music went to Achint Thakkar for his work in Jigraand Mr & Mrs Mahi.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 70th Filmfare Awards lit up Ahmedabad's EKA Arena on Saturday night, marking a grand celebration of Hindi cinema's evolving spirit. *Laapataa Ladies* emerged as the evening's biggest winner, collecting 13 awards, including Best Film and Best Director for Kiran Rao — tying the all-time record held by *Gully Boy*.

Hosted by Shah Rukh Khan alongside Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul, the ceremony blended glamour, nostalgia, and artistic recognition. The night featured energetic performances by Shah Rukh, Kriti Sanon, and Kajol, as the industry gathered to honour both established and emerging talent.

Abhishek Bachchan and Kartik Aaryan shared the Best Actor (Male) honour — Bachchan for his restrained performance as a man navigating loss in Shoojit Sircar's *I Want To Talk*, and Aaryan for his portrayal of boxing legend Murlikant Petkar in *Chandu Champion*. Alia Bhatt won Best Actress (Female) for *Jigra*, in which she portrayed a woman grappling with guilt and redemption.

The Critics' Choice Awards recognised Rajkummar Rao as Best Actor (Male) for *Srikanth*, where he brought depth to the role of visually impaired entrepreneur Srikanth Bolla. Pratibha Ranta earned Best Actor (Female) for her portrayal of a runaway bride seeking freedom in *Laapataa Ladies*. Shoojit Sircar's *I Want To Talk* was named



ILLUSTRATION: DOWEL BISWAS

Critics' Best Film.

In supporting categories, Ravi Kishan and Chhaya Kadamb both received recognition for *Laapataa Ladies*, praised for their layered performances as figures representing social change and generational tension. The film's success also extended to technical and musical categories, with Sneha Desai winning for screenplay and dialogue, and Ram Sampath honoured for music and background score.

Action thriller *KILL* earned multiple technical awards, including cinematography,

sound design, and editing, while *Article 370* was acknowledged for its compelling story and direction. Madhubanti Bagchi took home Best Playback Singer (Female) for *Stree 2*, and Arijit Singh won the male counterpart for *Laapataa Ladies*.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred upon Zeenat Aman and, posthumously, filmmaker Shyam Benegal. The RD Burman Award for Upcoming Talent in Music went to Achint Thakkar for his work in *Jigraand Mr & Mrs Mahi*.



Sabina Yasmin and Moushumi Bhowmik to headline London festival

Two of the subcontinent's most beloved voices, legendary songstresses Sabina Yasmin from Bangladesh and Moushumi Bhowmik from West Bengal, are set to share the same stage in London this month.

The singers will perform on October 19 at a special music segment of the London Bangla Book Fair and Cultural Festival, to be held at the Mayfair Venue in Romford, East London. Organised by Uidichi's UK chapter

in collaboration with several local cultural organisations, the festival marks its 16th edition this year.

The day-long event will feature book launches, poetry recitations, and children's performances from noon to 5:30pm, followed by the much-anticipated concert from 6:30pm to 10pm.

Sabina Yasmin will leave Dhaka for London today and is expected to return on October 25 after the performance.

NEWS

Dozens killed in clashes

FROM PAGE 12
Taliban, Pakistan has not officially acknowledged the airstrikes.

Afghan troops opened fire on Pakistani border posts late on Saturday. Pakistan said that it had responded with gun and artillery fire.

Both nations claimed to have destroyed border posts of the other side. Pakistani security officials shared video footage, which they said showed Afghan posts being hit.

The exchanges were mostly over yesterday morning, Pakistani security officials said. But in Pakistan's Kurram area, intermittent gunfire continued, according to local officials and residents.

Afghanistan's ministry of defence had previously said that their operation had finished at midnight local time.

Kabul yesterday said that it had

halted attacks at the request of Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The two Arab Gulf nations had released statements of concern about the clashes.

"There is no kind of threat in any part of Afghanistan's territory," the Taliban administration's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said yesterday.

"The Islamic Emirate and the people of Afghanistan will defend their land and remain resolute and committed in this defence."

Mujahid said that fighting was ongoing in some areas.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he "strongly condemns provocations" by Afghanistan.

"There will be no compromise on Pakistan's defence, and every provocation will be met with a strong and effective response," Sharif said in a statement, accusing Taliban authorities in Afghanistan

of allowing their land to be used by "terrorist elements".

Pakistani officials yesterday said Pakistan had closed crossings along the 2,600-km border with Afghanistan, a disputed colonial-era frontier known as the Durand line drawn up by the British in 1893.

The two main border crossings with Afghanistan, at Torkham and Chaman, and at least three minor crossings, at Kharlachi, Angoor Adda and Ghulam Khan, were closed yesterday, local officials said.

The Pakistani airstrikes coincided with a rare visit to India by a Taliban leader, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, which resulted in an announcement by India on Friday to upgrade relations. India is Pakistan's longstanding adversary, with the trip causing concern in Islamabad.

Mogwe lauded Bangladesh for acceding to the UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the formation of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances and the initiation of the trial of human rights violators.

"The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances is doing an amazing job given the number of people who have come forward to tell their stories, share their experiences and pain. Generally speaking, in terms of trying to deal with accountability, it's really important for a country, which has been through severe rights violations, to ensure that memory is not lost of what has happened."

About her visit to the July

Memorial Museum, she said she was deeply moved at how the memories are being captured, but also recognised that there is a need to pay attention to the healing process.

"You know, there will be deep trauma as a result of what has happened. But to be able to have accountability, you need to have memory, and you need to know and remember what happened," she said.

She said she has a very strong sense that the interim government is doing as much as it can within the limited time to ensure that accountability is clear, impunity is not accepted, and people's fundamental freedoms and ability to live with dignity are underscored.

Asked about the practice of the death penalty that the FIDH opposes, she said Bangladesh is committed to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its optional protocols, including those related to the death penalty.

"But one can understand that those issues need to be further discussed within the Bangladesh context while recognising that Bangladesh is part of the international family of nations."

Asked what she suggests for continuing the accountability process, Mogwe said the most important element is the political will of the government in power, and that she saw such will in the government officials she engaged with in Bangladesh.

Asked about the ban on the Awami League's activities, she said: "It was a very internal reflection process, of which I don't know much. So, I think there needs to be a sensitivity to context."

The rights activist said the uprising began with the spirit against discrimination, and that has to go on.

"One thing we need to remember is that discrimination erodes dignity. It erodes the ability of people to live with dignity."

Officials of last 3 polls

FROM PAGE 12
may be met by reappointing those who had served before but were not involved in any controversy, said a senior PHQ official.

The police have already prepared a list based on officers' permanent addresses, political backgrounds and posting history under the former Awami League government. The list has been reviewed by several government agencies.

The PHQ is in the process of replacing the superintendents of police in 64 districts and the officers-in-charge of 640 police stations across the country.

"Basically, those who played commanding roles during the last three elections are being replaced," the PHQ official added.

During yesterday's briefing, Jahangir said the meeting discussed measures to identify individuals or groups attempting to create disorder ahead of the election and to bring them under the law.

Strict legal action will be taken against those who try to disrupt the electoral process, he said.

The government has prepared a clear and coordinated action plan involving all relevant agencies to ensure a smooth and credible election.

Deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, upazila nirbahi officers, and officers-in-charge will be instructed to work impartially, he said.

"Law enforcement and election officials have also been directed not to engage in any unlawful activities while on election duty."

To ensure security at polling centres, Jahangir said CCTV cameras will be installed at all high-risk stations along with effective monitoring systems.

"We are working to equip polling personnel with body-worn cameras and ensure sufficient numbers of such devices are available."

Jahangir outlined a broad security training programme for forces to be deployed during the election.

About 1.5 lakh police personnel, 5.85 lakh Ansar members and around 33,000 BGB personnel are set to receive election-related training, he said.

The training, which began on October 5 and is expected to be completed by January 15 next year, is being conducted across 130 venues in 28 batches, he said.

The first batch of 6,500 officers has completed training, while another 6,500 are undergoing sessions.

Ansar and Village Defence Party

(VDP) members are also receiving pre-election training, with around 585,000 members to be trained, including 135,000 armed and 405,000 unarmed members. Their training is scheduled to finish by mid-January.

Additionally, 3,157 newly recruited sepoys are being trained as striking force members.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will deploy around 33,000 members across 1,100 platoons, with 60 percent of their training already complete.

"We expect training for all 31,000 to be completed this year."

More than 80,000 members of the armed forces will be deployed nationwide to maintain law and order during the polls, Jahangir said.

"Patrolling and intelligence surveillance will be intensified so the situation does not deteriorate," he said.

Asked about the recovery of illegal weapons before the polls, he said it is not possible to recover every firearm.

"If every weapon were recovered, there would be no need for law enforcement agencies. Some arms remain outside, which is why patrols and intelligence activities are being strengthened."

Int'l standards for accountability

FROM PAGE 12

The visit comes at a time when the perpetrators of human rights violations, including mass killings and enforced disappearances, during the Awami League regime are facing trial.

Mogwe lauded Bangladesh for acceding to the UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the formation of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances and the initiation of the trial of human rights violators.

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Shelved after spending Tk 2,800cr

FROM PAGE 12

emphasising that the authorities should plan how to make optimal use of the existing road.

Originally named the Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project, it was scheduled for completion by December 2016 at a cost of Tk 2,037.9 crore.

But long delay was caused by issues relating to land acquisition, relocation of utility services, design changes, contractors running out of money, and the pandemic. Physical work was suspended twice.

As a result, the total project cost is now estimated at Tk 4,268.3 crore and the deadline is this December.

The dedicated rapid bus service was supposed to allow people to reach Dhaka from Gazipur in 35-40 minutes, which now takes between an hour and a half and three hours.

MASTER PLAN

The special assistant said the government is working to prepare a comprehensive transport master plan, as no such plan has been formulated since independence.

He noted that the road, rail, shipping, and civil aviation authorities are currently operating with their own plans, causing coordination problems.

The road transport and bridges ministry has led the formulation of the master plan to address the problem, and a draft has already been prepared, he added.

He said the country's major highways can no longer handle the increasing volume of vehicles. As a result, greater emphasis is now being placed on developing the rail and waterway systems.

Asked about the practice of the death penalty that the FIDH opposes, she said Bangladesh is committed to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its optional protocols, including those related to the death penalty.

He said the fares last increased about nine years ago, while the prices of all other essentials have gone up during this time. Therefore, the fares should be adjusted in line with current market conditions, he added.

Alzal said that even after reducing operation costs, the railway still spends Tk 2 to earn Tk 1.

He said they cannot provide the expected services due to shortage of locomotives and carriages.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority's Executive Director Neelima Akhter, Roads and Highways Department's Chief Engineer Syed Ansar and Village Defence Party

Moinul Hasan, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd's Managing Director Faruque Ahmed, RRR President Anowar Hossain, and General Secretary Tawhidul Islam, among others, spoke the meeting.

All 114 Jamaat-Shibir

FROM PAGE 12

during a clash between BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir members at Shah Makhadem Hall on February 8, 2010. His body was recovered from a manhole the following day.

Mazedul Islam Opu, then general secretary of the banned BCL unit, filed a case with Motihar Police Station against 35 identified Jamaat-Shibir men and 20 unidentified others.

On July 28, 2012, police submitted a chargesheet, accusing 114 people, including then Jamaat-ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hoss



PHOTO: STAR

Waterlogging plagues newly built road in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The newly constructed Tarakandi-Bhuapur road in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila has become waterlogged at several points due to poor drainage.

The worst-affected area is Titas Intersection in Pogoldigha union, where stagnant, foul-smelling water has not only submerged the road but also entered nearby homes, causing great inconvenience to residents.

According to locals, the Roads and Highways Department recently built a new bypass road adjacent to the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory near Titas Intersection, connecting it with the Sarishabari-Tarakandi regional highway.

However, no proper system has been installed to drain factory wastewater and rainwater from the surrounding areas. As a result, large volumes of wastewater have accumulated between two sections of the road, flooding nearby houses and business establishments.

Consequently, many residents have tried to protect their homes by building makeshift barriers along the road, which has further stagnated the water and caused its level to rise.

The problem has persisted for several

months, said Shipon, a local resident. "Our homes regularly become flooded with toxic, stinking discharge from the factory and rainwater after downpours."

Local traders said they are finding it difficult to continue their businesses.

"Our shops and homes remain submerged under knee-deep dirty water. We've tried blocking the water with soil, but to no avail. No step has yet been taken to solve this problem," said a shopkeeper.

"We have developed skin infections and sores from having to wade through this dirty water daily. It has become extremely difficult for children and elderly people to move around. We urge the authorities to take immediate action to drain the water," said Liton Mia, another resident.

Contacted, Md Delwar Hossain, general manager (administration) of Jamuna Fertilizer Factory, acknowledged the issue.

"We have a plan to install pumps to discharge the accumulated water through our drainage line. However, local residents have blocked the natural drainage routes by building barriers on the road, which prevents the water from flowing into nearby lowlands. Even so, we will take the necessary measures to resolve the problem," he said.

Dhaka M'singh bus service resumes

Services were halted over workers' clash with NCP activists

STAR REPORT

Bus services on the Dhaka-Mymensingh route resumed yesterday after being suspended following a clash between transport workers and National Citizen Party (NCP) activists in Mymensingh city on Friday.

Following a meeting between NCP members of the district and representatives of Mymensingh Transport Workers Association, services resumed around 8:45pm, said Mymensingh Superintendent of Police Kazi Akhtar ul Alam.

Dhaka-bound buses from all districts under the Mymensingh division — Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, and Netrokona — had been suspended following the scuffle.

ACC files case against Hasina over toll scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission has filed a case against 17 individuals, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and seven former ministers, over allegations of causing a financial loss of Tk 309.42 crore to the government in connection with the Meghna-Gomti Bridge toll collection contract.

The case was filed on Sunday at the ACC's Integrated District Office in Dhaka, said ACC public relations officer Tanjir Hasan.

The accused include Hasina, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Obaidul Quader, Anisul Huq, MA Mannan, MAN Siddique, Md Faruq Jalil, Mohammad Shafiqul Karim, Md Firoz Iqbal, Ibne Alam Hasan, Md Aftab Hossain Khan, Md Abdus Salam, Munir Uz Zaman Chowdhury, Selina Chowdhury, and Ikram Iqbal.

The allegations stem from a 2016 decision to award the toll collection contract to Computer Network Systems Ltd (CNS) through a single-source tender, bypassing competitive bidding.

The previous tender was cancelled, and CNS was awarded a five-year contract with a service charge of 17.75 percent of total toll revenue. As a result, CNS received Tk 489.43 crore in bills — significantly higher than comparable contracts.

Govt to merge 2 divisions

FROM PAGE 3
upazilas, and for the approval of manpower. It provides recommendations on these matters to NICAR, which is headed by the chief adviser.

The Cabinet Division in September issued a gazette merging the two divisions — the Public Security Division and the Security Services Division — of the home ministry.

In March 2017, the government split the Health and Family Welfare Ministry into two separate divisions — the Health Services Division and the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division — to improve health services management.

Various departments were reorganised and placed under the two divisions, each headed by a secretary.

"The split did not bring any benefit; instead, it increased the coordination gap and created scope for duplication of work. We have

therefore been demanding the merger for a long time," said Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of the Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University.

He said primary healthcare services were divided between the two divisions. For example, Family Planning was placed under the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, while Community Clinics and Union Health Centres were brought under the Health Services Division.

Similarly, medical colleges were put under the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, while the hospital sections of those colleges were placed under the Health Services Division.

The commission, in its report, said the split in the ministry created many problems instead of improving management.

Prof Sayedur also said, "We want unified health services. The merger's main aim is to ensure better coordination and avoid overlapping," he said.

He said the Health Sector Reform Commission has recommended sweeping changes in the health sector, including the

7 burnt in blast at factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least seven workers sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a battery recycling factory in Narsingdi yesterday. Three of them, who are in critical condition, were sent to the burn institute in Dhaka, police said.

The incident occurred around 10:00am at an unauthorised lead extraction factory in Panchdona area, said OC Emdadul Haque of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station.

The critically injured workers are Mozammel Hossain, 19, Hossain Ali, 24, and Tajul Islam, 25. Four other workers sustained minor burns.

The OC said police and fire officials visited the site.

TYPHOID VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Over 10 lakh vaccinated on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 10 lakh children received the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine yesterday, marking the first day of a month-long campaign targeting 4.9 crore children aged between nine months and 15 years.

By 6:00pm, 8.30 lakh children had been recorded as vaccinated online, said Shahariar Sajjad, deputy director of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

"Besides, many children received the vaccine after being registered manually, and their count will be added within 24 hours. So, we estimate that over 10 lakh children were vaccinated on the first day," he told The Daily Star around 8:30pm.

EPI Assistant Director Hasanul Mahmud said no reports of adverse effects had been received.

Health Adviser Nurjan Begum formally inaugurated the campaign.

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Information and Communication Technology Department																																																																																																																		
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000																																																																																																																		
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Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Selection of A Joint Venture of Consulting Firm for PCI DSS Consultation, Compliance and Certification Body for PCIDSS Certification for National Payment Switch of Bangladesh (NPSB) [Fourth Time]																																																																																																																		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">1.</td> <td>Ministry/Division</td> <td>Not Applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Agency</td> <td>Bangladesh Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Name of Procuring Entity</td> <td>Information and Communication Technology Department, Bangladesh Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Title of Service</td> <td>Selection of consulting firm for PCI DSS Consultation, Compliance and Certification Body for PCI DSS Certification for National Payment Switch of Bangladesh (NPSB) [Fourth Time]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Procuring Entity District</td> <td>Dhaka</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Expression of Interest for Selection of</td> <td>A joint venture of Consulting Firm and Certification Body, Lump Sum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>EOI Ref. No.</td> <td>ICTD-2(3)/190R3/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>Date (dd/mm/yyyy)</td> <td>09 October 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">KEY INFORMATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.</td> <td>Procurement Sub-Method</td> <td>Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">FUNDING INFORMATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.</td> <td>Budget and Source of funds</td> <td>Own Source</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.</td> <td>Development Partner (if applicable)</td> <td>Not Applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">PARTICULAR INFORMATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.</td> <td>Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>13.</td> <td>Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14.</td> <td>Pre-Proposal Meeting</td> <td>Within 15 days from publication date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15.</td> <td>EOI Closing Date and time</td> <td>03 November 2025, 03:00PM Bangladesh Standard Time Receiving Document: Two (02) sets of Hard Copy document is mandatory</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.</td> <td>Brief Description of the Assignment</td> <td> <p>Tasks and responsibilities of the Joint venture of Consulting Firm and Certification Body will include followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Card Holder Data Environment (CDE) for PCI DSS compliance and Protecting Cardholder Data, etc. Submit a work plan on the basis of above TORs within 10 working days of joining and provide monthly written progress report, in addition to final report. Review of existing network diagram, data flow diagram and perform network segmentation testing as required by PCI DSS. Submission of all testing tools generated logs and test results in raw and processed format in electronic media. Conduct adequate training and awareness on PCI DSS for internal stakeholders. Conduct relevant audit pre-audit to identify PCI DSS readiness and produce the report. All software or tools required to deliver the service shall be deployed at devices owned by Bangladesh Bank. After completion of the service, the Firm may uninstall all installed software or tools. Conduct gap analysis on existing ICT infrastructure and platform for National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) against PCI DSS latest version. Provide end to end support for meeting all functional requirements under all Domains (goals) for achieving PCI DSS compliance accreditation for NPSB of Bangladesh Bank. Evaluate compensating controls on an annual basis, any compensating controls must be documented, reviewed, and validated by the assessor and included with the Report on Compliance. Develop remediation plan for PCI DSS compliance and Implementing Strong Control Measures. Also provide support and guidance during the compliance process. Prepare document on "Protect Card holder Data" such as encrypt transmission of card holder data and sensitive information across open public networks through NPSB. Monitor the progress of remediation and provide update to management. Use non-disruptive systems and data scanning solution for scanning systems/infrastructure related to NPSB regularly. Scanning solution should be the scanning tool(s), the associated scanning report, and the process for exchanging information between the vendor and the bank. Be onsite for the validation of the assessment or duration as required. Monitoring and Testing Networks on a regular basis for maintaining a Secure Network. Prepare the document on "Maintain a vulnerability management program" for NPSB. Findings and Observations (detailed findings on each requirement and sub-requirement, including explanations of all N/A responses and validation of all compensating controls). Prepare and provide various reports (as required by BB) on maintaining information security policy and Best Practices for NPSB system (including people, process and infrastructure etc). Prepare and provide various reports on different stages of PCI DSS implementation (i.e Executive Summary report, Quarterly scanning (V/A) report, PT report, Scope definition report, Reviewed Environment report, Gap Analysis and fixing report, etc). Provide security needs of internal and external systems for achieving certification. Provide security and safety measure guideline to enhance domestic transactions for both magnetic stripe and EMV card data routed through NPSB. Conduct PCI DSS compliance audit/final audit and produce the final report (Report on Compliance). Provide attestation of compliance when fully completed. Performing all other relevant activities for achieving PCI DSS Certification as necessary. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>17.</td> <td>Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required</td> <td> <p>A. Tasks and responsibilities of the Joint venture of Consulting Firm and Certification Body will include followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Card Holder Data Environment (CDE) for PCI DSS compliance and Protecting Cardholder Data, etc. Submit a work plan on the basis of above TORs within 10 working days of joining and provide monthly written progress report, in addition to final report. 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Should have minimum one (01) Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), minimum one (01) Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) and minimum one (01) Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) enrolled from last one (01) years and each professional should have minimum five (5) years of relevant experience. Should have minimum specific experience of conducting PCI DSS assessment, Security Consultancy Gap Analysis, VAPT and documentation for last five (05) years. The Project Manager should be PCI QSA or CISSP/CISM and/or CISA/ISO 27001:2013 Lead Auditor certified professional with minimum five (5) years of experience. Average Annual Turn Over of the firm(s) should be minimum USD 150,000 (USD One Hundred Fifty Thousand) during the last five (05) years (Summary sheet of Turnover statement and year wise Audited financial reports of the firm(s) should be enclosed). Certificate of Incorporation, valid Trade license, VAT/BIN certificate, latest Income Tax clearance certificates (if applicable). C. The following minimum Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity are required for the PCI-DSS Certification Body: Should have valid insurance coverage as required by PCI SSC. Certificate of Incorporation, valid Trade license, VAT/BIN certificate, latest Income Tax clearance certificates (if applicable). Should have satisfactory experience of providing PCI DSS certification services to at least two (02) organizations (Banks/Financial Institutions) in last five (05) years. The Project Manager should be PCI QSA or CISSP/CISM and/or CISA/ISO 27001:2013 Lead Auditor certified professional with minimum five (5) years of experience. 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EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

Progoti Foundation for Education and Development

Permanent Sanad Holder

INVITATION OF TENDER

East West University (EWU) is inviting Tender from the bona fide/intending suppliers/firms for the following items:

- Procurement of 3000 reams offset Paper (80 gsm, A4 size) for various Departments/Offices of EWU to be used for the period of January to June 2026.
- Procurement of 22 different types of Printer Cartridge for various Departments/Offices of EWU to be used for the period of January to June 2026.
- Procurement of Souvenir/Gift (2500 pcs Table Crest) for the 25th Convocation-2026 of EWU.
- Procurement of 22 sets Computer with Monitor and 22 units UPS for Digital Systems Lab, Department of CSE of EWU.
- Supply and Installation of Fire Door at Main Campus of EWU.

The schedule of the above-mentioned tender items with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (1st floor) of the University until 03.11.2025 during office hours (until 03:00 p.m.) on working days. The schedule of item # 2 & 4 will also be available in the e-tendering process (<http://etender.ewubd.edu>).

The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is Tk.500/- (Taka Five Hundred) only. The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender by 04.11.2025 by 02:00 P.M. through hard copy or e-tender process (as mentioned in the schedule). The tender (hard copy) must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2nd floor of the office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. The tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened on the same day (04.11.2025) at 02:30 P.M. in the Conference Room (4th floor) of East West University in the presence of the representatives of the bidders.

The bidders must mention the "name of the item" at the top of envelope. Otherwise, the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof. Chief of HR & Logistics

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO 1583 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3), 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994
AND
IN THE MATTER OF: **Mazidul Islam**, Shareholder, Director and Managing Director of Konik & Nafi Associates Ltd. of Nafi Tower (Level-6), 53, Gulshan (South) Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh
—VERSUS—
Konik & Nafi Associates Ltd. of Nafi Tower (Level-6), 53, Gulshan (South) Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
—Respondents—
Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Konik & Nafi Associates Ltd.** for the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 26-08-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.
Advocate Md. Anowar Hossain
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01913391551

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO 1583 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3), 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994
AND
IN THE MATTER OF: **Humayun Kabir Babu**, Shareholder, Director and Managing Director of Romania Food and Beverage Ltd. of Bengal House, 75, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh
—VERSUS—
Romania Food and Beverage Ltd. of Bengal House, 75, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
—Respondents—
Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Romania Food and Beverage Ltd.** for the calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 26-08-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Md. Atiqur Rahman** has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.
Advocate Md. Anowar Hossain
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01913391551



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি

POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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টারিখ: ১১/১০/২০২৫

“Transmission Grid Enhancement and Modernization Project (TGEM)” শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের পরিবেশগত প্রভাব নিরূপণ বিষয়ক মতবিনিয়ন সভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিদ্যুৎ জালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রালয়ের অধীন পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত্বে “Transmission Grid Enhancement and Modernization Project (TGEM)” শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় দেশের ঢাকা (কল্যাণপুর, ডেমরা, এবং মিরপুর-এ ২৩০/১৩২ কেতি সাবটেশন), নারায়ণগঞ্জ (মদনগঞ্জ এবং সানারপার-সাইনবোর্ড-এ ২৩০/১৩২ কেতি সাবটেশন), বরগুনা (আমতলী ৪০০/২৩০/১৩২ কেতি সাবটেশন), পটুয়াখালী (পটুয়াখালী ২৩০/১৩২ কেতি সাবটেশন), দিনাজপুর (বড়পুরুয়া ৪০০/২৩০ কেতি সাবটেশন) জেলাসমূহে মোট ০২ টি নতুন সাবটেশন নির্মাণ করা হবে এবং প্রায় ১১০ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ নতুন সঞ্চালন লাইন নির্মাণ ও প্রায় ৫৮ কিলোমিটার সঞ্চালন লাইনের রিকভার্টিং করা হবে। এ প্রকল্পের আওতায় আগমনী ১৫ অক্টোবর র ২০২২ তারিখে বুধবার সকাল ১১:০০টায় পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি এর প্রধান কার্যালয়, এভিনিউ-৩, জহুরুল ইসলাম সিটি, আফতাবগঞ্জ, বাঞ্ছা, ঢাকায় প্রকল্পের পরিবেশগত প্রভাব মূল্যায়ন বিষয়ক মতবিনিয়ন সভার আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত মতবিনিয়ন সভায় সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার জনসাধারণকে উপস্থিত থেকে মতামত প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

অনুরোধক্রমে,

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি কর্তৃপক্ষ



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Step into Leadership Join Jamuna Bank PLC as Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer (CHRO).

Jamuna Bank PLC, one of Bangladesh's top-rated private commercial banks, is undergoing a major transformation towards becoming a future-ready, technology-driven institution. To lead this transformation, we are seeking a visionary and accomplished Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer (CHRO)-a pivotal leadership role responsible for driving people strategy, organizational excellence and centralized operational efficiency.

The CHRO will serve as Head of Human Resources, Administration and Training & Development, ensuring the Bank achieves world-class HR practices while building a modern, agile and technology-enabled workplace. This role demands strategic foresight, deep knowledge of HR and operations, and the ability to integrate governance, compliance and digital transformation in line with Bangladesh Bank guidelines and global best practices.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the Bank's HR, Administration and Training & Development functions, ensuring alignment with corporate vision and long-term goals.
- Act as a strategic advisor to the Managing Director & CEO and the Board on people, succession planning, governance and workforce strategy.
- Drive centralization of core operations (account services, card operations, branch administration, and transaction processing) all department A to Z ensuring uniformity, efficiency and compliance with highest quality standard human capital.

Human Resources & People Strategy

- Oversee full-spectrum HR: recruitment, performance management, compensation & benefits, employee relations, labor law compliance and succession planning.
- Lead talent acquisition, retention and leadership development to build a future-ready workforce.
- Implement data-driven HR analytics, HRIS and automation to optimize decision-making and efficiency.
- Design and enforce HR policies, SOPs and governance frameworks ensuring compliance with Bangladesh Bank and BSEC regulations.

Training & Organizational Development

- Develop and deliver learning & development programs to build employee skills for future banking and fintech demands.
- Promote diversity, equity, inclusion and ethics across all HR and operational policies.
- Lead change management, organizational development and employer branding initiatives to strengthen corporate culture.

Administration & Operational Excellence

- Establish and enforce bank-wide operational manuals and procedures for consistency.
- Drive digital transformation in HR & administration through AI-driven tools, automation and centralized service models.
- Conduct regular workforce audits, manpower planning and cost analysis to ensure efficiency and governance.

Educational & Professional Qualifications

- Master's degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration or relevant fields (no third division/class in any exam).
- Professional certifications such as CHRP, GPHR, SHRM-SCP, CIPD, PMP, PRINCE2 or Lean Six Sigma will be preferred.
- Strong knowledge of Bangladesh Bank regulations, BSEC law and Bangladesh labor law.

Experience Requirements

- Minimum 20 years of progressive leadership experience, including at least 5 years in senior HR & Administration roles (VP or above) in the banking sector.
- Proven track record of HR modern system handling.
- Demonstrated expertise in governance, compliance and organizational transformation.

Compensation & Benefits

- Position: Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer
- Rank: SEVP/DMD
- Employment Type: Full-time
- Job Location: Corporate Head Office
- Age Limit: 45-52 years
- Compensation: Highly competitive remuneration package with performance-based incentives, along with comprehensive benefits as per Bank policy.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to apply online at career.jamunabank.com.bd or email their CV (with a recent passport-size photograph, max 30 KB) to career@jamunabank.com.bd with cc to: rouf.jbl.cs@gmail.com by October 30, 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further selection stages.



Jamuna Bank PLC, a leading private commercial bank of Bangladesh, is committed to achieving excellence through innovation, strong governance and sustainable financial performance. As part of its ongoing transformation into a digitally advanced and risk-intelligent institution, the Bank is looking for a CFA Charterholder with exceptional analytical and quantitative expertise to join its Risk Management Division as a Risk Officer.

The incumbent will play a critical role in safeguarding the Bank's financial integrity by developing advanced risk models, assessing market and credit exposures and ensuring compliance with Bangladesh Bank's regulatory framework and international best practices.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic & Risk Governance

- Assist the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) in implementing the enterprise-wide Risk Management Framework in line with Bangladesh Bank's Core Risk Guidelines and Basel III/IV standards.
- Conduct comprehensive risk identification, measurement, monitoring and reporting across all major risk categories-Credit, Market, Liquidity and Operational.
- Contribute to ICAAP formulation, stress testing and capital planning exercises to ensure the Bank's resilience under varying economic conditions.

Credit & Market Risk Analysis

- Conduct advanced financial and risk modeling, including Value-at-Risk (VaR), Expected Shortfall and stress-scenario simulations.
- Evaluate credit portfolios, investment exposures and counterparty risks using statistical and econometric tools.
- Perform in-depth risk-return analysis and recommend portfolio optimization strategies consistent with regulatory and internal policies.
- Monitor IFRS 9-based provisioning, PD/LGD modeling and asset quality metrics to ensure accurate reporting.

Operational & Enterprise Risk

- Develop and maintain key risk indicators (KRIs) and early warning signals (EWS) to monitor risk trends across business functions.
- Collaborate with internal control, audit and compliance units to strengthen the Bank's risk culture and governance ecosystem.
- Ensure business continuity planning, operational resilience and data integrity across risk systems.

Regulatory Compliance & Reporting

- Prepare high-quality risk reports, dashboards and presentations for the Management, Risk Management Committee (RMC) and the Board.
- Ensure full compliance with Bangladesh Bank regulations, Basel III/IV requirements and BSEC risk management guidelines.
- Coordinate with external and internal auditors and contribute to the enhancement of internal control systems and risk policies.

Educational & Professional Qualifications

- Master's degree in Finance, Economics, Accounting, Statistics or a related field (no third division/class in any examination).
- Must be a CFA Charterholder (Certified by the CFA Institute, USA). Applications from candidates without the CFA Charter will not be considered.
- Candidates holding additional professional qualifications such as FRM (Financial Risk Manager), PRM or relevant postgraduate certifications will receive preference.
- Strong command over financial modeling, portfolio analytics and data tools such as Excel (Advanced), Power BI, Python or R.

Experience Requirements

- Minimum 7-10 years of relevant experience in Risk Management, Treasury, Credit Analysis or Market Risk within a reputed commercial bank, NBFI or capital market institution.
- Proven expertise in implementing Basel frameworks, risk quantification and regulatory capital assessment.
- Solid understanding of macroeconomic indicators, global financial markets and asset-liability management (ALM).
- Experience in stress testing, ICAAP and scenario-based risk analysis will be considered a strong advantage.

Compensation & Benefits

- Position: Risk Officer
- Department: Risk Management Division
- Employment Type: Full-time
- Job Location: Corporate Head Office, Dhaka
- Age Limit: Up to 45 years
- Compensation: Attractive and competitive remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience, along with performance-based incentives and other benefits as per Bank policy.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates are invited to apply online at career.jamunabank.com.bd or email their CV (with a recent passport-size photograph, max 30 KB) to career@jamunabank.com.bd with cc to: rouf.jbl.cs@gmail.com by October 30, 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further selection stages.





U-17S EYE RARE FEAT

Bangladesh U-17 women's football team will begin their AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign against hosts Jordan tonight, eyeing a rare feat. After the senior and U-20 teams booked their maiden berths in Asian Cup finals, the juniors now aim to complete the historic cycle by topping Group H, which also features Chinese Taipei.

Tigresses aim for turnaround against Proteas

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's batting display against New Zealand in their latest ICC Women's World Cup fixture may have dented confidence after the positives shown against Pakistan and England. The Tigresses now face a tough challenge against high-flying South Africa in Vizag today, aware that their opponents have already beaten both New Zealand and India.

"No team come here to lose and in the next game we have to improve," left-arm spinner Nahida Akter said during yesterday's press conference.

The team management understands the quality that New Zealand bowlers possessed but are taking heart from recent batting performances against Sri Lanka – which took place during the warm-up fixture – and Pakistan in their tournament opener. The idea would be to survive with wickets in hand to capitalise in the latter part of the innings.

Asked about what steps were taken to solve the batting crisis, Nahida replied, "Yes, we collapsed with the bat, and the batting coach and the players have talked about it. We have worked on areas where we are deficient.

"We are going for the same approach. Just if we bat long, I think it's going to be a good match."

Bangladesh will be hoping skipper Nigar Sultana Joty finds runs in the crucial fixture. With one win in three games so far, the Tigresses are sitting sixth on the table, and beating South Africa will keep them in the hunt to advance in the eight-team tournament before facing Australia, Sri Lanka and India in the remaining group matches.

Meanwhile, South Africa medium-pacer Tumi Sekhukhune said her side are wary of Bangladesh's spin-heavy attack.

"We are excited. It's going to be a very tough game for us with Bangladesh. We know that they're going to come with much more slow bowlers, typically the spinners," she said.



RANGPUR RETAIN NCL T20 TITLE

Rangpur Division successfully defended their NCL T20 title with a commanding eight-wicket win over Khulna in the final at Sylhet International Stadium yesterday. Sent in to bat, Khulna could only manage 136 for 8, despite skipper Mohammad Mithun's 44, as Rangpur's bowlers maintained a tight grip throughout. Experienced campaigner Nasir Hossain continued his fine form, striking 46 off 31 balls to set up the chase. Naeem Islam (40*) and captain Akbar Ali (19*) completed the job comfortably with three overs to spare. The tournament, however, failed to generate the spark of its inaugural edition, with several players missing due to national duties and high-scoring thrillers proving rare.

Cabrera praises squad's leadership depth

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head coach Javier Cabrera has praised the leadership depth within his squad, highlighting the presence of multiple players capable of guiding the team both on and off the pitch.

The Spaniard has rotated the captain's armband in recent matches, with veteran centre-back Topu Barman and midfielder Sohel Rana among those given the responsibility. With long-time skipper Jamal Bhuyan playing a reduced role this year and Topu not fully fit, Cabrera handed the armband to Sohel in Thursday's Asian Cup Qualifier against Hong Kong in Dhaka.

However, Sohel was substituted early in the second half after Bangladesh surrendered a 1-0 lead and fell behind 2-1. The armband then passed to Jamal, who came off the bench.

Speaking during a training session in Hong Kong on Sunday, ahead of Tuesday's return leg, Cabrera addressed the rotating captaincy and the leadership within the squad.

"We are very lucky to have captains like Jamal, Topu, Sohel. All of them are captains, and we are lucky to have Hamza (Choudhury) as one of the leaders," said the 41-year-old.

Since making his debut for Bangladesh against India in March, Leicester City midfielder Hamza has played the full 90 minutes in all four matches – three competitive and one friendly. He has already made a significant impact, scoring two goals while contributing heavily in both attack and defence.

Former national team captain Aminul Haque recently suggested that Hamza should be named captain, citing his influence on the field. The same sentiment has gained traction among fans on social media.

When asked about the possibility of Hamza taking on the captaincy, Cabrera responded diplomatically.

"As I always said, Hamza, for us, is one of the captains," he said. "He is a leader on the pitch and off the pitch -- a player that is guiding his teammates from the beginning."



Vacherot makes ATP history

AFP, Shanghai

World number 204 Valentin Vacherot on Sunday beat his cousin Arthur Rinderknech to win the Shanghai Masters 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 and become the lowest-ranked champion in the history of ATP 1000 events.

The all-family final between the 54th-ranked Frenchman Rinderknech and 204th-ranked Vacherot, from Monaco, is one of the tournament's unlikeliest endings to date -- the latter's coach and half-brother, Benjamin Balleret, described it as a "fairytales".

It was just the third ATP Masters 1000 final in history to feature two unseeded players.

"I want to thank someone without whom I wouldn't be here -- that person is obviously Arthur," said Vacherot as he

accepted his trophy.

"It's completely mad, I can't believe it," he added in French.

"It would have been better to have two winners, but a whole family won today."

"What we did this week, it's completely crazy, no one can take it from us."

The two sat side-by-side, Rinderknech putting his arm around Vacherot's shoulder at one point, as they waited for the prize ceremony to begin.

Both claimed some impressive wins on their path to the final.

Rinderknech took out world number three Alexander Zverev and Daniil Medvedev, while Vacherot ended Novak Djokovic's chance at a fifth title.

According to the ATP website, the Monegasque should rocket from 204 to 40 in the rankings.



It was an emotional night for Portugal midfielder Ruben Neves, whose 91st-minute header sealed a 1-0 win over Ireland in a World Cup Qualifier at home on Saturday. Neves's goal -- his first in 60 appearances for Portugal -- carried deep emotion as he dedicated the strike to close friend Diogo Jota, who died in a car crash in July. Wearing Jota's No. 21 jersey in Portugal's first home game since the striker's passing, Neves kissed the shirt and rolled down his socks to reveal a tattoo of the two.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK





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



DHAKA-GAZIPUR BRT Shelved after spending Tk 2,800cr in 13yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will not proceed with the plan to launch the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service on the Dhaka-Gazipur route, as its implementation would require additional time and funding.

The project will be completed once the remaining work on a flyover and some stations is finished, after which the route will be opened to traffic. The next government will decide whether to introduce the BRT service.

Sheik Moinuddin, special assistant to the chief adviser on the road transport and bridges ministry, said this while exchanging views with members of Reporters for Rail and Road, a reporters' platform, at the Rail Bhawan yesterday.

The move comes over a decade after the project was undertaken in November 2012 to introduce the country's first dedicated rapid bus service aimed at reducing congestion on the busy corridor.

The project witnessed 97.43 percent progress till June this year and Dhaka BRT PLC, a state-run company formed to provide the service, has already floated tender for procuring buses. Long delay in implementing the project caused immense suffering to the passengers for years.

Around Tk 2,800 crore, out of Tk 4,268.3 crore project cost, has already been spent. Several elevated stations were built with escalator facilities. Twenty-two escalators were damaged during last year's uprising.

Moinuddin said it would require around Tk 6,000 crore to make the BRT service fully functional. Besides, it would take a considerable amount of time to procure the buses, by which the tenure of the interim government would end, he added.

The next government will have to procure buses and renovate the stations to launch the BRT service, he added.

Prof Hadiuzzaman of Buet's civil engineering department said poor planning, faulty design, and the selection of an inappropriate route made the project non-viable, forcing the authorities to abandon it midway.

He said the Dhaka airport to Gazipur stretch is part of the original plan, and implementing the project partially without connecting it to the main city would not make it economically viable.

Given this situation, further investment would not be wise, he added.

SEE PAGE 8 COL. 4

Long delay in implementing the project caused immense suffering to the passengers for years.

Officials of last 3 polls will not be assigned for Feb election
Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will refrain from assigning election duties to officials who served in the 2014, 2018 and 2024 polls as much as possible in the upcoming national polls, in a move aimed at restoring public confidence in the electoral process.

The move comes as part of the measures to ensure that the next parliamentary election is free, fair and peaceful, said Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury after a meeting of the core committee on law and order yesterday at the Secretariat.

According to the Police Headquarters (PHQ), some 1.93 lakh personnel are currently serving in the force, including 52,913 assistant sub-inspectors up to officers of the additional inspector general rank.

About 1.43 lakh members were deployed for election duty in 2024, and this year, 1.5 lakh members are being trained for deployment. The Daily Star has learnt from people informed with the proceedings.

After the government decided to exclude previously assigned officials, PHQ has managed to avoid reassigning about 30 percent of the earlier deployment, they said.

This includes 15,000 newly recruited during the tenure of the interim government.

It would be difficult to find enough officers if all those who served in the past three elections were excluded, said several officials at the PHQ on condition of anonymity.

Amid this situation, the shortage of officials required for election duties

SEE PAGE 8 COL. 1



A member of the internal security forces loyal to the Palestinian group Hamas greets young bystanders in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

PAK-AFGHAN BORDER TENSIONS

Dozens killed in clashes

Several posts destroyed; clashes come days after airstrikes hit Kabul marketplace

REUTERS, Islamabad

Dozens of fighters were killed in overnight border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both sides said yesterday, in the most serious fighting between the neighbours since the Taliban came to power in Kabul.

The Pakistan military said that 23 of its soldiers were killed in the clashes. The Taliban said nine on its side were killed.

Tensions have risen after Islamabad demanded the Taliban take action against militants who have stepped up attacks in Pakistan, saying they operate from havens in Afghanistan. The Taliban, which came to power in 2021, denies that Pakistani militants are present on its soil.

Each side said it inflicted far higher casualties on the other side, without providing evidence. Pakistan said it had killed more than 200 Afghan Taliban and allied fighters, while Afghanistan said that it had killed 58 Pakistani soldiers.

Reuters was not able to independently verify the figures.

On Thursday, Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Kabul and on a marketplace in eastern Afghanistan, according to Pakistani security officials and the Taliban, setting off retaliatory attacks by the

SEE PAGE 8 COL. 1



A child receives a Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) shot at the Nagar Shastho Kendro on Salimullah Road in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday morning. Over 10 lakh children were vaccinated on the first day of a month-long nationwide campaign targeting 4.9 crore children aged between nine months and 15 years.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BCL ACTIVIST MURDER

All 114 Jamaat-Shibir men acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday acquitted all 105 accused linked to Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir in connection with the murder of Rajshahi University Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist Faruque Hossain.

Judge Jullifer Ullah of Rajshahi Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court-1 delivered the order.

State counsel Ali Ashraf Masum said the court acquitted all the accused as the prosecution failed to prove the allegations brought against them.

Among the 114 accused, nine died during the trial proceedings, while the remaining ones were cleared of all charges. Only 25 of the 105 surviving accused were present in the dock during the verdict.

Faruque Hossain, a student of the Mathematics Department and an activist of the then-banned BCL unit at Rajshahi University, was killed

Star INTERVIEW

Int'l standards for accountability must be upheld

Says global human rights activist Alice Mogwe during interview with Star

PORIMOL PALMA

An international human rights activist has reminded Bangladesh authorities of the international standards as the country goes through an accountability process in the aftermath of the July uprising.

"One word of caution would be to constantly remember that there are international standards and international obligations against which any instruments, laws or policies should constantly be checked to ensure that those are complied with," said Alice Mogwe, president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

FIDH is a federation of 192 members around the world. In Bangladesh, rights body Odhikar is its member, which invited Mogwe for the visit to Bangladesh from October 4-11 for assessing the human rights situation.



SEE PAGE 8 COL. 4

WE DEEPLY MOURN



Ashok Kumar Das

We deeply mourn the passing of Mr. Ashok Kumar Das, the beloved elder brother of Mr. Alok Kumar Das, Vice Chairman of Paramount Group.

We, the Paramount family convey our deepest condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray to the God to give them the strength and resilience to bear and overcome this irreplaceable loss.

May God with His infinite mercy bless the departed soul.

PARAMOUNT GROUP