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Gaza war is over: Trump

US, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey sign Gaza declaration; Hamas, Israel exchange hostages, prisoners

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Trump made a lightning visit to Israel, where he lauded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an address to parliament, before flying to Egypt for a Gaza summit where he and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed the declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal.

"This is a tremendous day for the world, it's a tremendous day for the Middle East," Trump said as more than two dozen world leaders sat down to talk in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Trump said before signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up."

As part of Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, Hamas yesterday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years of captivity in Gaza.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A man greets a freed Palestinian prisoner released by Israel as part of a hostage-prisoner swap and a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

- Israel says all 20 surviving Gaza hostages back home
- World leaders welcome positive developments

50% women don't know where to report abuse

BBS-UNFPA survey on violence against women reveals alarming figures



- ⌚ 3 in every 4 women face intimate partner violence, 28% working women likely to be victims
- ⌚ 62% survivors are married girls aged 15-19
- ⌚ 7% faced violence during pregnancy
- ⌚ Over 50% with disabilities faced non-partner violence

NILIMA JAHAN

Over half of Bangladeshi women do not know where to report incidents of violence, according to a 2024 survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on violence against women.

Only 48.5 percent of the respondents knew where or how to report incidents, with the police being the most recognised authority.

The survey, launched at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, was based on interviews with 27,476 women aged 15 and above nationwide. It is the third national study of its

kind, following earlier rounds in 2011 and 2015.

The findings capture trends over the past decade, showing how violence continues to affect women in every social group, including those in slums, disaster-prone areas, and women with disabilities.

Awareness of specialised support services remains alarmingly low -- only 2.2 percent of women had heard of One-Stop Crisis Centres.

Despite years of awareness campaigns, knowledge of the government's national helpline 109 remains limited. Women who had experienced physical or sexual violence were less aware of the helpline (9.3 percent)

than those who had not (15.7 percent).

Awareness was lowest among divorced, separated, and widowed women -- just 3.3 percent -- exposing a serious information gap among the most vulnerable. Many survivors said they only learned about available support services after years of abuse.

This lack of awareness exists alongside a staggering level of violence.

Three in every four women (76 percent) have experienced some form of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives, and nearly half (49 percent) within the past year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WORLD STANDARDS DAY

Far from reaching the level needed' Weak enforcement, poor awareness to blame

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

Bangladesh continues to grapple with ensuring the quality and safety of its products, even after setting national standards for more than 4,500 items and making certification mandatory for 315 of them.

Many goods -- from food and construction materials to daily essentials -- still fall short of acceptable standards thanks to weak enforcement, limited lab facilities in rural areas and poor awareness among producers, according to analysts and stakeholders.

Amid this backdrop, Bangladesh is observing the 56th "World Standards Day" today to raise awareness about product and service quality.

To mark the day, the BSTI has announced various programmes, including a seminar at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Although products are labelled BSTI certified, consumer awareness of what that means remains limited, said Eleaf Mridha, managing director of Pran Group, a major manufacturer, processor and exporter of fast-moving consumer goods.

If all relevant bodies, the BSTI, the City Corporation and the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority could coordinate under a unified regulatory framework, it would create a much more efficient system.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

ICT CASES AGAINST ARMY OFFICERS

Sub-jail declared in Dhaka cantonment

The accused will be produced before tribunal from there: source

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has designated a building of the Military Engineer Services (MES) in Dhaka Cantonment as a temporary jail.

According to a gazette notification issued by the home ministry on Sunday, MES Building No. 54, located north of Bashar Road, has been declared as a temporary jail under the provisions of the Prisoners Act, 1984.

The declaration, approved by the authorities concerned, took immediate effect, said the notification signed by Md Hafiz al-Asad, deputy secretary of the ministry.

Confirming the development, a senior official of the home ministry told The Daily Star, "The building has been declared a sub-jail to keep the 15 army officers formally charged at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)."

The 15 serving officers were charged in three cases on October 8 -- two over enforced disappearances during the Awami League rule and the other over killings during the July uprising.

Another serving officer, who the army said has been missing, and nine retired ones were also charged along with ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Brig Gen Syed Muhammad Motahar Hussain, inspector general of prisons, said, "The government's declared temporary facility will function as the sub-jail of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj. Upon receiving the ministry order, we have already taken steps to deploy security personnel and make other necessary arrangements."

According to sources with knowledge of the process, the army intends to keep the officers in its custody at the sub-jail and produce them before the tribunal on scheduled hearing dates, after which they will be returned to the sub-jail, with the permission of the ICT.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Only law enforcement agencies can arrest them ... Once a person is officially shown arrested, law enforcers are legally bound to produce them before the court within 24 hours.

Tajul Islam, ICT chief prosecutor

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WORLD STANDARDS DAY
14 OCTOBER 2025

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worldstandardsday.org

JU suspends 16 students over ragging allegations

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday suspended 16 second-year students of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for allegedly ragging freshers at a dormitory.

The decision was confirmed in an office order signed by Acting Public Relations Director Mohammad Mohiuddin and issued on the instruction of Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan.

According to the order, the incident occurred on Sunday night in Room 403 of Male Hall 2, where students of the department's 53rd batch allegedly ragged juniors from the 54th batch.

A three-member investigation committee, headed by Mowlana Bhashani Hall Provost Prof Md Kamruzzaman, has been formed to probe the incident. The committee has been asked to submit its report within 21 working days.



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on the sidelines of World Food Forum (WFF) in Rome, Italy, yesterday (local time).

PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CHIEF ADVISER GOB

50% women don't know

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, 8.3 percent of women experienced some forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence related to sexual blackmail, image-based abuse, and controlling behaviours. This is the first time technology-facilitated gender-based violence was included in the survey.

At the same time, a culture of silence continues to dominate. Two in three women (64 percent) never shared their experience with anyone. Among those who did, parents (78.8 percent) were most often told, followed by in-laws (35.2 percent) and siblings (32.8 percent).

When survivors sought help, most turned to local leaders (58.4 percent), showing preference for community-level resolution over formal systems. Only 36.2 percent approached the police, and 15 percent went to the courts.

The main reasons for not reporting included the normalisation of violence (38.8 percent), along with fear of losing family honour and fear of public disgrace -- barriers that continue to keep women silent.

Only 14.5 percent of women sought medical treatment after violence in the past year. Among them, 93 percent sought help for physical injuries, while 15.5 percent addressed emotional trauma.

The financial toll is severe. On average, survivors spent Tk 2,512 on medical treatment -- higher in rural areas (Tk 2,672) -- and Tk 4,104 on legal expenses, with urban survivors paying slightly more (Tk 4,341). Combined, the average out-of-pocket cost stood at Tk 2,676, rising to Tk 2,878 in rural areas.

MOST VICTIMS ABUSED BY HUSBANDS

In the survey, "intimate partners" refer to current or former husbands, while "non-partners" include anyone else. It confirmed that husbands remain the main perpetrators of violence against women.

Controlling behaviour was the

About 26 percent reported being forced into sex by their husbands, and over half (55.9 percent) of these survivors said such assaults occurred repeatedly.

Even during pregnancy, 7 percent of women reported physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and 4 percent in the past 12 months.

The survey found married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years face the highest risk of violence, accounting for 62 percent of all intimate partner violence survivors in the past year.

Women living in city corporations were 35 percent more likely -- and those in slums 47 percent more likely -- to face violence compared to women in rural regions.

Regional variations were stark. Khulna recorded the highest physical violence (57.2 percent), while Sylhet had the lowest (33.5 percent). For sexual violence, Barishal topped the list at 36 percent, while Mymensingh had the lowest rate (23 percent).

The survey also identified risk factors. Husbands' extramarital relationships increased the likelihood of violence by 2.3 times, drug addiction by 1.7 times, and marriages involving dowry by 1.8 times.

On the other hand, education acted as protection. Women whose husbands completed secondary school faced a 17 percent lower risk, while those with university-educated partners faced a 32 percent lower risk.

Divorced, separated, or widowed women were 92 percent less likely to experience violence than those living with their husbands, while women married more than once faced a 42 percent higher likelihood.

Economically, women earning cash income were 28 percent more likely to face partner violence -- a possible backlash against shifting gender roles.

NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE
Outside marriage, mothers-in-law (35 percent), mothers (20.5 percent), brothers- or sisters-in-law

Dhaka, and Khulna reported higher levels of non-partner violence compared to Mymensingh.

Despite the prevalence, only 3.8 percent of survivors took legal action in the past year, while arbitration was the most common type of action taken (48.3 percent).

The survey recommended reforming discriminatory laws, strengthening the legal framework for technology-facilitated gender-based violence, ensuring sustainable financing, reinforcing accountability to international commitments, institutionalising Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Highest in Khulna (57.2%)
Lowest in Sylhet (33.5%)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Highest in Barishal (36%)
Lowest in Mymensingh (23%)

WHO DO SURVIVORS TELL?

Parents: 78.8%
In-laws: 35.2%
Siblings: 32.8%
No one: 64%

HOW AWARE ARE WOMEN OF SUPPORT SERVICES?

Aware of where to report: 48.5%
Aware of OCCs: 2.2%
Aware of helpline 109 (overall): 15.7%
Aware of helpline 109 among survivors: 9.3%

standards, and promoting gender-sensitive media narratives.

During the unveiling of the survey, BBS Director General Mohammed Mizanur Rahman said, "This is the most comprehensive survey of its kind in Bangladesh. It provides robust evidence on the prevalence, causes, and impacts of violence -- evidence that must guide stronger prevention, protection, and justice systems."

The survey also calls for urgent investment in prevention programmes, expanded services, and gender-sensitive policies to build a society where every woman and girl can live free from fear, harm, and silence.

UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh Catherine Breen Kampong said, "The evidence is conclusive: violence against women remains a widespread human rights crisis in Bangladesh. Behind these statistics are thousands of women who bravely shared their stories. This report must mark the beginning of transformative action to prevent violence, strengthen services, and ensure justice for survivors."

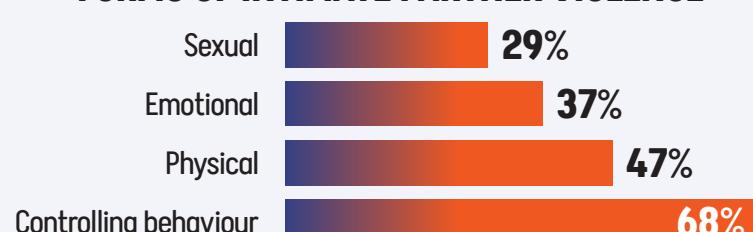
The unveiling was followed by a panel discussion featuring Shireen Huq, head of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission; Dr Shoeb Reaz Alam, deputy inspector general of the Special Security and Protection Battalion; and Dr Sanzida Akhter, professor of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University.

(29 percent), and other male family members (34 percent) were the most frequent perpetrators of physical violence.

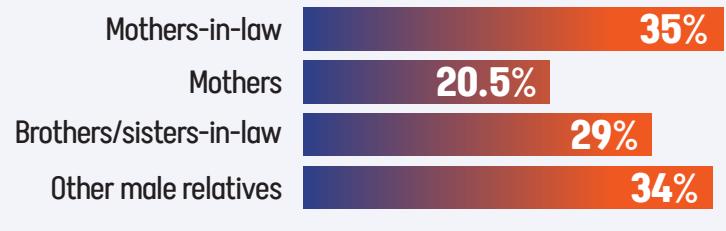
Most non-partner sexual violence was committed by male relatives, friends, or acquaintances. More than half of women with disabilities reported non-partner violence, while 44.5 percent of survivors of non-partner physical violence were harmed by more than one perpetrator.

Rajshahi, Chattogram, Rangpur,

FORMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



VIOLENCE BY RELATION (NON-PARTNER)



most common form of intimate partner violence, affecting 68 percent of women, followed by physical violence (47 percent), emotional violence (37 percent), and sexual violence (29 percent).

Women were three times more likely to be physically abused and over 13 times more likely to suffer sexual violence from their husbands than from any other person.

Physical violence is often repeated, with 29.4 percent of women experiencing it six or more times.

Man hacked to death in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A man was hacked to death in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila yesterday. The deceased is Subrata Chandra Das, 46, of Char Bojiful village, said police.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, said Char Jabbar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Shahin Miah. The victim's father, Chiru Ranjan Das, said Subrata was currently unemployed.

Subrata's wife, Rikta Rani Das, works as a field inspector at the Char Jabbar Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) under the same upazila, said Iftekhar Ahmed, deputy director of the Noakhali office of the Directorate General of Family Planning.

His father said, like every other day, Subrata went out on his motorcycle around 1:00pm to bring his wife home from work.

"Around an hour later, my younger son Sanjib Das told me over the phone that Subrata was injured in a motorbike accident," Chiru Ranjan told The Daily Star.

"Hearing this, I rushed to the spot and found Subrata's bloodstained body lying on the ground adjacent to the road near Polowan Bari area on Haris Chowdhury Bazar-Pariskar Bazar road in Char Jubilee village. Many gathered around his body. His throat was slit," he said.

"My son was a very calm and quiet person. As far as I know, he had no enemies. I want justice for his murder," Charu added.

'Far from reaching the level needed'

FROM PAGE 1

"Manufacturers would benefit from clearer guidelines, consumers would be better protected, product quality would improve, and we'd be in a stronger position to compete internationally and grow our exports," he added.

Although BSTI has set standards for thousands of products, implementation and monitoring are weak, said AHM Shafiquzzaman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

Relying solely on government agencies with outdated processes and limited manpower will hold back progress, he said, while calling for allowing competent private institutions to participate in quality testing and standardisation.

"Ultimately, the goal is to protect consumers and build trust in Bangladeshi products at home and abroad through a more accountable, collaborative quality control framework," he added.

Businesses complained about the lower standard of the BSTI in the global market, said Abdul Hasib Chowdhury, pro-vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

"We are still far from reaching the level we need -- achieving that height will take much more time and effort," he added.

Most consumers don't pay much attention to whether a product carries the BSTI logo, said Khurshid Ahmad Farhad, general manager of Bombay Sweets.

"For the local market, BSTI standards are adequate, but for

global operations, we must also meet international standards."

A product may meet all ten parameters under BSTI, but only six or seven might align with global benchmarks such as those in Japan, the US, Europe or Australia.

"Higher benchmarks boost quality and global competitiveness. Ideally, there should be at least 10,000 products under BSTI's standard list to improve consumer confidence and product quality," he said.

However, Pran Mridha said the BSTI's standards are generally aligned with international benchmarks.

"While some areas may still be weak or outdated, regular reviews and updates are helping us move closer to global norms," said Mridha.

For instance, under a bilateral agreement, India accepts some of Pran's products based on BSTI certification, even though additional lab tests and inspections are sometimes required on their end, he added.

"Our laboratories are strong and meet international standards, as recently confirmed by experts from the Royal Danish Embassy," said Md Saiful Islam, director (Certificate Marks) at BSTI.

There is a dedicated Halal laboratory to test imported food products for Halal compliance, which is especially important in a Muslim-majority country.

Islam said they are establishing district-level labs tailored to local industries, such as textile labs in Sirajganj and heavy industry labs in Bogura, under a project.

"We are developing an app so consumers can verify product

AT A GLANCE

- BSTI sets national standards for 4,574 items
- Made compliance mandatory for 315
- Certification process ongoing for 14 more

SUGGESTIONS

- Increase lab facilities in rural areas
- Strengthen law enforcement
- Reduce certification fee
- Enhance awareness among consumers

licensing easily and with confidence. Even if a product has the logo, consumers can call or check online to confirm the license and authenticity."

Currently, 315 products are under compulsory standards, chosen based on public importance and industry need, while 14 more products, including energy drinks, are being considered for mandatory certification, he added.

Trump's visit to the Middle East aims to celebrate his role in brokering last week's ceasefire and hostage release deal -- but much remains to be negotiated.

Among the potential sticking points are Hamas's refusal to disarm and Israel's failure to pledge full withdrawal from the devastated territory.

The US leader, however, repeatedly signalled he was confident the ceasefire will hold, saying at a joint appearance with Sisi in Sharm el-Sheikh that talks on the next steps of the plan were underway.

"It's started, as far as we're concerned, phase 2 has started," he said.

"The phases are all a little bit mixed in with each other," he added.

World leaders welcomed the move. However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Trump's plan to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict only dealt with Gaza and was not specific enough on Palestinian statehood.

"We have noted that Donald Trump's peace plan only addresses the Gaza Strip. It mentions statehood, but in rather general terms," Lavrov told reporters from Arab countries.

"It's imperative to flesh out these approaches, including defining what will happen in the West Bank."

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One at the start of the "very special" visit, Trump brushed off concerns about whether the ceasefire would endure.

"I think it's going to hold," he said of the ceasefire.

"The war is over, you understand that," Trump told reporters.

Trump announced in late September a 20-point plan for Gaza, which helped bring about the ceasefire.

Gaza war is over: Trump

FROM PAGE 1

In exchange, Israel released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails, its prison service said.

"From October 7 until this week, Israel has been a nation at war, enduring burdens that only a proud and faithful people could withstand," Trump told lawmakers during an address to Israel's parliament, where he received a lengthy standing ovation upon his arrival.

"For so many families across this land, it has been years since you've known a single day of true peace," he continued.

"Not only for Israelis, but also for Palestinians and for many others, the long and painful nightmare is finally over."

In Tel Aviv, a huge crowd that had gathered to support hostage families erupted in joy, tears and song as news broke of the first releases, though the pain at the loss of those who had not survived was palpable.

In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, huge crowds gathered to welcome home the first buses carrying prisoners, with some chanting "Allahu akbar", or God is the greatest, in celebration.

And at a similar gathering in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis, residents climbed the sides of slow-moving Red Cross buses carrying the prisoners to welcome home their loved ones with a hug or kiss.

"Welcome home," Israel's foreign ministry said in a series of posts on X, hailing the return of the hostages.

On Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, Noga shared her pain and joy.

"I'm torn between emotion and sadness for those who won't be coming back,"

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BJIM condemns attacks on journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) yesterday raised concern over a series of violent attacks and threats targeting journalists in different districts, allegedly involving local miscreants, charity owners, and even members of law enforcement agencies.

In a statement, BJIM described the incidents as a grave violation of press freedom and an alarming regression for media rights in Bangladesh.

The organisation cited several recent cases. "On October 5, journalists Hossain Ziyad and Md Parvez were physically assaulted in Chattogram while on duty. Local miscreants reportedly beat them until they bled, vandalised their camera, and snatched their personal belongings," said the BJIM statement.



After this battery-run auto-rickshaw hit the car, the rickshaw driver failed to pay compensation on the spot. The car driver then took an unusual step -- towing the rickshaw to the back of his car and driving off to find its owner for compensation. The photo was taken on Rajuk Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



The statement mentioned the incident of October 12, where two other Chattogram-based journalists, Jobayed Ibn Shahadat and Asaduzzaman Limon, were allegedly beaten by a senior police official while conducting interviews for a report.

Jehnidah journalist Auriro Kundu allegedly received death threats from the owner of a local charity after publishing investigative reports on irregularities within the organisation, it added.

BJIM noted that no visible administrative steps in any of the cases had been taken so far. It urged the interim government to take decisive action to ensure justice and prevent further violations.

"Failing to do so will send a deeply troubling message to the international community regarding Bangladesh's commitment to protecting journalists and safeguarding freedom of expression," the statement said.

Campaigning ends for Cucusu election

SM MAHFUZ AHMED

Campaigning for the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election officially ended last night, with candidates going door to door to meet students in the final hours.

Since morning, candidates had been engaging voters across campus, sharing their plans and making promises. Some relied on posters and banners, while others used songs, plays, or mime performances.

Students, excited for the first CUCSU election in 35 years, created a lively campus atmosphere during the two-week campaign, which began on September 25, reaching its peak on the last day.

ALLEGATIONS OF CODE VIOLATIONS
Several panels raised complaints about electoral code violations on the final day.

The Chhatra Shibir-backed "Sompritir

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Won't impose my views on others if elected

Says Cucusu VP candidate Ibrahim Hossain Rony

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Ibrahim Hossain Rony, vice president (VP) candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed "Sompritir Shikkharkathi Jote" panel in the upcoming Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) elections, pledged accountability if elected.

Rony, a student of History department (2017-18 session), also said he will not impose his views on others.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said, "If a political environment can be ensured so that students will not be attacked and everyone will have the opportunity to express their opinions, I believe students will embrace it. If I am elected, I will not



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No compromise on students' interests

Pledges Cucusu GS candidate Shafayat Hossain

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Md Shafayat Hossain, general secretary candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-backed panel in the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election, said he will never compromise on students' interests.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said, "From the very beginning of my university life, I have been involved with different organisations and gained strong organisational skills and experiences. I believe I can represent the students and secure their rights, which is why I'm running in this election."



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Ratify the ILO Convention 190 to end gender-based harassment Demand 14 rights bodies

DU CORRESPONDENT

A platform of 14 gender rights bodies has called on the government to immediately end the ongoing debates and ratify the ILO Convention 190, which addresses violence and harassment in the world of work.

They said despite the High Court rule to amend Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015 mandating the formation of anti-sexual harassment committees at workplaces, the provision has not been effectively implemented.

ILO Convention 190, adopted in 2019, recognises the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence.

The coalition, named Gender Platform Bangladesh, at a press conference at Jaita Press Club said forming acts in accordance of that ILO convention would play an effective role in

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

'Issue Dhaka Central University ordinance immediately'

Demand students of 7 colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of seven government colleges, which were earlier affiliated with Dhaka University, staged a sit-in outside Shikha Bhawan in Dhaka yesterday, demanding immediate issuance of the ordinance for the proposed Dhaka Central University.

The demonstration began around 11:00am as part of their previously announced programme.

Tanvir Islam, a third-year economics student at Government Bangla College, told The Daily Star that the students will continue their demonstration until the final ordinance is issued.

"If the government doesn't issue the Dhaka Central University Ordinance-2025 by today [yesterday], we will announce tougher programmes," one of the student leaders said.

The demonstration caused heavy traffic congestion in and around Abdul Gani Road, Topkhana Road, and Segunbagicha, causing suffering for commuters during the busy morning hours.

The education ministry accepted feedback on the draft ordinance via email until October 9.

In a press release on Sunday, the ministry said it had received over 6,000 opinions on the draft, and the work of compiling and analysing them is underway.

Many protesting students alleged that teachers

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



A long tailback clogs a road in the Tejgaon area of the capital, leaving commuters stuck for hours. Multiple ongoing protests across the city caused the heavy traffic congestion. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MJF celebrates Int'l Day of the Girl Child with school students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) marked the International Day of the Girl Child 2025 with a three-day celebration held from October 11 to 13 at the ALOK Auditorium in Mirpur, under the global theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis".

Organised in collaboration with MJF's projects — NAGORIC, Swadhinata, and SAFE -- the programme featured art and extempore speech competitions, along with cultural performances by children from the Maer Achol Shelter.

Students from five local schools also participated, showcasing their creativity and aspirations.

Educational materials were distributed to 185 children from the Maer Achol Shelter, while 75 participants received T-shirts as tokens of appreciation.

Winners of the competitions were recognised for their outstanding performances. Reflecting MJF's commitment to equality, the event had no chief guest -- every child was honoured as a guest of honour.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Man sued over rape of girl in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Netrakona

A case has been filed against a 60-year-old man for allegedly raping a college student in Durgapur upazila of Netrakona.

Yesterday afternoon, the Garo girl filed the case with Durgapur Police Station, accusing Mohammad Ali, a local quack, said Officer-in-Charge Md Mahmudul Hasan.

According to the case statement, the accused, who practices herbal medicine at Guchhogram in Durgapur upazila, had been treating the victim's elderly father for several months.

On October 7, Ali allegedly took her to an orchard and raped her. Before fleeing the scene, he threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident. The victim later informed her family.

OC Mahmudul said, "The accused has been on the run since the incident. Efforts are underway to arrest him."

Man held over rape of 11-year-old in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bandarban

Police have arrested a man accused of raping an 11-year-old girl in Naikongchhari upazila of Bandarban.

Russel Barua, a trucker, was arrested from Rashidnagar in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila on Sunday night.

The arrest was made after a case was filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Naikongchhari Police Station yesterday, said Masrurul Haq, officer-in-charge of the police station.

He will be produced before a court, he said.

The girl is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Cox's Bazar.

Locals in Rashidnagar identified Russel after seeing his photo circulated with the rape allegation on social media. They tracked him down, held him, and handed him over to the police.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATORIY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO 1507 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF : An application under section 81(2) 85(3) read with section 396 of
the Company Act, 1994.
AND IN THE MATTER OF : MD. LUTFOR RAHMAN (Managing Director) of Lazz
Pharma Limited, having its Office at Address: 63/1, Lake Circus, Kafabagan, Dhaka
VERSUS
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, I, Kawran Bazar, 6th Floor, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka
High Court Division, Dhaka-1000, Respondent.
Take notice that an application under 81(2) 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies
Act, 1994, was filed before the Honorable High Court Division of the Supreme Court of
Bangladesh on behalf of the petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General
Meeting of the Lazz Pharma Limited, for the calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.
Upon hearing the application on 24-08-2025 the Honorable Company Judge Mr. Justice
Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application. Interested person may appear before the
Honorable Court on or before the date 22-10-2025 fixed for hearing of the matter. Copy of
the application may be obtained from the petitioner.
Ripon Chandra Biswas, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.
Membership No. 6059, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের আমদানি ও অভিযন্ত্রীয় বাণিজ্য অনুবিভাগের বিভিন্ন
শাখার কর্মকর্তাদের স্বাক্ষর জাল করে উদ্দেশ্য প্রয়োদিত তথ্য সম্পর্ক পত্র
বিভিন্ন স্থানে প্রেরণ করা হচ্ছে মর্মে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে। বিভিন্ন মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত
এ ধরণের জাল প্রেরণে কোনটিতে মন্ত্রণালয় হতে বিভিন্ন পরিমাণের পথ
টিসিবিতে সরবরাহের উদ্দেশ্য আমদানির অনুমতি এবং গণ্য সরাসরি
ক্রয়ের আদেশ দেয়া মর্মে দেখা যায়। এর ফলে জনসাধারণ বিদ্রোহ ও
প্রতিরিত হওয়ার আশংকা থাকে। এ বিষয়ে অবগত করা যাচ্ছে যে, এ
মন্ত্রণালয় হতে এ ধরণের ক্রয়াদেশ দেওয়া হয়নি। এ ধরণের প্রতিরোধ
বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সর্ত্ত হতে প্রারম্ভ দেয়া হলো।

টিসিবি কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি)



Sandhya Mondal prepares beti reeds collected from wetlands to weave traditional mats. After drying the reeds in the sun, she crafts various kinds of mats for daily use and home décor, including prayer mats. Despite the growing use of plastic and synthetic alternatives, eco-friendly beti mats remain in high demand. She produces two mats a day, selling each for Tk 450 to Tk 800. The photo was taken at Boyra Akmaner Mor in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Amid ban, Manta fishers struggle for survival

Boat-dwelling community left out of government rice aid

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Members of the Manta community, who live on boats along rivers in the southern regions of the country, are struggling to survive after being excluded from the government's rice allocation during the ongoing 22-day fishing ban.

Without access to fishing or state assistance, many are now facing acute poverty and food insecurity.

Officials at the Department of Fisheries said they had no previous record of the number of Manta families and have now instructed all upazilas to begin collecting their data.

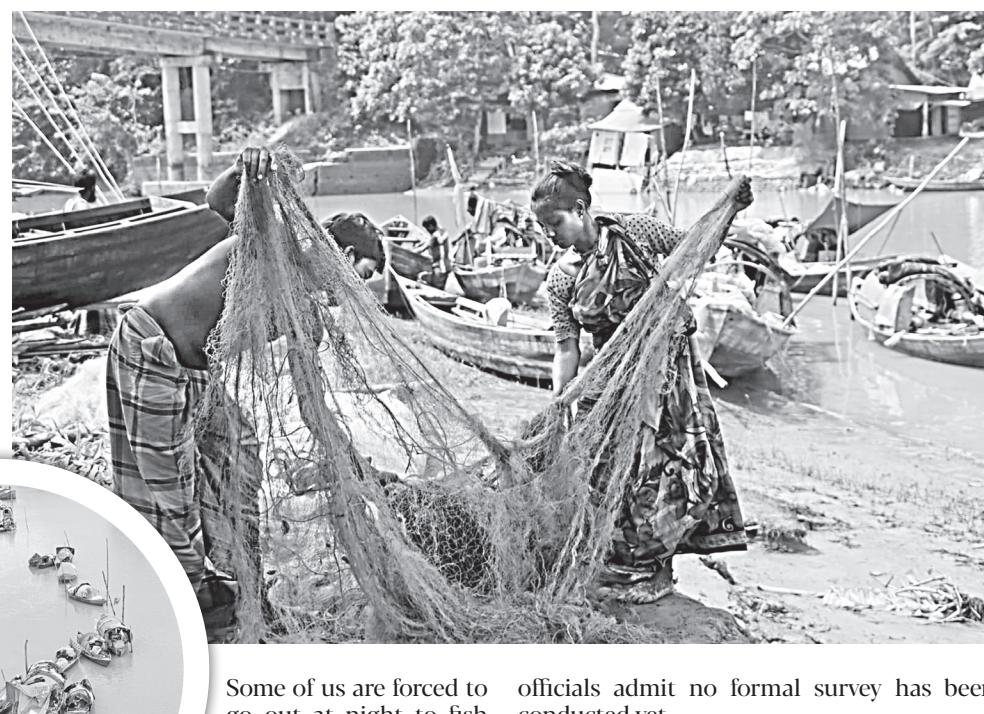
More than 100 Manta men and women from three areas of Barishal's Muladi upazila protested in front of the local fisheries office on October 7, demanding aid during the fishing ban.

Around 150 Manta families live on boats in the Jorkhal area of Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila. On October 11, several families left the area in protest but later returned after assurances from local officials.

Along the banks of the Kalabodor river in Bakainagar area of Barishal Sadar upazila, about 200 Manta families live permanently on 44 boats, catching fish with rods and nets.

"We are born on the river, and we also die on the river. Fishing is our only livelihood. Without government help, how can we survive when fishing is prohibited?" said Ayub Ali Sardar, head of the Manta fleet in Bakainagar.

"Amid the ongoing ban, we can't go fishing -- but no one cares how we'll survive."



Some of us are forced to go out at night to fish secretly just to survive, which sometimes leads to clashes with fisheries officials," he said.

Akhtaruzzaman Talukder, deputy director of the Department of Social Services in Barishal, said 178 Manta people have been identified in Lahirhat of Barishal Sadar upazila. "We are working to provide them with 10kg rice and lentils each as emergency relief," he said.

According to the departments of social services and fisheries, around 2,000 Manta people live across Sadar, Hizla, Baguganj, and Mehendiganj upazilas of Barishal district. The total population across the division is estimated at around 7,000-8,000, though

officials admit no formal survey has been conducted yet.

During the 22-day fishing ban, the government allocated 3,585.95 tonnes of rice for 1,43,438 registered fisher families in Charfasson upazila -- 25 kg for each family.

Md Anisuzzaman, assistant director of the divisional fisheries office in Barishal, said, "Not all fishermen receive rice aid. Around 80 percent of registered cardholders get it. Most Manta community members previously didn't apply for fisher ID cards, so only a few have them."

"Low literacy and lack of awareness have made it difficult for them to access aid. Moreover, since they constantly move from place to place, local representatives are reluctant to include them in official lists," he added.

He also said he plans to form a committee to maintain harmony between students and the local community. "The committee will include representatives from both sides and will work together to resolve any dispute."

"CU lags behind in many aspects. The only way to overcome this is to keep Cucusu active. If it functions regularly, many issues will be resolved. If elected, I'll ensure its regular operations," Shafayat said.

Claiming his panel as inclusive, Shafayat said, "We have women, indigenous students, visually impaired students, and gold-medalist athletes. We've chosen candidates based on merit and capability."

Regarding the elections, he hopes that the administration will conduct a fair and impartial election.

"Students will choose their deserving representative," he concluded.

CCC struggles to clean city canals amid funding row

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The Chattogram City Corporation is struggling to clean its 1,600 kilometre drainage network and 57 canals due to a lack of modern machinery.

The government has finally approved a four-year-old project for CCC to procure essential equipment, but with a new condition that 60 percent of the project funds will be given as a loan and the remaining 40 percent as a grant.

The CCC, which usually operates on government grants and its own funds, now finds itself in a debt trap under the new condition.

According to CCC officials, the project includes plans to purchase a range of vehicles and equipment, including five pickup trucks, 65 dump trucks of various sizes, four backhoe loaders, nine wheel loaders, one skid-steer loader, one amphibious excavator, eight excavators of different sizes, 21 mini garbage trippers, one road sweeping machine, five garbage compactors, and 200 mobile waste containers.

With a huge burden of loans already in place, the CCC is unwilling to take on more loans for equipment purchases, said its Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Muhammad Touhidul Islam.

The CCC currently owes Tk 400 crore to contractors and an additional Tk 100 crore to the government. This existing liability is the main reason Mayor Shahadat Hossain is reluctant to agree to further loan conditions, said the CEO.

With a huge burden of loans already in place, the CCC is unwilling to take on more loans for equipment purchases.

SHEIKH MUHAMMAD TOUHIDUL ISLAM
Chief executive officer

Shahadat said, "This loan condition is not a massive move by the finance ministry. CCC is a service-providing organisation, not a commercial entity, and hence it is not suited to operate under commercial loan terms paying interest."

"The ministry fails to understand the project's importance. If implemented, it would alleviate waterlogging and keep the city clean. To this end, we badly need new equipment," he added.

Earlier, at an event on September 22, he said, "Our Tk 400 crore project to procure new equipment got only Tk 298 crore approval from the finance ministry, and then they told me that Tk 160 crore of it would be given as a loan with 5 percent interest. They will only give us a Tk 60 crore grant; the rest the CCC has to bear."

In response, Foyez Ahmed Tayeb, special assistant to the chief adviser, while speaking at the same event, urged the CCC to accept the loan and advised it to become more self-reliant.

Moreover, the LGRD Ministry provided an expensive weed harvester worth about Tk 6 crore -- designed to clean floating waste and hyacinth from waterbodies -- to the CCC even though it was not requested.

The machine is unfit for Chattogram's shallow and narrow canals, said CCC Chief Sanitation Officer Commander Iktiyan Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury.

Campaigning ends

FROM PAGE 3

Shikkhartii Jote panel alleged that the administration failed to act against misleading information online and maintain a fair election environment.

At a media briefing, the panel's general secretary candidate Sayed Bin Habib said,

"Their [authorities] inaction is harming the competitive atmosphere and putting candidates under mental pressure."

Meanwhile, Sakib Rume, GS candidate of the Sarbojonin Shikhhartii Sangsad panel, accused the election commission of bias.

"Student wings of BNP and Jamaat repeatedly violated the code, campaigning inside classrooms and handing out leaflets, but no action was taken," he alleged.

The seventh Cucusu election will be held on October 15.

A total of 908 candidates are contesting for Cucusu and hall union posts -- 415 for 26 Cucusu posts and 493 for 14 hall union posts.

The draft voter list includes 27,521 students. Voting will take place in 689 booths at 15 centres across five faculty buildings from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

MJF celebrates

FROM PAGE 3

The celebration concluded with a prize-giving ceremony and a vote of thanks delivered by Banasree Mitra Neogi, director of Rights and Governance Programmes at MJF.

To mark the occasion, a special talk show was broadcast on Duronto TV on October 11, jointly organised by MJF and Duronto TV. The discussants included Barrister Nihad Kabir, while Prohor, Tayeba, and Prithiya took part as child representatives.

Strict security measures have also been put in place.

Won't impose my views No compromise

FROM PAGE 3

be above accountability -- everyone will be able to question my activities."

"I pledge to work as a representative of the students to perform the duties of the Cucusu, not serve the purposes of my organisation."

The Cucusu polls had long been suspended under the pretext of political vengeance and violence. It's time to move past that. This will be our first vote. Regular student union elections must be held every year from now on," he added.

Rony also said he would work to ensure a safe campus by increasing the number of security personnel, enhancing security patrols, and installing CCTV cameras and proper lighting.

"To resolve the accommodation crisis, I will pressure the administration to construct multi-storey dormitories and extend existing halls. Besides, I will work to reduce session jams, recruit doctors, improve the medical centre, acquire more

ambulances, and expand the shuttle train compartments to ease transportation," he also said.

Regarding concerns about the election, Rony said, "We urged the Cucusu election commission to learn from the two recent student organisation elections and ensure a fair and transparent one here."

Explaining why he decided to run, Rony said, "Everyone knows me as a front-line activist in the anti-autocracy movement. I have come this far through movement and struggle."

About his panel, Rony said, "Almost half of our candidates are not affiliated with Shibir. Among them are five female students, one from a different religion, one physically challenged student, and several who have held positions in different clubs. I believe each of them is the best in their own posts."

"Whoever wins the Cucusu election, we will work together with all," he added.

"Students will choose their deserving representative," he concluded.

Hamas kill 32 members of Gaza 'gang'

REUTERS, Cairo

Hamas forces have killed 32 members of a "gang" in Gaza City in a security campaign launched after a ceasefire came into effect on Friday, while six of its personnel were also killed in the violence, a Palestinian security source said yesterday.

The official said the security operation in Gaza City had targeted members of a "dangerous gang". The operation had led to the arrest of 24 people and 30 others being wounded, the official said.

While Donald Trump has demanded Hamas disarm, he indicated that it had a green light for internal security operations, saying they wanted "to stop the problems" and "we gave them approval for a period of time".

The official did not identify the gang involved, although there are several clans in Gaza which have long been seen as rivals to Hamas.



Family and friends of Israeli hostage Eitan Horn react to the news of his release at their house in the central Israeli city of Rosh Haayin yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'My heart is broken'

Palestinians begin searching the Gaza rubble for their dead

AGENCIES

Ghali Khadr spent two days pleading with his parents to flee with him to southern Gaza, warning them that it was too dangerous to stay. His father, known for being stubborn, refused. Their argument was never finished – an Israeli airstrike hit his father's home, burying his parents beneath the rubble.

On Sunday, two days after the ceasefire was announced, Khadr returned to search through the ruins of his parents' home. He spent the day sifting through shattered concrete and twisted metal for any sign of them. All he managed to find were some shards of their skulls and parts of their hands.

"My father, a retired ambulance driver, was known for his strong will and patience. He did not know fear and was always optimistic," said Khadr, 40, of Jabaliya in northern Gaza.

Khadr took the remains of his parents to the graveyard, but found that it too had been destroyed. He decided to bury them next to the few graves that were still intact.

Like Khadr, thousands of Palestinians have returned to northern Gaza since Friday's ceasefire with a grim task ahead of them: searching for loved ones killed weeks or months earlier in Israeli airstrikes and whose bodies



are buried under the rubble.

Gaza's civil defence agency estimates that the bodies of about 10,000 people are trapped under the debris and collapsed buildings. The halt in the fighting has given the ambulance service the chance to finally start the search for the dead and give their families a chance at closure.

The task ahead of the rescuers is immense given an estimated 60m tonnes of rubble across the territory.

Most roads have been destroyed or blocked by debris. Civil defence workers are short of heavy equipment and have to use pickaxes and sledgehammers to break through collapsed buildings. Rescue crews have to move slowly.

The debris is also full of unexploded bombs and ordnance.

"At first, we are focusing on collecting the corpses lying in the streets to preserve what remains of them, especially with the presence of stray dogs that have been attacking bodies," said Khaled al-Ayoubi, 64, the civil defence chief for northern Gaza.

Other rescuers are forced to dig through rubble with their bare hands. So far, they have only recovered a fraction of the 10,000 missing people and have yet to begin searching through the ruins of multistorey buildings.

If Israel permits the entry of heavy equipment in the coming days, all the bodies should be recovered within six months to a year, said Dr Mohammed al-Mugheer, 38, the director of humanitarian support and international cooperation at the Gaza civil defence agency.

Many residents of northern Gaza cannot bear to wait that long. They have begun to return to their ruined homes to search for their loved ones on their own.

For many families, the pain of not knowing where, when or how their loved ones died is immense. They have spent months in exile from their homes, waiting in limbo for the chance to find even a fragment of those they lost, something to say goodbye to.

Planet's first catastrophic climate tipping point reached

AFP, Paris

The world's tropical coral reefs have almost certainly crossed a point of no return as oceans warm beyond a level most can survive, a major scientific report announced on Monday.

It is the first time scientists have declared that Earth has likely reached a so-called "tipping point" – a shift that could trigger massive and often permanent changes in the natural world.

"Sadly, we're now almost certain that we crossed one of those tipping points for warm water or tropical coral reefs," report lead Tim Lenton, a climate and Earth system scientist at the University of Exeter, told AFP.

This conclusion was supported by real-world observations of "unprecedented" coral death across tropical reefs since the first comprehensive assessment of tipping points science was

published in 2023, the authors said.

In the intervening years, ocean temperatures have soared to historic highs, and the biggest and most intense coral bleaching episode ever witnessed has spread to more than 80 percent of the world's reefs.



Understanding of tipping points has improved since the last report, its authors said, allowing for greater confidence in estimating when one might spark a domino effect of catastrophic and often irreversible

disasters.

Scientists now believe that even at lower levels of global warming than previously thought, the Amazon rainforest could tip into an unrecognisable state, and ice sheets from Greenland to West Antarctica could collapse.

For coral reefs, profound and lasting changes are already in motion.

"Already at 1.4C of global warming, warm water coral reefs are crossing their thermal tipping point and experiencing unprecedented dieback," said the report by 160 scientists from dozens of global research institutions.

The global scientific consensus is that most coral reefs would perish at warming of 1.5C above preindustrial levels – a threshold just years away.

When stressed in hotter ocean waters, corals expel the microscopic algae that provide their distinct colour and food source.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Controller of Stores (East)

Bangladesh Railway

CRB, Chattogram-4000

www.railway.gov.bd

No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-

Dated: 12-10-2025

e-Tender Notice

Notice No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02

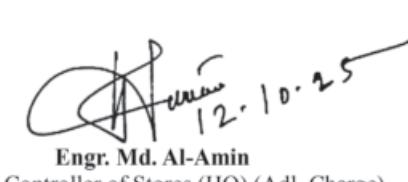
Amendment/Corrigendum-02

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

Description	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	Date: 13/10/2025 Time: 16:00	Date: 20/10/2025 Time: 16:00
Opening date & time	Date: 14/10/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 12:00
Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	Date: 14/10/2025 Time: 11:00	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 11:00
Closing date & time	Date: 14/10/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 12:00
Experience criteria	(b) Specific Experience: Specific Experience in supply of similar goods (similar means any flooring Compositions or cementing Compound or any similar Compound used for flooring of Railway Rolling Stocks) at least 01 (ONE) Contract successfully completed within the last 03 (THREE) years each with a value of at least Tk 65,00,000.00 (sixty-five lakh). Documentary evidence (Completion certificate) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website.	(b) Specific Experience: Specific Experience in supply of similar goods (similar means any flooring Compositions or cementing Compound or any similar Compound used for flooring of Railway Rolling Stocks) at least 01 (ONE) Contract successfully completed within the last 03 (THREE) years each with a value of at least Tk 60,00,000.00 (sixty lakh). Documentary evidence (Completion certificate) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website.

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

S (25) (71)


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

GD-2198

US ready for deal with Iran: Trump

REUTERS

The United States is prepared to make a deal with Iran when Tehran is ready, US President Donald Trump said in a speech to the Israeli parliament yesterday.

Tehran and Washington held five rounds of nuclear talks, prior to a 12-day war between Iran and Israel in June, which Washington joined by striking key Iranian nuclear sites.

The talks faced major stumbling blocks such as the issue of uranium enrichment on Iranian soil, which Western powers want to bring down to zero to minimise any risk of weaponisation, a plan that Tehran has rejected.

"We are ready when you are and it will be the best decision that Iran has ever made, and it's going to happen," Trump said, referring to a deal with Iran.

"The hand of friendship and cooperation is open. I'm telling you, they (Iran) want to make a deal... it would be great if we could make a deal," Trump told the Israeli Knesset.

On Saturday, Iran's foreign minister welcomed a potential "fair and balanced" US proposal on its nuclear programme, but said Tehran has not received any starting points for negotiation.

"If we receive a reasonable, balanced, and fair proposal from the Americans for negotiations, we will certainly consider it," Abbas Araghchi told state television on Saturday, adding that Tehran and Washington had been exchanging messages through mediators.

Trump was welcomed in Israel yesterday where he addressed the Knesset ahead of a planned trip to Egypt for a summit aimed at building conditions for a lasting peace in Gaza.

ANTI-ISRAEL RALLY Clashes kill 5 in Pakistan

REUTERS, Lahore

At least five people were killed when Pakistani police clashed with members of a hardline Islamist group at an anti-Israel protest on the country's busiest highway, police said.

The far-right Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan, is marching from Lahore to capital Islamabad, a nearly 400 km walk, along the historic Grand Trunk Road started on Friday and has led to several clashes with the police.

Yesterday, police said they had launched an operation to disperse protesters in the town of Muridke when the group's supporters opened fire on officers and set over 40 vehicles on fire in clashes that lasted for hours.

Those killed included a police officer, three protesters and a bystander, police said in a statement. Dozens on both sides were injured, it added.

Scores of protesters have also been arrested, police added.

bpml গাঢ়লাদশ্ম মাওয়ার ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইনসিটিউট

নং-২৭.০৮.০০০০.১০১.১১.০৬৪.২৫-১২৩০

তারিখঃ ১৪ অক্টোবর, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৩ অক্টোবর, ২০২৫ ইংলিশ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ সেক্টরে দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে বিভাগ কর্তৃপক্ষ ২০১৭ সালে বাংলাদেশ পাওয়ার ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইনসিটিউট (বিপিএমআই) গঠিত হয়। বর্তমানে উক্ত ইনসিটিউটের চুক্তিভুক্তি রেক্টর নিয়োগের জন্য উপযুক্ত বাংলাদেশী মানবিকের নিকট থেকে নিয়মিতিহীন শর্তে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(ক) দায়িত্ববিহীন

- রেক্টর বিপিএমআই-এর প্রধান নির্বাচিত কর্মকর্তা হবেন এবং আর্থিক ও প্রশাসনিক কাজ পরিচালনা করবেন। রেক্টর বিপিএমআই এর গভর্নিং বোর্ডের নির্বাচিত কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট সার্বিক কাজের অন্য দায়াবৰ্ক থাকবেন;
- ইনসিটিউটের প্রশিক্ষণ পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন এবং বাস্তবায়ন;
- বৈর্তন সভার ও বার্ষিক সভার সভার আয়োজন করা এবং বিপিএমআই এর গভর্নিং বোর্ডের সদস্য সচিব হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন;
- ইনসিটিউটের স্থানীয় প্রয়োজনীয় কর্মশালা/সেমিনার/গবেষণা আয়োজনের উদোগ গ্রহণ;
- ইনসিটিউটের মেমোরান্ডুম এবং আচিকেল অব এসোসিয়েশন অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য দায়িত্ব সম্পাদন।

(খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগাতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা

- প্রাক্কলেন ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণির ভাস্কুল বা যে কোন বিষয়ে মাত্রক প্রতিক্রিয়া প্রদান করে ন্যূনতম ২৫ বছরের কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ চাকুরীর অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। বিশেষ সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে প্রশিক্ষণ ও পাওয়ার সেক্টরে কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থীকার দেয়া হবে;
- শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন তৃতীয় বিভাগ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(গ) বেতন কাঠামো

মূল বেতন টাকা ১,৮৫,০০০, মূল বেতনের ৫০% বাড়ি ভাড়া ও কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রদত্ত আনুযায়ী অন্যান্য দায়িত্ব সম্পাদন।

(ঘ) সার্থকরণ শর্তাবলী

- আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে শিক্ষাগত যোগাতা, সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল অভিজ্ঞতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য তথ্য সম্বলিত বায়োডাটাসহ আবেদন করতে হবে;
- ২ দুই কপি সদা তোলা পাসপোর্ট আবাদের রেক্তিন ছবি;
- সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগাতা, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্ত্বারিত কর্মকর্তাদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন ক

Port tariff hike must be cost-based

Govt must open dialogue with all stakeholders

A 41 percent hike in service charges at Chattogram Port is a deeply concerning move. Business leaders warn that it will significantly erode Bangladesh's competitiveness. At a time when the nation's vital export sector is already under strain from global headwinds and additional US tariffs, this precipitous increase—scheduled to be effective from October 15—is poised to make Chattogram the costliest port in the region. This comes as Bangladesh prepares to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category in November 2026. Business leaders in Chattogram have expressed frustration over what they view as the interim government's undue haste and lack of accountability in pushing through such a major policy shift. They argue that the move bypassed a fundamental prerequisite of sound economic governance: comprehensive consultation with all stakeholders.

Adding to the controversy is the business community's suspicion that the hike is strategically timed to pave the way for foreign operators—an allegation that demands immediate and transparent clarification. The issue of port profitability lies at the heart of this debate. As Salim Rahman, first vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), pointed out, the port has not incurred losses in recent memory. If the goal of the hike is not to recover costs but to maximise revenue, it risks distorting the market and undermining the principle that port charges must be cost-based. The government, therefore, owes the public a transparent cost-revenue analysis to justify this decision.

The immediate and most serious consequence will be the impact on Bangladesh's exports. The country's cost of doing business is already higher than that of regional competitors like Vietnam, India, and Malaysia. As the backbone of the economy, the port serves as the crucial artery for foreign trade, and a sharp increase in logistics and shipping charges will directly translate into higher prices for Bangladeshi goods, especially garments. This will inevitably make these products less attractive to international buyers. The warning from Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, former BGMEA first vice-president, that buyers will shift orders to competitor nations, is not hyperbole—it is economic reality. Frequent policy shifts only deepen uncertainty, raise costs, and make the business environment unpredictable—precisely when competitors are focused on cost reduction.

This tariff hike is, in essence, a direct tax on trade. The burden will not only fall on businesses but will also trickle down to consumers through inflation.

To prevent further damage, the government must immediately initiate a transparent, inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders. If an increase is deemed necessary, it should be incremental and marginal, as proposed by the Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association, which suggested a 10 percent cap, not a sudden, massive shock. Proceeding with such an ill-timed and ill-conceived hike risks undermining years of export-led growth. The government must prioritise the nation's global competitiveness over opportunistic revenue generation.

Make LPG affordable to users

Its increased use can reduce the ongoing gas crisis

At a time when the country has been facing a severe gas crisis, it is worth reiterating that liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has the potential to act as an alternative energy source. Admittedly, our natural gas reserves are limited, and although the government has taken some measures to increase local gas production, they have not yielded much result. Therefore, while domestic gas production has decreased, dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) has increased for electricity generation, in the industrial sector, and household use. However, there are also limitations in LNG imports due to infrastructural weaknesses, making it difficult to supply gas as per demand. Against this backdrop, LPG can be a viable alternative to meet our gas needs.

According to experts, LPG is a highly competitive energy source compared to the price and availability of other fuels. Due to its cost-effectiveness, cleaner burning, ease of transportation, and secure supply, its industrial use has increased in recent years. At present, only 12 percent of total LPG is used for industrial and commercial purposes, while around 80 percent is used in households. However, given the ongoing crisis in piped gas supply, if LPG use can be promoted in industries, they can have a smoother supply of energy. Up until now, the LPG sector has grown on its own, without any subsidy. Sector operators have pointed out many barriers facing the industry, such as high licence fees (Tk 1 crore per year), difficulty in company registration, and the absence of pipelines to ensure smooth supply.

Moreover, the entire LPG sector is currently controlled by private companies, which is why the price of LPG remains high. At present, a 12-kg cylinder is sold for more than Tk 1,200, which should be below Tk 1,000, as our energy adviser has recently suggested. Moreover, illegal selling of LPG cylinders and refilling smaller cylinders from larger ones (a likely cause of accidents) remain rampant. These issues need to be addressed to promote LPG use.

We urge the government to ensure fair pricing of LPG through proper policy support and infrastructure development for import and distribution. Energy experts have also raised concerns over unsafe practices, which caused 580 accidents in 2025. LPG operators must therefore maintain safety and transparency in their operations. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) should also play the role expected of it: better regulate prices, and properly investigate complaints against operators. With the country's LPG demand projected to rise by 60 percent within the next five years, effective government policies are essential to make LPG affordable to consumers.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Martin Luther King Jr. wins Nobel Prize

On this day in 1964, African American social activist Martin Luther King, Jr., was named the winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

EDITORIAL

Why Pubail makes better sense for Dhaka's next rail ICD



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AHAMEDUL KARIM CHOWDHURY

Dhaka's only rail-linked inland container depot (ICD) at Kamalapur was built in 1987, when the city was far smaller, trade volumes were limited, and containerised transport was only beginning to emerge. Four decades later, the situation has changed entirely. The depot now sits at the heart of one of the world's most crowded capitals, surrounded by traffic congestion, inadequate access roads, and virtually no room for expansion. Bangladesh Railway can operate only two container trains daily between Chattogram and Kamalapur due to capacity or path clearance limitations on the Tongi-Kamalapur line.

To address this, Bangladesh Railway has long planned to shift its container operations to a new ICD at Dhirashram, near Tongi. The project aims to handle 400,000 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of containers a year—five times Kamalapur's capacity—and to transform rail freight logistics for the capital. On paper, it seems ideal. In practice, however, Dhirashram comes with major challenges. To connect the site, a new seven-kilometre rail link must be built from Pubail, which alone requires costly engineering works and extensive land acquisition.

The project's cost is staggering: the government has already approved over Tk 3400 crore just for land and the new rail link, while the total estimate stands at \$74.56 million under a public-private partnership model. Land prices in Gazipur, a dense industrial zone, continue to rise, and relocation issues are unavoidable. The Planning Commission itself has expressed concern that placing an ICD inside the Gazipur City Corporation area could worsen congestion and has advised exploring alternatives farther out, such as Kaliganj.

One alternative deserves renewed attention: Pubail. Located along the existing Dhaka-Chattogram rail line, the site offers the same strategic proximity to Dhaka without the associated congestion or cost burden. A few years ago, a group of railway officers, including myself, conducted a preliminary study in Bangla on the feasibility of developing an ICD

adjacent to Pubail station. Although the report was never signed or formally submitted, its findings remain highly relevant. The railway already owns 10-15 acres of land near Pubail station. If another 90 acres were acquired, a 100-acre ICD could be developed at



The Kamalapur inland container depot now sits at the heart of one of the world's most crowded capitals, surrounded by traffic congestion, inadequate access roads, and virtually no room for expansion. FILE PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

far lower cost and with less disruption than Dhirashram.

Pubail's road connectivity is another major advantage. It lies close to Mirer Bazar, which connects directly to the Dhaka Eastern Bypass (Middle Circular Road)—a newly opened expressway linking Joydebpur to Bhulta and Madanpur. This means container trucks could move between the ICD and the national highway network without entering Dhaka's core. Such seamless road-rail integration is critical to easing congestion and making the capital's logistics more efficient.

Additionally, land acquisition around Pubail would be simpler and cheaper, affecting fewer families and businesses, while the environmental footprint would be smaller. Compared with Dhirashram's

230-acre requirement, Pubail could operate effectively on about 100 acres, combining existing railway land with newly acquired plots. The financial savings from avoiding a new rail link and a massive urban land purchase could easily reach hundreds of crores of taka. Those funds could instead be invested in modern yard technology, which could also be implemented by the private operator.

A newly built port or ICD often takes considerable time to become fully operational due to user adaptation, operational learning, and market alignment. However, if Bangladesh Railway relocates the entire Kamalapur ICD setup—along

more likely to support a project that is technically sound and socially responsible than one facing urban opposition later.

A Pubail ICD could be developed more efficiently and brought into operation faster than the Dhirashram project. With efficient yard planning, high-density stacking, and digital systems, even a smaller footprint could match Dhirashram's capacity. The site's location on the main line would allow direct train access, reducing both operational complexity and energy costs. Most importantly, it would prevent the creation of yet another congested logistics hub inside an urban area.

The lesson of Kamalapur is clear. The depot was built with the right intent but, in hindsight, in the wrong place as Dhaka's expansion has turned it from an asset into a constraint. Bangladesh cannot afford to repeat that mistake.

The time has come for the Ministry of Railways, the Planning Commission, and development partners to take a second look at Pubail through a transparent, evidence-based process. If technical and economic assessments confirm its viability, the government should move quickly to secure the land and begin development before urban expansion makes it too late. The logistics industry, too, has a role to play: shipping lines, freight forwarders, and exporters all stand to gain from a more efficient, rail-based ICD that is accessible and sustainable.

Dhaka's container logistics need a long-term solution, not another temporary fix. Pubail provides that possibility—a practical, forward-looking location that aligns with national transport priorities and urban realities. Choosing it would mean not just building another terminal but reshaping how Bangladesh handles trade for decades to come. The question is not whether we can afford to rethink the plan, but whether we can afford not to.

To put it briefly, the Pubail alternative makes better use of existing rail assets, demands less land, avoids city congestion, and promises lower costs. Above all, it aligns with the government's vision to move a larger share of containers by rail, cutting road traffic and emissions. Bangladesh cannot afford another infrastructure decision that becomes a long-term burden. As Dhaka expands and trade grows, site selection today will shape logistics for decades, and we must choose better and smarter, not just larger.

Military officers, civil charges, and the future of democratic rule



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In the modern international politico-security system, maintaining a balance between democracy and the military is crucial, despite the inherent tensions between democratisation and militarisation. The greater the military's interference in domestic politics, the higher the risk of democratic fragility. In developed democracies, this understanding guides the military to remain detached from political affairs while upholding national security.

The history of Bangladesh, however, is fraught with ambiguity, marked by both active and passive interventions of the military in politics, and by violent, often conflicting, relationships among political parties striving to gain or retain power. Last year, the country witnessed an unprecedented mass uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina's 15-year-long dictatorial regime—one long perceived as supported by the military—only for the latter to ultimately realign itself with public sentiment and play a stabilising role during the transition. And recently, in another rare set of circumstances, we saw the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh bring formal charges against 25 current and former military officers in three cases for their alleged involvement in enforced disappearance, secret detention, torture, and crimes against humanity.

This marks a unique moment in our history. Since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, the armed forces have largely operated under a de facto shield of immunity from civil jurisdiction. Grave allegations were often dealt with internally, with serving officers rarely, if ever, tried in a civil court. But since the uprising, there has been tremendous pressure on the interim government to ensure justice for the crimes committed under the Hasina regime, including those involving military officers. The recent development may thus reshape perceptions of civil-military relations and how Bangladesh holds power to account. Already, the army has declared that the 15 accused serving officers were taken into custody.

But how did this development come to be, and what lessons can be drawn from it? Several factors seem to have converged to make this moment possible.

The bloody protests that ousted the Awami League government last year forced political accountability into the spotlight. On the military front, as Adjutant General Md Hakimuzzaman has affirmed at a press briefing, those accused by the ICT were charged for their actions while working at the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). The accusations

have not been vague. Investigations have reportedly produced credible evidence that strengthens the legal case. Victims' testimonies, secret detention facility envelopes, and the naming of specific officers reflect an evidence-based framework hard to ignore.

Since the uprising, the demand for justice and accountability has only grown louder within both civil and military circles, as well as among our international stakeholders. The UN report on atrocities committed during the uprising also called for ensuring accountability of the members of security agencies. The report also recommended disbanding Rab and restricting the functions of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the DGFI. These recommendations were part of efforts to address and slow the pace of the "militarisation of policing".

Amid national and international pressure, and after prolonged hesitation by the military to investigate the alleged secret underground detention centres, the authorities eventually launched an inquiry with spot visits (although both investigators and victims reported tampering and destruction of evidence). Equally importantly, a documentary released by the Chief Adviser's Office—revealing the involvement of certain military officers in acts of torture, maiming, and enforced disappearances of both civilians and soldiers—has opened a crucial space for justice through ICT charges.

Finally, alongside the armed forces' positive gestures towards justice, a recent amendment to the ICT Act—barring individuals formally charged from holding public office or government service—reflected the government's commitment to ensuring that formal charges have real

and enforceable consequences.

The challenge now lies in ensuring that the trials are fair and any reform of the security agencies is enduring. Otherwise, those may backfire, portraying the system as biased and eroding trust in justice. Bangladesh's long journey towards democratic governance has often been hindered by the politics of vengeance and the uneasy balance between force and law. Yet, by bringing military officers under civil legal accountability, the nation signals that its institutions are maturing. The road ahead, however, is difficult. The temptation to misuse power is still a serious concern. If Bangladesh learns from this moment, it can strengthen civilian control, build a more professional and rights-respecting military, and develop a judiciary that commands legitimacy and trust. If not, this episode risks becoming a historical footnote—another unfulfilled promise.

The lessons here are not only for the military or a single government, but for the entire nation. Let us hope this chapter is remembered not merely for its accusations, but for genuine justice, meaningful reforms, and a renewed faith in the rule of law. Ultimately, without a whole-of-society consensus—especially among political parties, civil society, religious groups, and the media—the goal of sustainable democracy will remain elusive. The police and other civilian institutions must be both empowered and held accountable so that the state does not routinely rely on the armed forces and intelligence agencies in civil matters. Such reforms would reduce dependency and potential abuse of power. But if mishandled, this moment will only revive old fears of impunity and democratic fragility.

Will the upcoming election stabilise Bangladesh-India relations?



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

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ABDULLAH SHIBLI

Bangladesh and India have once again engaged in a verbal exchange of "he said, she said". Last Wednesday, Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain fired the latest round in response to Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's comment on Bangladesh's upcoming national election, characterising it as "completely unwarranted".

Does this recent burst of comments and counter-comments indicate that things will heat up once again as the election approaches? The Indian foreign secretary, on October 6, said, "...India is firmly in favour of free, fair, inclusive and participatory elections in Bangladesh..." Such a remark is ironic and hypocritical, since India had remained silent on the state of democracy in Bangladesh for the 15 and a half years of uninterrupted Awami League rule, during which three questionable elections were held.

While the motive behind such remarks should be scrutinised, it is also necessary to take a fresh look at India's trade, economic, and diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh. In fact, this has become a vital component of the agenda for all political parties in the run-up to the elections. Leaders of the July uprising, who have been instrumental in creating a national consensus to reassess

our identity, have been driving this objective domestically. Now, even the average man on the street notices the priority steering away from the "servile" perception that critics often attributed to the previous administration.

In June this year, the foreign adviser commented that the country's relationship with India needs to be rebalanced or readjusted. Since August 5, 2024, when the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took refuge in India, the interim administration and the nation at large criticised the Indian government for supporting the Awami League administration. In most cases, India's official response has been diplomatic, which can lead one to speculate that the neighbouring country is waiting for things to settle down after the elections.

For Bangladesh, the time has come to reassess our strategic priorities. The recent shift has been influenced by domestic political changes, a rise in anti-India sentiment, and unresolved bilateral issues. This has created the need for India to broaden its engagement beyond the political establishment and prioritise diplomacy on contentious topics such as water-sharing. However, it is not certain how much the dynamic can shift before the elections in February.

After the next elections, whichever

party or coalition comes to power, it must announce a bold initiative and push the "reset button" with regard to India. Some of the areas where the governments of the two countries can collaborate have been discussed in the media. Bangladesh has sought India's backing to revive SAARC, and as the next chair of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), to broaden and strengthen our

projects. Bangladeshis justifiably believe that New Delhi bears collateral responsibility for sustaining Sheikh Hasina's rule.

During the readjustment phase, the diplomats of both countries must avoid incendiary rhetoric. In the coming years, some of the thorny areas at the central, state, and local levels will be transhipment, water management and sharing, and security and border management.



FILE VISUAL: FATIMA JAHAN ENA

regional alliances.

The basic premise of our foreign policy is, and should be, that we need to maintain a good relationship with our powerful neighbour and move away from the year of bitterness caused by past mistakes. An economic and political rift with India since late 2024 has hurt Bangladesh through trade restrictions, diplomatic tension, and stalled connectivity

In this regard, I am highlighting the forthcoming negotiations on the water flows of Ganges and Teesta. A scholar at the National University of Singapore (NUS) has cautioned that the fate of the Ganges Water Treaty (GWT), to expire in 2026, is uncertain, and aptly called it "a two-level game" in view of Mamata Banerjee's warning to the centre. At one level, Bangladesh is playing the game

with India, while at another level, Modi is sparring with Banerjee, West Bengal's chief minister, who opposes the treaty's renewal.

"The nature of any renewed GWT will therefore depend upon New Delhi's ability to negotiate both its triangular relationship with Bangladesh and China and the power balance between central government and West Bengal," wrote Amit Ranjan of NUS, in the latest issue of *Asian Affairs* in his article titled "A two-level game over the Ganges: The fate of Ganga/Ganges waters treaty between India and Bangladesh."

Bangladesh cannot fully implement the Teesta River management project and achieve its goals without India's participation, as the project's effectiveness depends on managing the Teesta River's flow from its upstream source, located in India. While China has expressed willingness to help finance and implement some aspects of the project, its efforts would be ineffective without an agreement with India on water sharing and release to ensure sufficient water availability.

In the past, our high commission in India has kowtowed to Indian officials in the South Block. Gone should be the days when our high commissioner, after a round of water sharing negotiations, declared, "What we have got not only met our expectation but exceeded our expectation," in a moment of delusion. Our civil servants, regardless of their portfolio, need a refresher course in level-headed diplomacy in avoiding sycophancy. Our leaders, too, need to put an end to hatred and the blame game.

In the near future, New Delhi, on its part, will hopefully realise that Bangladesh's continued economic development is in India's strategic interests, while any development on the political or electoral front is for Bangladesh alone to deal with.

Machado's Nobel Prize puts Venezuela and US policy in the spotlight



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When Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, the announcement rippled far beyond the usual celebration of moral courage. To many, it wasn't just about honouring her defiance against an authoritarian regime—it was also a symbolic pushback against a government the West has long criticised. And just like that, Washington's long and uneasy engagement with Venezuela gained a new, moral dimension: human rights. Interestingly, Machado dedicated her Nobel to US President Donald Trump, praising his "decisive support" for Venezuela's pro-democracy cause. She said Trump and the US remain key allies as her nation stands on the brink of victory in its struggle for freedom. President Trump later shared that Machado had personally called to dedicate her Nobel Peace Prize to him, saying she believed he "really deserved it." Describing her as "very nice," Trump mentioned his continued efforts to support Venezuela, calling the nation's condition a "basic disaster."

The UN Human Rights Office said the award mirrored "the clear aspirations of the people of Venezuela for free and fair elections, for civil and political rights and for the rule of law." European leaders went

further. Ursula von der Leyen, head of the European Commission, praised Machado's "courage" and declared that her prize spoke for "every voice that refuses to be silenced." Germany's government chimed in, calling it a recognition of her "longstanding commitment to democracy and human rights." The message was unmistakable—this year's Nobel was not just about one woman. It was a statement about Venezuela's political decay, and perhaps a quiet challenge to the US to redefine its own role there.

Machado's story is one of defiance laced with tragedy. After winning the opposition's primary in 2023, she was banned from public office and forced into hiding. Her rallies had drawn massive crowds, her economic plans—

focused on privatisation and welfare reform—

divided the public, and her calls for democracy drew fury from President Nicolás Maduro's government.

Arrested briefly and repeatedly harassed, she became both a symbol and a target. Most of her close advisers have either been jailed or fled the country. Still, her message hasn't softened. She has accused the

Maduro regime of running a "criminal mafia"

and turning Venezuela's institutions into hollow shells.

But the Nobel Peace Prize changes the

dynamics. It introduces a new layer to the US-Venezuela relationship. Earlier this year, when US warships appeared off the Venezuelan coast under the banner of a "counter-narcotics" mission, the move reigned old tensions. Washington said it was targeting drug cartels; Caracas called it provocation. The situation, as always, lived in the grey: part strategy, part messaging, part performance.

The US has long portrayed Venezuela

as a "narco-state." Yet analysts have long questioned the accuracy of that framing. Yes, Venezuela's geography makes it a transit point—its border with Colombia and its Caribbean access make trafficking easier. But even US intelligence reports admit that the bulk of cocaine entering America still moves through Central America and Mexico, not Venezuelan shores.

So, if Venezuela isn't the main artery of the global drug trade, why the military pressure?

Why now?

Perhaps the Nobel offers a clue.

Through the lens of *The Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano, Latin America's recurring crises often stem from external powers acting under moral pretexts—liberation, anti-corruption, or democracy-building—only to pursue their own interests. Peter H. Smith's *Talons of the Eagle* dissects how Washington's rhetoric of freedom often aligns neatly with its geopolitical goals. Daniel M. Goldstein's *The Politics of Interventionism in Latin America* goes further, arguing that even "humanitarian" missions tend to fracture the very institutions they claim to protect. Read together, these works suggest that the US's moral turn in Venezuela—now under the banner of human rights—may be less about altruism and more about strategic repositioning in a region slipping from its influence.

Inside Venezuela, the picture remains grim. Sanctions have devastated the economy. Inflation continues to shred savings. Millions have fled. Hospitals run short of medicine; power cuts are routine. For ordinary Venezuelans, these grand geopolitical narratives—whether told from Washington or Caracas—mean little. Their fight isn't about ideology or sovereignty; it's about finding bread, fuel, or a working bus.

Maduro, meanwhile, has perfected the language of resistance. Each US move strengthens his narrative of a besieged homeland. "We are prepared, but not for war," he declared in January, accusing Washington of trying to provoke conflict. He appeals for dialogue, but always with a hint of defiance. And when the Nobel Prize was announced, his government dismissed it as Western propaganda.

It's a script both sides know well. The more Washington pressures Caracas, the stronger Maduro's nationalist posture becomes. The more authoritarian he appears, the easier it is for Washington to justify pressure in the name of freedom. Both feed off each other's hostility.

This loop has gone on for decades. From Hugo Chávez's defiant oil diplomacy to Maduro's survival through economic collapse, Venezuela has been a mirror for US anxieties

about its waning influence in Latin America.

The drug war gave one excuse, democracy another. Now, the Nobel Prize offers a new moral anchor—human rights.

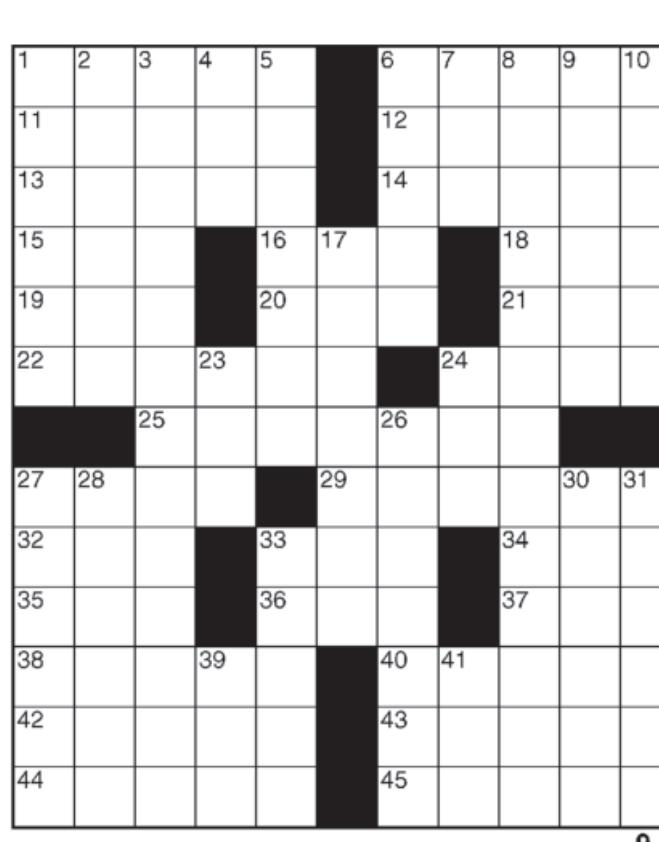
And yet, Washington is stuck. Sanctions haven't toppled Maduro. The 2019 Guaidó experiment failed. Direct military action would be politically toxic and militarily chaotic. Venezuela's terrain is unpredictable, its armed groups fragmented, its loyalties uncertain. Even "limited" strikes could spiral into a regional mess.

So, for now, the US operates in a grey zone. With Machado's Nobel win, Washington finds itself under renewed pressure to act, but every move carries a cost. Support her too openly, and it fuels Maduro's claims of foreign meddling. Stay silent, and it betrays the image of moral leadership the Nobel has suddenly revived.

Caught in between are Venezuelans who have run out of patience. Their country, once among the richest in Latin America, now limps along on crumbling infrastructure and fading hope. They want stability, not slogans. That's the irony at the heart of this story. The Nobel Prize might be intended as a beacon of hope, but it also risks becoming another piece in a geopolitical chess game.

ACROSS

- 1 Ship staffs
- 6 Stares stupidly
- 11 Bothered
- 12 Seize by force
- 13 Home style
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Lobed organ
- 16 Strike caller
- 18 Bar concern
- 19 Employ
- 20 "Boot"
- 21 Roadhouse
- 22 Long-winged seabird
- 24 Play parts
- 25 Ottoman rulers
- 27 Bearing
- 29 Comes in
- 32 Hockey's Bobby
- 33 Braying beast
- 34 Scoundrel
- 35 Fall mo.
- 36 Detective Archer
- 37 Compete
- 38 Cartoon genre
- 40 Hirsch of "Milk"
- 42 Kitchen gadget
- 43 Indy entrant
- 44 Fragrance
- 45 Garden starters
- DOWN
- 1 Invented
- 2 Relaxed
- 3 Presidential protectors
- 4 Eastern "way"
- 5 Fruit-filled pastry
- 6 Swallows
- 7 "Do say!"
- 8 Point of some commercials
- 9 Wandering
- 10 Gives rise to
- 17 Blue-gray cat
- 23 Use the track
- 24 Hill insect
- 26 Replies
- 27 Elementary substances
- 28 Sly, in a way
- 30 Complained bitterly
- 31 Takes the wheel
- 33 Like sentries
- 39 Chess pieces
- 41 West of films



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

A	P	H	I	D	J	A	D	E	D
S	H	A	D	E	A	M	I	G	O
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Samina Zaman's POETRY OF TIME impresses at Zainul Gallery

ART & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

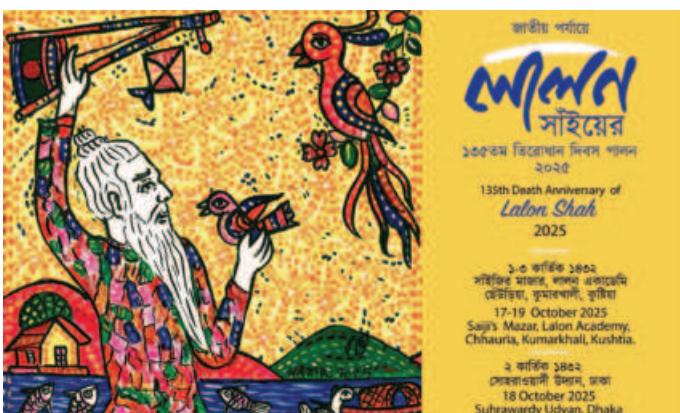
The Zainul Gallery at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, inaugurated a solo art exhibition titled *Poetry of Time* featuring works of artist Samina Zaman on Thursday, October 9, at 11:30 am.

The event was inaugurated by the chief guest, Dr Abdus Sattar, Professor of the Department of Oriental Art, Dr Azharul Islam Sheikh, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, attended as the special guest. The ceremony was chaired by Gopal Chandra Trivedi, Chairman of the Department of Oriental Art, and curated by Dr Shake Manir Uddin, Chairman of the Department of Art History at the University of Dhaka.

Samina Zaman, currently a designer at the renowned fashion and lifestyle company Disha Limited, is showcasing 31 artworks executed in mixed media and watercolour on paper. The exhibition will remain open from 12 pm to 7 pm till October 15.



PHOTOS: RATUL CHOWDHURY AND COURTESY



Government to honour Lalon Shah's legacy with countrywide celebrations

The government has announced nationwide celebrations to mark the 135th death anniversary of mystic saint Lalon Shah, with major Lalon Utshab events to be held in Kushtia and Dhaka from October 17 to 19.

The announcement came through the official Facebook

page of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus. Kushtia's Churia, home to the Lalon Akhra, will host devotees, bauls, and musicians in a three day festival of music, philosophy, and spirituality.

Performers include Tun Tun Baul, Sunil Karmakar,

Rowshan Fakir, and Latif Shah. In Dhaka, a special celebration at Subhrawardi Udayan on October 18 will feature Emon Chowdhury and Bengal Symphony, Band Lalon, Nirab and Bauls, Pothik Nobi, Suchona Shely, Band Baula, Arup Rahi, and Samogeeet.

'Girgiti' to bring gritty crime thriller to OTT

The Bangladeshi crime-thriller series *Girgiti* will premiere on Bongo on October 16, delving into the corrupt and violent world of Biralpur, a town overtaken by drugs, power struggles, and murder.

When three men under businessman Chowdhury are killed, detective Maruf Zaman, played by Irfan Sajjad, investigates, only to face a shocking murder inside the police station.

Directed by Laskar Niaz Mahmud, with a story by Rahat Mehedi Haque and screenplay by Jyotirmoy Roy, the five-episode series emphasises realism and emotional authenticity.

The cast includes Shabadi Wadud, Nader Chowdhury, Ashish Khandakar, Mohana Meem, and others, blending seasoned performers with newcomers.

Edited at SK Studio in India, *Girgiti* promises suspense, psychological depth, and a gripping exploration of human nature.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Living on Death Row'

The European Union Delegation to Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Embassy of France and Drik, presents *Living on Death Row*, a powerful photo exhibition by Mosfiqur Rahman Johan. Curated by Tanzim Wahab, the exhibition explores the human cost of Bangladesh's death penalty system through stories of confinement, trauma, and resilience.

Date: Friday-Sunday | Oct 10-19, 2025

Time: 3 pm-8 pm

Venue: DrikPath Bhabon, Shukrabad



NEWS

A look back at referendums in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

Ershad followed in the footsteps of his predecessor.

Amid growing public opposition, he held a referendum on March 21, 1985, following the issuance of the Referendum Order, 1985.

The referendum was meant to determine whether voters had confidence in the policies and programmes adopted by HM Ershad, and whether they agreed to his continued tenure as president until elections could be held while the constitution remained suspended, according to the EC report.

According to daily Ittefaq's report dated March 18, 1983, Ershad, the then chief martial law administrator, announced an 18-point programme the previous day.

The programme included commitments to transform politics into "politics of action", secure political freedom through economic emancipation, promote rural development, reduce income inequality through equitable distribution of national wealth, uphold Islamic ideals and values in national life, and eliminate corruption.

The referendum saw around 72.44 percent turnout, with 94.11 percent voting in favour of Ershad.

According to the report, there were again two ballot boxes -- one labelled

"Yes" with Ershad's image on all four sides and the other was labelled "No".

In the book, Yeahia wrote that political activities and opposition to the referendum were banned. Political parties not only urged a boycott but also called a general strike (hartal) that day. With major political leaders under house arrest and universities closed, it was difficult for the opposition to organise demonstrations. As a result, the boycott call did not significantly influence voter behaviour.

The campaign was entirely one-sided, with the opposition blacked out by government-controlled electronic media. Academics criticised the voting procedure, noting that voters were not asked to mark ballot papers in any way.

"It was very easy for manipulators to move ballot papers from the ballot box to the one with Ershad's image," Yeahia wrote.

Observers found the turnout figures highly dubious. According to many, actual voter turnout was at most 20 percent. The Times (London), in its editorial titled "Learning to Live with a Lie", cited a two percent turnout and deemed the referendum a fraud, according to Yeahia.

Democracy was restored following Ershad's ouster, and parliament adopted the Twelfth Amendment Bill in 1991. This led to the reintroduction of parliamentary government,

"There are serious doubts about the official figures of turnout. In reality, voters in such large numbers did not turn up at the polling centres. The bureaucracy was actively mobilised, and state-sponsored campaigns were used to inflate the turnout -- there is no doubt about that," he said.

Based on the Referendum Act of 1991, the third referendum was held on September 15, 1991.

It was the first time in the country's political history that a constitutional issue was addressed through a referendum. Voters were asked: "Should the president give assent to the Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 1991?"

The fifth amendment to the constitution, passed in 1979 during Ziaur Rahman's tenure, made it mandatory to hold a referendum for any proposed changes to the preamble or to Articles 8, 48, 56, or 142 of the constitution. This requirement was later abolished through the fifteenth amendment in 2011 under the Awami League government.

The results of the third referendum showed that the turnout was 35.2 percent with 83.6 percent voting in favour of the bill.

Democracy was restored following Ershad's ouster, and parliament adopted the Twelfth Amendment Bill in 1991. This led to the reintroduction of parliamentary government,

with the president becoming the constitutional head of state and the prime minister the executive head.

The amendment also abolished the position of vice president and stipulated that the president would be elected by parliament.

In the book, Yeahia mentioned that floods in parts of the country and a lack of awareness among rural voters regarding the technicalities of the constitutional issue were among the major reasons for the low turnout.

He noted that there were no allegations of rigging or malpractices commonly associated with the previous two referendums. As no political party opposed the constitutional amendment bill, no one campaigned against the referendum.

"It is clear from the turnout rate that the referendum had not generated much interest among the voters. The campaign was calm and almost limited to the media," he wrote.

Abdul Alim said that all political parties sought to move from a presidential system to a parliamentary form of government, and they campaigned for it.

"There was no manipulation of turnout figures, no use of bureaucracy or any other entity. In other words, it was a fair and credible referendum," he added.

Speaking by phone at the press conference, Aghion said de-globalization and tariff barriers were "obstacles to growth" adding that the bigger the market the more possibilities to exchange ideas, transfer technologies and for healthy competition.

"Anything that gets in the way of openness is an obstacle to growth. So I see there kind of dark clouds currently accumulating, pushing for barriers to trade and openness," he said.

Aghion called on Europe to learn from the U.S. and China, which he said have found ways to reconcile competition and industrial policy.

"In Europe, in the name of competition policy, we became very anti any form of industrial policy. I think we need to evolve on that and find ways to reconcile industrial

Now govt college teachers

FROM PAGE 16

SM Jubair Husan, a lecturer at the Department of Islamic History at Raghabpur Rahmania Fazil (Degree) Madrasa, said all the teachers and many students came to the madrasa yesterday, but no classes were held.

On Sunday morning, the MPO-listed teachers gathered in front of the Jatiya Press Club and held a rally to push for the same three point demand, causing congestion on Topkhana Road. Later, a 13-member teachers' delegation met officials at the finance ministry.

However, around 2:00pm that day, police charged batons, sprayed water cannons, and fired sound grenades to disperse the protesters, leaving several teachers injured.

The teachers had given the government an ultimatum until Sunday evening, but as no response came, they enforced a full day work stoppage at all MPO-listed institutions yesterday. There are over 26,000 MPO-listed non-government institutions in the country, employing

around 3.8 lakh teachers and 1.7 lakh staffers.

In another development, BCS General Education Association yesterday said they would stage sit-ins on their respective campuses instead of attending classes today, demanding justice and respect for the teaching community.

Masud Rana Khan, member secretary of the association, confirmed the decision to the media, while its president, Prof Khan Moinuddin Al Mahmud Sohel, said further programmes would be declared after Wednesday.

The assault on teachers occurred at Dhaka College on Sunday when students from seven affiliated colleges took out a procession demanding swift implementation of the Dhaka Central University Act 2025.

A student was reportedly confined to the teachers' common room, prompting fellow students to besiege the administrative building and secure his release. The situation was later brought under control by police and college authorities.

Yunus places six proposals

FROM PAGE 16

supply chains, empowering local entrepreneurs through finance and partnerships, ending export bans and reforming trade rules to support food security, and expanding access to technology and innovation, especially for rural youth in the Global South

Calling for systemic change, Yunus advocated for social businesses -- enterprises that solve problems without personal profit. "Profit-maximising businesses have left billions behind."

He urged governments to create legal and financial frameworks to support social businesses, citing successful models like Grameen Bank and Grameen Danone.

He envisioned a "Three-Zero World": Zero Wealth Concentration, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions. "This is not a dream. It is a necessity," he declared.

Youth empowerment was central to his message. "Let's not tell them to wait for jobs. Let's empower them to create jobs," he said, proposing investment funds, agri-tech hubs, and climate-smart enterprises led by

youth. "If we invest in youth, we will not only feed the world, we'll change the world."

Prof Yunus praised Bangladesh's role in global cooperation, noting its founding membership in the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

He also highlighted the country's food production achievements, saying the country feeds over 170 million people despite its small land area and also supports 1.3 million Rohingyas, who fled under violence in Myanmar.

"We've mechanised farming, built robust distribution systems, and are greening agriculture."

He recalled Bangladesh's peaceful youth-led movement in 2024 for democracy and human rights, saying, "They are shaping a new Bangladesh -- one that puts its people at the centre of governance."

Prof Yunus emphasised imagination and innovation. "If we can imagine it, we can create it." He urged global collaboration to build a just, inclusive, and hunger-free future, grounded in dignity and justice.

ABUL HASHIM'S BANGALISTAAN

Religious reconciliation through language and culture

Hashim, in his plan for the United Bengal Movement—or what he termed Bangalistaan—believed that ethnically driven societies with a common language would benefit from using religion as a tool for political self-representation rather than relegating it to the private realm.

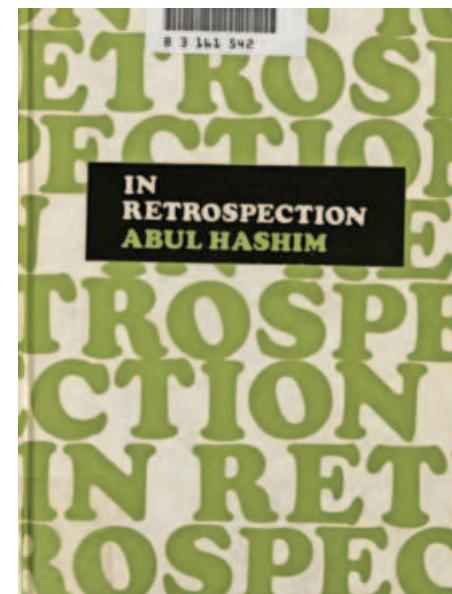
SUCHARITA SEN

The decade leading up to the Partition of India in 1947 was marked by a heightened need for political self-representation among the Indian population. Various formulations of what this identity should be were offered by the dominant political parties in British India. The All India Muslim League (AIML), founded in Dhaka in 1906, became the political representative body for Muslim interests, pitted against the Hindu majority in the country. Its provincial bodies, however, often struggled to accept some of the views and strategies adopted by the AIML at the centre. They were unsure how best to mobilise and strengthen Muslim sentiments and mould them into a well-defined political identity.

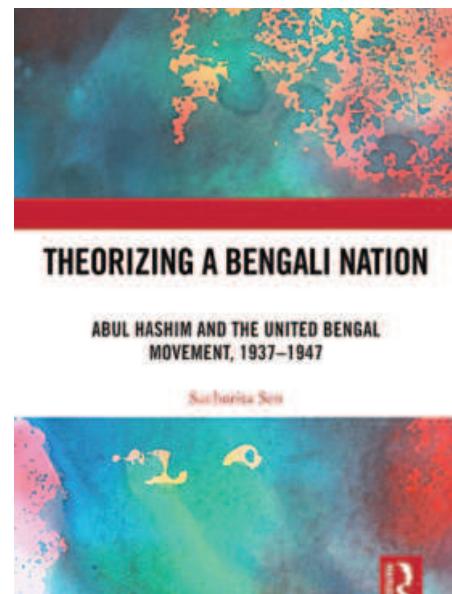
For the Bengal Provincial Muslim League (BPML), the question of a Bengali Muslim political identity could not be sidestepped. The proper acknowledgement of the group's social and linguistic uniqueness from Muslims in other parts of British India. At a time when communal tensions were rising between Hindus and Muslims—caused mainly by religious polarisation and a struggle for power at the centre—the chance for cohesion and peace between the two communities at the provincial level was becoming increasingly impossible to achieve. A prominent leader of the BPML, Abul Hashim (1905–74), offered his own philosophical views, some of which were later incorporated into political action by the party in the 1940s. He sought to create political and cultural frameworks that would make religious coexistence smooth and sustainable in the province.

Hashim was born into a prominent political family of Burdwan (now a district in West Bengal, India), where he grew up before moving to Calcutta to pursue a degree in law. His father's participation in the Bengal Congress and close ties with

some of the party's founding members, such as Surendranath Banerjee, greatly influenced Hashim's political views. His political career began in 1936, when he participated in the Bengal Legislative Council, which was the upper house of the legislature in the Bengal province. Hashim's views were shaped by the political milieu of Bengal after A. K. Fazlul Huq became the province's Premier, serving from 1937 to 1943. Huq's emphasis on resolving class-related problems and prioritising the plight of the working and agrarian classes did



Cover of Abul Hashim's autobiography.



Cover of Sucharita Sen's book.

much to influence the political atmosphere in the province.

By the early 1940s, however, the mood in the province began to change. At the historic Lahore Resolution, held in March 1940 and organised by the AIML, Hashim witnessed one of the most important political moments in Muslim politics in British India. The resolution was passed in favour of a political demand for the independence of all Muslim-majority provinces in British India.

This was a major turning point in

regional Muslim politics, as it opened up the possibility of interpreting the Lahore Resolution in ways that could suit and apply to regional demands and grievances. After becoming General Secretary of the BPML in 1943, Hashim began to develop his own views on what a nation is, and on the future of Hindus and Muslims in the Bengal province. In his autobiographical book *In Retrospection* (1974), Hashim offers his reflections on what being a Bengali meant to him. For him, provincial identity—in his case, Bengali—preceded any other extra-regional identity. This primary identity provided the foundation for meaning-making through language, the construction of reciprocal trust among group members, and ways of using cultural commonalities to override differences of all kinds.

The basis of all language forms, regardless of their cultural location, is reconciliatory in nature, as they exhibit an inward-looking or self-reflective characteristic that allows us to place ourselves in the world. In multi-ethnic societies, the question of cultivating language forms—languages through which narrative commonalities are constituted—becomes crucial. At an individual level, language becomes the tool for self-recognition, occurring naturally within us and initiating the process by which we constitute ourselves as a 'self' in the world.

This task is accomplished through our attempt to connect our past with our present in various ways within language. The act of judiciously selecting parts of our past and connecting them to our present, in order to construct a meaningful personal narrative, is itself an act of language. This process is achieved through self-reconciliation, or self-forgiveness. Surely, this can be extended to the way we make meaning as a political collective—making reconciliation with others possible. Thus, the social schema for constructing a common narrative of who we are as a people, and the process of self-identification for a collective, is an extension of this implicit phenomenon of self-recognition.

The possibility of achieving a kind of self-reconciliation through language implies

that, socially too, we are capable of attaining a form of collective reconciliation.

This universal feature of language, and its inherent ability to act as a tool of social cohesion, was recognised by Hashim. For him, institutional, political, and religious structures could be put into place and reformed in such a way that they would allow a political community to steer itself towards performing moral and ethical obligations towards one another without relying entirely on systems of punishment and coercive force. In other words, Hashim felt that a common language could serve as the basis for forming social trust amongst Hindus and Muslims.

Unlike the West—particularly Europe—where the transition from religious to civic nation-states, and the restriction of religion to the private realm, accompanied by an emphasis on the idea of civic citizenship, have been fundamental steps in the formation of political communities, Bengal's trajectory was distinct. In many ways, this Western experience has been understood as the birth of modernity, where such distinctions were viewed as the only way to create civic, secular channels of political coexistence between different communities, bound by a common nation, its laws, duties, and the set of rights to be enjoyed by its citizens.

Hashim, in his plan for the United Bengal Movement—or what he termed Bangalistaan—believed that ethnically driven societies with a common language would benefit from using religion as a tool for political self-representation rather than relegating it to the private realm. Religion, as an important institution, could, through the reform of its practices and the social frameworks emerging from it, pave the way for systems of collective reconciliation. A common language between the two religious communities in Bengal, he believed, would override communal antagonism.

In 1942, Hashim met the religious philosopher and thinker Maulana Azad Subhani, who introduced him to the concept of Rabbaniyat or Rabbanism. It deals with the fundamental philosophical question of what it means to be human and places this question within a religious framework. For Hashim, Rabbaniyat could potentially become an important tool to reform the way Islam was being practised by expanding its scope to incorporate not only the spiritual development of a person but also their cultural and social development. Rabbaniyat could thus serve as a useful instrument in shaping the way individuals interact with one another within a political collective. Rab, the divine attribute from which Rabbaniyat is derived, represents the divine Creator, Sustainer, and Evolver of the universe.

Exploring religious-linguistic frameworks as tools for building social trust was at the very heart of the United Bengal Plan. The plan itself may have failed, but it rested on strong philosophical foundations that explored various aspects of intersubjective relations in multi-ethnic societies. It emphasised the greater moral obligation to reconcile and forgive others as a means of positioning ourselves within the body politic.

Perhaps Hashim's message—demanding closer personal introspection, the need to reconcile with others, and the pursuit of individual liberation through religion—serves as an important lesson for contemporary times. The task of realising the true egalitarian ethos of democracy is not easy, but there is no denying that a serious commitment to achieving it is invaluable to the survival of heterogeneous nation-states in the years to come.

Sucharita Sen is Associate Professor of Politics at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JSLH), O. P. Jindal Global University (O. P. JGU), Haryana, India. Her recent book, *Theorizing a Bengali Nation: Abul Hashim and the United Bengal Movement, 1937–1947*, was published by Routledge, UK, in June 2024.



Abul Hashim (1905-1974)

PHOTO COURTESY: SOHEL ABDULLAH



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিকসমূহ
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
টিবি গেইট, মহাখালী
ঢাকা-১২১২।

স্মারক নং-স্থা : অধি :/হাস :/মে :বোর্ড/৮৮তম বিসিএস(বিশেষ)/২০২৫/১৫৫৮ তারিখ-১২-১০-২০২৫ খ্রি।

বিষয় :- ৮৮তম বিসিএস (বিশেষ) পরীক্ষা-২০২৫-এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ সিভিল সর্ভিসের বিসিএস (স্বাস্থ্য) এর সহকারী সার্জন এবং সহকারী ডেন্টাল সার্জন পদে সাময়িকভাবে সুপারিশকৃত ২৮৬৯ (দুই হাজার আটশত উনসত্তর) জন প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ৮৮তম বিসিএস (বিশেষ) পরীক্ষা-২০২৫-এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ সিভিল সার্ভিসের বিসিএস (স্বাস্থ্য) এর সহকারী সার্জন এবং সহকারী ডেন্টাল সার্জন পদে সাময়িকভাবে প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক গঠিত সংশ্লিষ্ট মেডিকেল বোর্ডের সম্মুখ্য উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

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স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	৮৮তম বিসিএস (বিশেষ) পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে সাময়িকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হওয়ার স্থান	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	৮৮তম বিসিএস (বিশেষ) পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে সাময়িকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হওয়ার স্থান
48132247 48118165 48105585 48109048 48101103 48135233 48124853 48100101 48127736 48112720 48125522 48120508 48130534 48114597 48102278 48102269 48123097 48135953 48122089 48113305 48104462 48118333 48120066 48128831 48117743 48105708 48124667 48128595 48115790 48102199 48136064 48123544 48120506 48122060 48119802 48136098 48119024 48127575 48119694 48133198 48128464 48133172 48112391 48111860 48105051 48119971 48132447 48100591 48108953 48122618 48133685 48128526 4811832 48123944 48132973 48107814 48133049 48115372 48103829 48102833 48109137 48110904 48119730 48112612 48106846 48126405 48130363 48131559 48123215 48110420 48105843 48110846 48119774 48109082 48105595 48134914 48123530 48112469 48122045 48120029 48129874 48133650 48116534 48124784 48113186 48126055 48136100 48101960 48100839 48126060 48119924 48100431 48135627 48119722 48132215 48133375 48105428 48130878 48107553 48122145 48108197 48117985 48106683 48104814 48113724 48123612 48134889 48136030 48124878 48135516	জাতীয় মানসিক স্বাস্থ্য ইনসিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।		48103727 48106591 48131377 48131146 48119620 48125679 48106618 48102363 48135667 48107527 48122484 48122595 48104109 48110212 48114403 48131025 48117804 48125015 48103988 48118233 48116901 48106550 48113372 48107117 48126218 48106693 48118731 48124630 48131790 48124491 48116527 48130242 48127435 48103562 48102266 48133593 48102340 48126597 48110869 48117952 48118856 48124369 48132084 48101362 48132738 48114064 48119130 48132771 48114989 48130562 48130762 48101438 48129252 48113826 48110438 48107277 48126315 48103129 48105699 48122295 48123673 48132636 48127577 48107831 48100032 48115440 48114336 48113247 48122454 48107494 48118190 48117397 48107134 48114755 48119839 48131902 48130270 48108529 48116714 48109077 48126300 48128410 48114117 48103876 48122628 48111673 48127967 48121349 48124677 48130723 48106927 48126744 48132619 48115512 48103465 48115290 48129610 48104318 48109879 48111245 48130239 48102467 48123866 48128257 48125793 48105315 48113437 48102792 48135276 48135826	শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।	
48126835 48127227 48118286 48131777 48119660 48115306 48127855 48117283 48120492 48120310 48113066 48115495 48116202 48110728 48127766 48120313 48118298 48115844 48126956 48127200 48105556 48120341 48112227 48128478 48125061 48133585 48102808 48106604 48117184 48122867 48121117 48120606 48113722 48124900 48109405 48134754 48126250 48104510 48112533 48103522 48106978 48102007 48132432 48134475 48124892 48105878 48123306 48124448 48101986 48123638 48115665 48114219 48105481 48110216 48115551 48118591 48132144 48133982 48110766 48118886 48130445 48118371 48132241 48136193 48103205 48123823 48121838 48114440 48129765 48114522 48103987 48134340 48109753 48129422 48120253 48115428 48113258 48106482 48113435 48127685 48113264 48126882 48125279 48129762 48130994 48121836 48117896 48129616 48135551 48101843 48104633 48109255 48129937 48134968 48126860 48104068 48134055 48106891 48112599 48131882 48104321 48105289 48117569 48130944 48111225 48112301 48103994 48123304 48100549 48104349	জাতীয় অর্থোপেডিক হাসপাতাল ও পুনর্বাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।	48109783 48113836 48101192 48100859 48112506 48121460 48122966 48106588 48117254 48100144 48108334 48125124 48115873 48134733 48131596 48117744 48105030 48132915 48102338 48118525 48134410 48129764 48102147 48110181 48110643 48134761 48135780 48132291 48125271 48115708 48127817 48117441 48121026 48124859 48127609 48106847 48116970 48117867 48108803 48119870 48131593 48134465 48121241 48134602 48115259 48121063 48136066 48118632 48127944 48131095 48125758 48128589 48129662 48108418 48119922 48131645 48129176 48125702 48111341 48100987 48108611 48115683 48108330 48127121 48102354 48134344 48120472 48101908 48124250 48126210 48130798 48101541 48117271 48134953 48105293 48113915 48129793 48105926 48134380 48131334 48120854 48125028 48105201 48107571 48135605 48110705 48105444 48108979 48136208 48106030 48107186 48127021 48129341 48110045 48127476 48135215 48122780 48125835 48134122 48130847 48128963 48129518 48102253 48106873 48131919 48119289 48134411 48102074 48105628 48125911	জাতীয় হাদরোগ ইনসিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।		
48107444 48113471 48108887 48118758 48129483 48123549 48118099 48108531 48101181 48106018 48103260 48112879 48119045 48101610 48114936 48120801 48104088 48116865 48110206 48108478 48124539 48110894 48108519 48116366 48103590 48112306 48108238 48136311 48118726 48131000 48103069 48120234 48120941 48105532 48134694 48102860 48116238 48123160 48132495 48128707 48115552 48119956 48121942 48129864 48116200 48100082 48115994 48129999 48132828 48104008 48124260 48117034 48125210 48125535 48132911 48120008 48117929 48108465 48126927 48122448 48119708 48128561 48117941 48100523 48124292 48122041 48112320 48101337 48132514 48100971 48134413 48113345 48117272 48108811 48109912 48131935 48124808 48103022 48130089 48116031 48113503 48129242 48121487 48131619 48111667 48126978 48119744 48101255 48122906 48109443 48131352 48109641 48133000 48113865 48115578 48131393 48121338 48116716 48131948 48100951 48107945 48125949 48113374 48134637 48118057 48100598 48121901 48117980 48102643	জাতীয় বক্ষব্যাধি ইনসিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।	48123363 48132493 48110743 48117191 48133993 48120088 48113132 48128329 48107195 48105515 48101082 48128793 48117037 48121276 48117600 48105295 48106168 48117010 48113105 48119540 48103656 48114098 48113535 48119953 48129888 48116079 48125967 48122742 48108141 48134342 48102377 48107082 48109974 48128632 48129813 48116231 48121172 48121062 48132456 48114048 48124805 48101930 48123961 48107028 48119757 48123192 48122724 48136036 48104500 48132492 48127938 48103385 48116006 48123564 48111150 48114210 48109228 48134201 48109293 48125913 48100689 48124045 48107922 48125706 48105972 48129356 48124303 48128220 48124352 48130597 48100448 48129162 48125958 48121144 48120485 48133316 48125325 48118623 48103207 48111415 48111324 48114635 48123937 48103896 48135157 48115135 48131472 48103094 48134345 48112293 48121925 48102330 48110663 48121251 48101272 48127907 48124421 48113480 48102608 48101818 48109342 48109762 48124172 48122051 48114736 48104073 48120161 48104692 48130098 48135748	জাতীয় কিন্ডনী ডিজিজেস এড ইউরোপী হাসপাতাল, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।		
48124850 48133659 48107135 48134615 48106318 48101546 48116874 48124852 48131067 48129798 48121221 48121190 48116570 481276					



People participate in an exercise to create awareness about disaster at Barishal city's Bell's Park. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief organised the event, marking International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

INCLUDING TANGAIL IN M'SINGH DIVISION

Locals block road protesting proposal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students and locals blocked the road at the east end of the Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail yesterday, protesting a reported proposal to include Tangail in the Mymensingh division.

The blockade began around 11:30am at the East Gol Chokkor area, causing a traffic jam stretching about six kilometers on both sides of the bridge.

The protesters said they would not accept Tangail's inclusion in Mymensingh division and demanded that if the district is excluded from Dhaka division, it should instead be declared an independent division. They threatened a tougher movement if their demand is ignored.

Traffic resumed around 12:30pm after discussions with the administration, led by Bhuanpur UNO Mahbub Alam and Kalibati UNO Khairul Islam.

Khairul said the government has not

issued any official notice about such a proposal and asked protesters to submit their demands in writing for forwarding to higher authorities.

In 2014, a similar proposal sparked strong protests in Tangail, with residents organising human chains



and signature campaigns. As the issue re-emerges, people from different walks of life in the district are again voicing anger and urging that Tangail's current administrative status remain unchanged.

Govt should explain

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must demand that the government implement these reforms, he added.

He also said not all recommendations need to be converted into law, he said, adding, "Even government directives following these recommendations could achieve significant results."

Kamal Ahmed also expressed concern over current media trends.

"This unhealthy competition for viral content is undermining professionalism and newroom credibility. Public awareness of editorial standards and ethical journalism is crucial to prevent media chaos and achieve equality," he said.

He stressed that media professionals need to be more sensitive to issues like gender equality, integrity, and responsible content publication.

Dr Halida Hanum Akhtar, member of the Women's Affairs Reform

Kamal Ahmed also noted that a commitment charter on gender equality, respectful workplace behaviour, ethical journalism, and responsible content publication had been released earlier, with 21 media organisations endorsing it.

"Despite that, we are still seeing unhealthy competition among outlets to go viral, often at the cost of quality journalism," he said.

"We are witnessing a decline in newroom standards. To prevent this, we must emphasise professionalism, ethical principles, and adherence to editorial guidelines in newrooms. Without this awareness, there is no escape from social media chaos, and things may get even worse," he added.

Kamal Ahmed also expressed concern over current media trends.

Dr Halida Hanum Akhtar, member of the Women's Affairs Reform

Commission, said the media is a powerful tool for social change.

She called for gender-sensitive journalism training and emphasised that women should be more visible in both news coverage and decision-making roles within media organisations.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, adviser to a former caretaker government, said women's participation in media is increasing, but decision-making opportunities remain limited.

She noted that women hold only 5-6 percent of seats in parliament and are similarly under-represented in media leadership roles.

Kabita Bose, country director of Plan International Bangladesh, and Iftekharul Karim, senior programme manager of Jaago Foundation, also spoke, among others.

the adviser informed the students that the ordinance-related work involved collaboration among several ministries, thus causing a delay.

On March 26, the government announced plans to form a new university by separating the seven government colleges affiliated with Dhaka University.

The seven colleges are -- Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Begum Badrunnessa Government Girls' College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Government Bangla College, and Government Titumir College.

Meanwhile, many students from Titumir College, who had previously protested against the central university proposal and demanded a separate university for themselves, were also at yesterday's demonstration.

Alfazur Rahman, a first-year physics student at Titumir College, said a faction of students still supports the idea of a separate university.

However, he said the majority now want to be part of the proposed central university.

Around 4:30pm, a 23-member student delegation from seven colleges met with Education Adviser CR Abrar at the secretariat.

A ministry source said during the meeting,

They claimed it would

Ratify the ILO Convention 190 to end gender-based

FROM PAGE 3
preventing sexual harassment and violence against women across all sectors.

They welcomed the progress made by the Labour Reform Commission towards ratification, and said despite the High Court rule to amend Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015

mandating the formation of anti sexual harassment committees at workplaces, the provision has not been effectively implemented.

"In educational institutions and industries, even though committees are formed, they are not functional in practice," the statement read, citing a BILS study. It also pointed out that the committees

often lack an "external observer", as required by law.

Additionally, the platform demanded the finalisation of the "Workplace and Educational Institutions Sexual Harassment Prevention and Protection Act, 2024", which was first proposed in 2018 following a High Court order issued

in 2009. They demanded implementation of the recommendations of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission and Labour

Commission and Labour to ensure a women-friendly, discrimination-free, and decent work environment. The rights bodies include Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Bangladesh Labour Foundation, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Samity, Karmajibi Nari etc.

BILS Director Nazma Yesmin read out the demands, while Labour Reform Commission Chief Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, among others, attended the event.



Bangladesh Bank
Information and Communication Technology Department
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Date: 09 October 2025

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]

BANGLADESH BANK, HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA			
1. Ministry/Division	Not Applicable		
2. Agency	Bangladesh Bank		
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Information and Communication Technology Department, Bangladesh Bank		
4. Title of Service	Selection of consulting firm for PCI DSS Consultation, Compliance and Certification Body for PCIDSS Certification for National Payment Switch of Bangladesh (NPSB) [Fourth Time]		
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	A joint venture of Consulting Firm and Certification Body, Lump Sum		
7. EOI Ref. No.	IC TTD-2(3)/190R3/2025		
8. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	09 October 2025		
KEY INFORMATION			
9. Procurement Sub-Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10. Budget and Source of funds	Own Source		
11. Development Partner (if applicable)	Not Applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12. Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)			
13. Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)			
14. Pre-Proposal Meeting	Within 15 days from publication date		
15. EOI Closing Date and time	03 November 2025, 03:00PM Bangladesh Standard Time Receiving Document: Two (02) sets of Hard Copy document is mandatory		
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
16. Brief Description of the Assignment	<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. Define and analysis strong access controls needs to be measured for NPSB i.e. assist enforcing restrictions to access Card Holder Data (CHD) by business need to know (logical), use of unique IDs and also assist to restrict physically access to CHD. Prepare regular network monitoring activities report for NPSB network i.e. assist testing and monitoring all access to Network Resources & CHD, regularly test security, system and processes. 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 report 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. 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. 		
17. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	<p>The following minimum Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity are required for the Consulting Firm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Should have satisfactory experience of providing consultation in achieving PCI DSS certification at least for two (02) organizations (Banks/Financial Institutions) in last five (05) years. 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). <p>The following minimum Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity are required for the PCI-DSS Certification Body:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. PCI DSS accredited qualified security assessor (QSA) should have the following minimum qualification: (a) Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or related subject with at least ten (10) years work experience in similar or related field. (b) Experience of providing consultation in achieving PCI DSS certification at least for two (02) organizations. Should have minimum two (02) PCI DSS accredited qualified security assessor (QSA) enrolled as employee from last two (02) years. Experience of providing PCI DSS Certification to any international payment switching system will be preferred. Should have satisfactory certificate of completion for PCIDSS certification services of a single contract having minimum contract value of BDT 50,00,000.00 (Bangladeshi Taka Fifty Lac) or US Dollar Forty Thousand (USD 40,000) or equivalent. 		
18. Other Details (if applicable)	No data and information will be allowed to be taken outside Bangladesh Bank premises in any form (e.g., paper or electronic).		
19. Association with foreign Firms is	Encouraged/Not-encouraged		
Ref. No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)
20. Onsite Service: Scoping, documentation, training and Gap assessment by QSA with the Assistance from Bangladesh Bank	Phase-1	Dhaka	Duration: 02 weeks
21. Onsite Service: Remediation by Bangladesh Bank with the guidance of CISSP and/or CISA and/or CISM of the Firm after Phase-1 completion.	Phase-2	Dhaka	Duration: 26 weeks
22. Onsite Service: After Phase-2, PCI DSS Compliance Audit by QSA who is not the same QSA who has performed Gap assessment in Phase-1	Phase-3	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
23. Onsite Service: After Phase-3, PCI DSS Certification by QSA who is not the same QSA who has performed Gap assessment in Phase-1	Phase-4	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
24. Onsite Service: After Phase-4, Quarterly ASV's can be PCI SSC approved Application Scanning Vendor who is partnered with the Firm and Remediation by CISSP and/or CISA and/or CISM of the firm with the assistance from Bangladesh Bank (for First Quarter)	Phase-5	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
25. Onsite Service: After Phase-5, Quarterly ASV scan by PCI SSC approved Application Scanning Vendor who is partnered with the Firm and Remediation by CISSP and/or CISA and/or CISM of the firm with the assistance from Bangladesh Bank (for Second Quarter)	Phase-6	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
26. Onsite Service: After Phase-6, Quarterly ASV scan by PCI SSC approved Application Scanning Vendor who is partnered with the Firm and Remediation by CISSP and/or CISA and/or CISM of the firm with the assistance from Bangladesh Bank (for Third Quarter)	Phase-7	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
27. Onsite Service: After Phase-7, Quarterly ASV scan by PCI SSC approved Application Scanning Vendor who is partnered with the Firm and VAPT, Gap Assessment and Remediation by CISSP and/or CISA and/or CISM of the firm with the assistance from Bangladesh Bank (for Fourth Quarter)	Phase-8	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
28. Onsite Service: After Phase-8, PCI DSS Compliance Audit by QSA who is not the same QSA who has performed PCI DSS Certification in Phase-4	Phase-9	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
29. Onsite Service: After Phase-9, PCI DSS Recertification (one year after achieving initial PCIDSS Certification) by QSA who is not the same QSA who has performed PCI DSS Certification in Phase-4	Phase-10	Dhaka	Duration: 01 week
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
30. Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Md. Motior Rahman		
31. Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Director (ICT)		
32. Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Information and Communication Technology Department, Bangladesh Bank, 28 th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka		
33. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Tel: +88029530161 Fax: +88029530481 E-mail: motior.rahman@bb.org.bd website: www.bb.org.bd		

যাত্রিক ও আধিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিবো

কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নথরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2025-2743

Date : 12-10-2025

GDA-2192

sd/-
Md. Motior Rahman
Director (ICT), ICTD, Bangladesh Bank
Phone: +88029530161, E-mail: motior.rahman@bb.org.bd



Protesters gesture outside the town hall on Independence Avenue during a nationwide youth-led protest over frequent power outages and water shortages in Antananarivo, Madagascar, yesterday, hours before the country's President, Andry Rajoelina, fled on a French military aircraft in the face of calls for his resignation.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sub-jail declared in Dhaka cantonment

FROM PAGE 1

However, it remains unclear whether the 15 army officers will be handed over to the police or the army itself will produce them before the tribunal.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam also talked to journalists about the matter after tribunal proceedings yesterday.

Responding to a question on whether the army can arrest the 15 officers now under its custody, he said, "No. Only the law enforcement agencies can arrest them."

He added, "As long as they are not shown arrested, the law does not apply."

Tajul also said once law enforcement agencies officially show a person arrested, they are legally bound to produce the accused before the court within 24 hours – an obligation stated in the constitution, the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

"After that, the court will decide

where the accused will be kept [in jail]," he said.

Asked about the gazette notification declaring the building in Dhaka Cantonment a temporary jail, Tajul said the term "prison" could refer to any place declared as such by the government – be it the central jail, the Jatiya Sangsad building, the MP Hostel, or any other facility.

"If declared so, an accused may be sent there, and that place will be considered a prison. This is not for the prosecution or the investigation agency to decide," he said, adding, "Our only concern is that the process must be done lawfully."

Home ministry officials said the government has the authority to declare any building a sub-jail or temporary jail in specific cases.

There are precedents. During the 2007-08 caretaker government rule, two houses in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area were declared sub-jails for Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia.

While revealing the news that the 15 officers were taken into custody at a press conference on Saturday, the Army Headquarters did not clarify their current status.

It said the army has its own system of custody called 'Move and Quartering' (MNQ), and the officers were directed to come under that arrangement.

It also said if the police act upon the warrants, they may arrest the nine retired or suspended officers since the army law does not apply to them the same way it does to serving ones.

It added that the army had offered them the option to come under its custody.

Regarding producing the officers before the ICT by October 22, the deadline mentioned in the tribunal's order, the army said that they were seeking legal clarification, and once they received that clarification, they would act exactly as the law required.

Signing first, implementation decision later

FROM PAGE 1

charter without the implementation process included, Riaz said, "They will sign it based on the consensus agreed upon by all political parties. It is a historical document. It should be signed first."

Earlier, on September 11, the commission circulated a draft of the charter and announced that no new proposals would be added or removed. Following two rounds of dialogue with political parties, the commission finalised 84 reform proposals, which will be part of the July National Charter.

The commission had sought opinions from political parties on repealing article 4A of the constitution, which requires the display of portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in government offices. Most parties supported its removal, but the issue will not be included in the charter.

"Since parties are already in agreement, the next parliament will take the decision on the matter," Prof

Riaz said.

The commission had initially planned to have the charter signed in July, but the process stalled over disagreements on implementation.

Although parties agreed in principle to enforce the charter through a referendum, they failed to reach consensus on the timing, procedures, and framework.

The commission will now combine expert and party opinions to prepare a set of implementation recommendations for the government.

SIGNING CEREMONY

The signing ceremony will be held on October 17. So far, 30 political parties and alliances have submitted the names of their representatives who will sign the document, said Monir Haider, special assistant to the chief adviser on consensus building.

There will be one master copy of the charter containing three sections – a preamble on the reform initiative's historical context, a list of reform proposals, and a declaration of

commitment.

Thirty copies of the declaration will be signed individually before being consolidated in the master copy.

The cultural affairs ministry is assisting in organising the ceremony at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad, where around 3,000 guests will be invited.

The programme will have two sessions – the signing before Maghrib prayers, followed by a projection mapping presentation narrating the journey of the charter.

The ministry is also preparing a cultural programme, pending final approval.

Speaking at the venue yesterday, Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki said final plans will be confirmed after a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"This document represents our future roadmap and a major political shift," Farooki said. "We want the signing to be a historic moment – something for future generations to remember."

'No more talks, strike at the very start'

FROM PAGE 16

The prosecution began by screening a video report produced by The Daily Star showing the final moments before Hasina was ousted on August 5. The footage referred to an order she had issued to a law enforcement official, later identified as Col Rajib, which was followed by the audio conversation being played in court.

WIDESPREAD AND SYSTEMATIC ATTACK

Arguing before the tribunal, the prosecution said the attacks carried out during the July uprising were "widespread and systematic" in nature, thus amounting to crimes against humanity under international law.

The chief prosecutor presented

supporting materials, including witness testimonies, UN reports, and video and audio clips to establish that the atrocities committed between July and August last year were planned, state-sponsored, and targeted against civilians nationwide.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said the evidence, both documentary and testimonial, demonstrates that the legal conditions for crimes against humanity were fully met.

"We've analysed the evidence to show that the July-August attacks were not random or isolated

incidents. They were organised and coordinated operations across Bangladesh, involving large numbers of perpetrators using state resources."

Tajul told the tribunal that about 35,000 people were injured and over 1,400 killed in the nationwide crackdown, with atrocities reported in at least 838 locations across 41 districts, with people from 61 districts killed.

"The scale of the attack itself proves that it was widespread. It was carried out repeatedly and in the same manner, showing that it was systematic."

He gave a chronological account of the protests and subsequent atrocities committed by police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Rapid Action Battalion, Ansar, and armed activists of the Awami League, Chhatra League, and Juba League between July 1 and August 5.

The chief prosecutor outlined the timeline of the case, stating it began with a complaint filed on August 14 last year. Formal charges were submitted on July 1, the tribunal took

cognisance the same day, and charges were framed on July 10. Of the 84 listed witnesses, testimonies from 54 have been recorded so far.

According to the prosecution, student protesters and general citizens

who joined the anti-discrimination movement were also subjected to arrest, torture, and illegal confinement.

The operation, it said, was executed under a structured plan using state machinery, including police, Rab, ABn, BGB, DGI, NSI, SB, SWAT, CTIC, and DB, adding that armed cadres of the ruling party also carried out the atrocities.

Tajul said, acting on instructions from Sheikh Hasina, law enforcement agencies deployed drones for surveillance, utilised helicopters and armoured personnel carriers to shoot from both the air and ground, and used military-grade rifles and other lethal weapons to suppress the July uprising.

He further said the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) illegally intercepted phone calls of dissenters, prevented treatment of the wounded, and even blocked burials of victims and burnt bodies of six people.

Citing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, he said a crime against humanity must be both widespread and systematic. "By analysing witnesses' statements and corroborating evidence, we have shown that the July-August operation meets both conditions under international law."

Request for Information (RFI) For Market Engagement of Works Contracts

The Government of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project under Local Government Engineering Department, the Implementing Agency of the project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction of 75 nos. of Primary School cum Flood Shelter with Solar PV Nano Grid, Street Light, Lightning Protection & Connecting Roads, Bridge/Culvert, Furniture and Tree Plantation in Faridpur and Madaripur Districts.

- The procurement is planned to be carried out in **two (2) packages** through **International Competitive Bidding (ICB) with Rated Criteria** following procedures of the **World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers**. There will be 35 and 40 shelters in Faridpur and Madaripur Package respectively.
- An Early Market Engagement (EME) program for the above-mentioned procurement of "**Construction of 75 nos. of Primary School cum Flood Shelter with Solar PV Nano Grid, Street Light, Lightning Protection & Connecting Roads, Bridge/Culvert, Furniture and Tree Plantation in Faridpur and Madaripur Districts**" under the project is scheduled as follows:

Date: 30 October 2025

Time: 11:00 A.M. (Bangladesh Standard Time; GMT+ 6)

Venue: Conference room, Level-4, Main Building, LGED Head Quarter, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Mode: Hybrid (online link will be provided later).

Agenda: To exchange ideas and information related to the above mentioned procurement packages.

N.B.: Attending the program physically is highly encouraged to facilitate effective communication and interaction. More information about project and contract may be obtained from the link <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173312>

Interested Bidders are invited to attend the EME program by completing registration through filling out and submitting the RFI form within **20 October 2025**.

Please fill up the Request for Information (RFI) for market engagement of works contract in Google Form through link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdW0uSbGsuEZJXskHsbwcBiC94uABF6iSRXHIV5Hh276y8R1w/viewform>

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www.lged.gov.bd
www.riverbd.org
www.worldbank.org

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Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and
Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project
Phone: +88-02-55006730
Email: pd.lged.river@gmail.com

12.10.25

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টার

ঢাকা, গাজীপুর

Daycaretongi2019@gmail.com

তারিখঃ ১৩/১০/২০২৫ খ্রিষ্ট

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরে নিম্নরূপ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত করা হচ্ছে।

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরে নিম্নরূপ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত করা হচ্ছে।

The Gen Z guide to smarter learning

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

There was a time when learning meant dragging yourself to the library, flipping through thick textbooks, and pretending to understand the same paragraph for the third time. But now, it is as easy as typing a question into a chat box and getting an answer in seconds. But with that convenience comes a bigger challenge, because how do we make sure we are learning smarter and not just faster?

For Gen-Z students who have grown up navigating both online classes and algorithmic chaos, learning smarter isn't about working harder or longer. It is about using the right tools with the right mindset. So here is how AI can help you learn faster, better, and more efficiently, all without turning your brain into autopilot.

Turn AI into your personal summariser
One of the most powerful uses of AI is condensing dense material into bite-sized insights. Tools like ChatGPT, Perplexity, and Notion AI can digest lengthy textbook chapters, research papers, or lecture slides into concise summaries that still capture the core concepts. The trick is to prompt AI with precision, so do not just ask AI to summarise the chapter. Instead, say, "summarise this chapter into 5 key concepts with real-world examples and potential applications". You can even layer follow-up prompts to extract definitions, highlight contradictions, or create analogies that make the material more memorable. The real value is not just in saving time but in using the AI-generated summary as a scaffold for your own notes. Once AI gives you a base, actively rewrite it in your own words, add diagrams, or test yourself on each point. This ensures that you internalise the information, rather than passively copying it.

Build personalised learning plans
AI excels at structuring chaos. For students juggling multiple courses, side projects, or skill-building, a generic study schedule rarely works. You can use AI to generate a personalised learning plan based on your goals, available time, and pain points. For example, tell ChatGPT: "I have two weeks to prepare for a statistics exam, with 3 hours per day available, and I struggle with probability distributions". The AI can create a day-by-day plan, segmenting study sessions into digestible blocks, highlighting which chapters to tackle first, and suggesting revision intervals. You can even integrate this



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

plan into Notion, Google Calendar, or Todoist to track progress, set reminders, and adjust dynamically as deadlines shift. By doing this, you replace generic advice with a roadmap tailored for your exact strengths, weaknesses, and availability, making study sessions far more productive. Do note that the more honest you are about your habits, the better AI can design a system that keeps you accountable without the guilt of missing one day.

Use AI for active skill-building, not passive consumption

AI is not just for absorbing knowledge, as it can also help you practice and apply skills in real-time. For coding, tools like Replit's AI assistant can generate starter code, explain syntax, or debug errors. In Design or UI/UX, AI like Whimsical or Canva Magic Studio can help you wireframe projects or create prototypes quickly, letting you focus on creativity and iteration instead of starting from scratch. Even for writing, AI can help structure essays, summarise research, or draft ideas; however, the magic lies in how you actively engage with the outputs; test them, critique them, and improve upon them. For example, if AI generates a draft essay, challenge yourself to add original examples, refine arguments, or restructure paragraphs. This method ensures that AI acts as a thinking partner, helping you skill up faster while still engaging your own reasoning.

Create a master sheet for learning and tracking

Staying organised is half the battle, and AI can help you centralise all learning tasks, deadlines, and progress metrics in one place. A master sheet can track everything from assignments, online courses, projects, and practice exercises to AI-generated summaries. You can automate this by prompting AI: "Create a Google Sheets template to track chapters read, AI summaries generated, hours studied, and comprehension level for each topic". By keeping everything in one place, you turn your learning into data you can analyse, and once it is set up, you can log daily progress, mark weak areas, and ask AI to suggest adjustments based on patterns. For instance, highlighting chapters that need more revision or recommending

extra practice in problem areas.

Use AI for critical thinking, not just answers

Perhaps the most advanced trick is treating AI as a sparring partner for your brain. Instead of relying on it to provide definitive answers, use it to test hypotheses, challenge assumptions, or brainstorm perspectives. For example, if you are writing a paper on environmental economics, ask AI: "List five counterarguments to the argument that carbon taxes reduce emissions." Then evaluate each one, research it further, and decide which holds weight. This not only deepens understanding but also trains your critical thinking muscles, ensuring that AI does not replace reasoning but enhances it. Another example is creating "what if" scenarios in complex subjects like strategy, marketing, or physics, where AI can suggest possible outcomes or alternative frameworks, which you then analyse and debate. The key is to approach AI outputs with curiosity, scepticism, and creativity, transforming them into a learning accelerant rather than a crutch.

Create spaced repetition and testing routines

Another layer to smarter learning is using AI to create spaced repetition systems and testing routines. Tools like Anki, Quizlet, or even ChatGPT prompts can turn summaries into active flashcards or practice questions. By feeding AI-generated notes into these systems, you ensure that what you learn sticks long-term. For example, if AI condenses a chapter into five core concepts, you can ask it to create 10 multiple-choice questions, 5 scenario-based exercises, and 3 real-world application prompts. You then cycle through these daily or weekly, reinforcing memory while identifying weak spots. The real power comes from the combination: AI handles repetitive or clerical work, leaving you to focus on comprehension, application, and reflection. You can set up a schedule where you cycle through these exercises daily, weekly, or monthly, ensuring repeated exposure to the material at intervals scientifically designed to optimise retention.

Throughout all these approaches, it is vital to remain cautious and critical. AI is not infallible, and misinformation can slip through if prompts are ambiguous or sources are unverified. Always cross-check facts, verify calculations, and question assumptions.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Grameenphone Ltd

Next Business Leader

Deadline: October 18



Eligibility:

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Business, STEM, or related fields.

Minimum experience: 0-1 year

UNDP

Project Analyst, Communications & Engagement



Deadline: October 19

Eligibility:

- Master's degree or equivalent in Social Sciences, Environmental Studies, Urban Planning, Business Administration, Public Administration, Development Studies, Mass Communication, Journalism, or any other relevant discipline.

Minimum experience: 0-2 years

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Technical Officer (WASH), DRAW Project



Deadline: October 21

Eligibility:

- Civil engineer (Diploma) or BSc in Civil Engineering with prior relevant work experience.

Minimum experience: 2 years

BRAC University

Deputy Manager, Health & Safety



Deadline: October 26

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Environmental Science, or a related field. Professional certification is preferred.

Minimum experience: 3 years

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



How students can get Google Gemini Pro free in 2025

NEXT STEP DESK

Google has recently launched a one-year free offer of its Gemini Pro plan exclusively for students, including those in Bangladesh. The offer provides eligible students with advanced AI tools, enhanced storage, and integrated features across Google's ecosystem.

Here's how to get free access as a student. You must be 18 or older and actively enrolled at a higher education institution. Visit Google One and verify student status through SheerID. Then, use a personal Google account (not a university email). Have a Google Payments account with a valid payment method (no charge during trial). Complete the trial sign-up through the Google Play Store before December 9, 2025.

The Gemini Pro plan also extends AI features into Gmail, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Meet, along with premium access to NotebookLM, Google's research and writing assistant. Students can cancel their subscription at any time during the free trial, and Google will notify them before the offer expires.

According to Google, students can use Gemini to analyse lecture notes and textbook images, create custom quizzes and flashcards, and even turn class materials into podcasts or study guides. The free plan includes unlimited chats, image uploads, quiz generation, and access to Google's Gemini 2.5 Pro model, as well as premium features like Deep Research, Audio Overviews, and 2 terabytes (TB) of cloud storage.



PHOTO: UNSPLASH

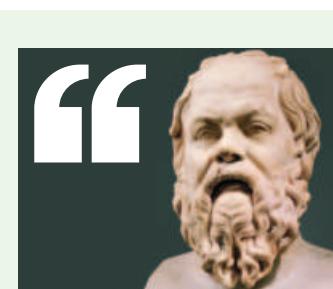
Amazon unveils Quick Suite for workplace automation

NEXT STEP DESK

Amazon has introduced Quick Suite, an AI-powered workspace that retrieves information across company systems and the public internet, and can take actions in connected business apps.

According to an official blog post by Amazon, the new suite combines research, analytics and automation tools. Quick Index consolidates documents and application data into a searchable base. Quick Research builds structured research plans and cites sources from enterprise repositories and services such as Amazon S3, Snowflake, Google Drive, and Microsoft SharePoint. Quick Sight provides natural language queries, visualisations, and what-if analysis.

For execution, Quick Flows enables no-code automations, while Quick Automate supports multi-step, enterprise workflows with monitoring and human-in-the-loop controls. Spaces and configurable chat agents let teams add context and work via natural language.



"The secret to success is already inside all of us. When you desire success as much as you want that breath of air, you will be successful."

SOCRATES

xAI hires Nvidia researchers for 'world model' AI development: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI has hired two former Nvidia researchers, Zeeshan Patel and Ethan He, to accelerate work on advanced 'world models', according to a recent report by The Financial Times. These AI systems aim to understand and navigate physical environments, going beyond the text-based models that power tools such as ChatGPT and xAI's Grok.

World models train on video and robotic data to simulate how objects interact in real-world settings, with potential uses in gaming and robotics. According to The Financial Times, sources familiar with the project said xAI plans to apply the technology to create interactive 3D environments and AI systems for robots. In a recent post on X, Musk has said xAI aims to release an AI-generated game before the end of next year.

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2025, ASHWIN 29, 1432 BS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
 Pakistan vs South Africa
 First Test, Day 3
 Live from 11:00 am
 ICC Women's World Cup
 Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
 Live from 3:30 pm
 Bangladesh vs Afghanistan
 Third ODI

Live from 6:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 1,2,3 & 5
 World Cup Qualifiers
 Latvia vs England
 Spain vs Bulgaria
 Italy vs Israel
 Portugal vs Hungary
 Live from 12:45 am
 (Wednesday)

BOOTERS look for reversed fortune in Hong Kong

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to overturn their home defeat as they face Hong Kong, China, in the Asian Cup Qualifiers today at a packed Kai Tak Stadium in Hong Kong. Kick-off is scheduled for 6:00pm Bangladesh time.

With just one point from three matches, the men in red and green have only a slim chance of progressing to the finals. Their hopes were dealt a blow following a 4-3 loss at home to Hong Kong on October 9. To stay in contention, Bangladesh must win all three of their remaining fixtures – against Hong Kong, India, and Singapore – while relying on other results to go their way. A draw tonight would end their qualification hopes.

Coach Javier Cabrera is likely to bring changes to the starting eleven, particularly after scrutiny over his line up in the home leg. Fit again centre-back Topu Barman, who made a late appearance in that match in Dhaka, is expected to start alongside Tariq Kazi. There may be alterations to the full-back positions as well.

Midfielder Shamit Shome, who scored with a fine header after coming on in the second half, is also expected to start. Cabrera previously noted that Shome was not at his best due to



know we need three points to keep going."

Cabrera remained optimistic, believing Bangladesh have performed closely against their opponents but are yet to overcome the final hurdle.

"We're close to breaking the wall that takes us to the next level. We believe we're already there in terms of performance – but now it's about getting the win," he said.

Meanwhile, Raphael Markies, the Hong Kong forward who netted a hattrick in Dhaka, is focused on finishing the job.

"It was a crazy night (in Dhaka), but the job is only half done," said Markies. "This game is very important for us."

“Always good to have fans cheering for you. I know it's going to be sold out tomorrow, but a part of the fans will be from Bangladesh. So we appreciate that very much. I don't think it's going to be very cold. I think maybe 21/22 degrees (Celsius). I think it's going to be perfect for the players to play in these conditions.

Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuyan regarding the spectators and the weather

PHOTO: BFF

Hard-hitter Shorna finally turns up



SPORTS REPORTER

Known for her hard-hitting in domestic cricket, Bangladesh all-rounder Shorna Akter had long struggled to showcase her abilities in international cricket.

But on Monday, the 18-year-old finally delivered on her promise with a blistering unbeaten 51 off 35 balls, steering Bangladesh to a competitive 232-6 against South Africa in their ICC Women's World Cup fixture in Visakhapatnam.

Prior to this match, Shorna had career strike rate of 60.88 in WODIs after 21 matches. But in contrast, in the last Women's Dhaka Premier League, a 50-over domestic competition, she had made 277 runs in six innings for Abahani Limited at an impressive strike rate of 112.60.

Against South Africa, Bangladesh were looking for acceleration after reaching 150-2 in 40 overs but lost skipper Nigar Sultana Joty in the 41st, dismissed by left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba after making 32.

The dismissal brought Shorna to the middle, who wasted no time, finding the boundary in the second ball she faced and launched the first six of the innings in the following over.

Her innings gathered momentum as she punished South African bowlers all around the park. During the 47th over, she smashed pacer Tumi Sekhukhune for a six and two fours in successive deliveries, collecting 18 runs from it.

Shorna cleared the ropes again off pacer Nadine de Klerk in the penultimate over, becoming the first Bangladeshi to hit three sixes in an innings in WODIs.

In the final over, she brought up her maiden fifty in just 34 balls, the fastest half century by a Bangladeshi in WODIs, surpassing Joty's 39-ball effort against Scotland earlier this year.

Her powerful late surge, along with Ritu Moni's unbeaten 19 off eight balls, propelled Bangladesh to their second-ever 200-plus total in a World Cup match, the previous being 234 for seven against Pakistan in 2022.

Thanks to Shorna's heroics, Bangladesh added 82 runs in the final 10 overs, setting up a solid platform to push for another memorable World Cup win – and signaling the emergence of a genuine power-hitter for the Tigresses.

Neymar must be fit for Brazil recall: Ancelotti

REUTERS, Tokyo

Neymar remains in Brazil's plans but the forward needs to be fully fit to earn a recall to the squad as he looks to reignite his international career ahead of next year's World Cup, coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Monday.

Neymar, 33, has not featured for Brazil in two years, with injuries hampering his ability to perform consistently since returning to Santos last year after a stint in Saudi Arabia.

Ancelotti, speaking ahead of Brazil's friendly against Japan in Tokyo on Tuesday, praised Neymar's talent but stressed the importance of his physical condition.

"Neymar can play at his highest level

in this team without any problems," the Italian told reporters. "When he is in good physical condition, he has the quality to play not only in Brazil but in any team in the world because of his talent."

The former Barcelona and Paris St Germain forward last wore the famous yellow jersey in October 2023, when he suffered serious knee ligament damage that has plagued comeback attempts.

Brazil head into Tuesday's match buoyed by an emphatic 5-0 victory over South Korea last Friday, a performance that showcased their ability to entertain with the "beautiful game."

However, Ancelotti emphasised that balance and teamwork remain paramount.



Despite a dominant performance, Bangladesh had to settle for a 1-1 draw against hosts Jordan in their Group H opener of the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers at the Aqaba Stadium yesterday. The women in red and green surrendered an early advantage as Saurav Akanda Prity's third-minute header was cancelled out by an 89th-minute strike from Mira Jarrar. Bangladesh, who previously qualified for the finals in 2017 and 2019, will face Chinese Taipei in their group's final match on October 17, following the Jordan-Chinese Taipei encounter

Will batters fire in dead rubber 3rd ODI?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh go into the dead rubber third and final ODI against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday not only to salvage some pride but also to figure out a method to handle Afghan spin, in particular Rashid Khan.

"I think they are playing Rashid, not the ball," Bangladesh's spin-bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed had said after the 81-run defeat in the second ODI which saw them lose the series.

A mental block against Rashid may have played a part, however, it's also plainly visible that the Bangladesh batters have consistently failed to pick his googly from the hand nor, have they figured out an alternative way to contend with it.

The 27-year-old has accounted for eight wickets in two games so far this series, taking full advantage of a Bangladesh middle-order packed with right-handers.

The management has the option of bringing in left-handed Shamim Hossain into the middle-order to counter the wrist spin of Rashid, but it remains to be seen whether they take the bet.

Meanwhile, the top-order has found no respite against Azmatullah Omarzai, who has picked up six wickets in two games this series.

Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Saif Hassan have shown glimpses of fire but not been able to carry on but the bigger problem is Najmul Hossain Shanto's poor form.

Since his 77 against New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy this year in February, Shanto's highest score in his last five innings is 23. At No.3, he has to carry the lion's share of the responsibility to build the innings.

Further down the order, Tawhid Hridoy and skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz too have not left an impact, both guilty of not rotating the strike enough, inviting scoreboard pressure.

Bangladesh have now lost three back-to-back ODI series against Afghanistan and Miraz's captaincy stint has not started brightly either, suffering consecutive series losses since taking over from Shanto in June this year.

With the 2027 World Cup qualification equation now coming to the limelight, the Tigers have their task cut out to not only find answers to the challenges posed by Afghanistan but also to find a fresh approach in how they play ODI cricket.

SHORT CORNER

Noman derails South Africa to 216-6

Spinner Noman Ali grabbed four wickets to restrict South Africa to 216-6 at the close of play on day two of the first Test in Lahore on Monday, despite a fighting half century from Tony de Zorzi. Spinners dominated on a turning Gaddafi Stadium pitch as all the day's 11 wickets went to slow bowlers, with South African left-armers Senuran Muthusamy taking a career-best 6-11 to dismiss Pakistan for 378.

India close in on Test series sweep

India closed in on a 2-0 series sweep in the second Test despite some spirited West Indies batting led by centuries from John Campbell and Shai Hope on Monday. Needing 121 for victory after bowling out the West Indies for 390, the hosts reached 63-1 at stumps on day four at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium.

**Read The Daily Star website for full stories.

PHOTO: BFF



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THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
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Yunus places six proposals at WFF to end hunger



BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday placed six proposals for a complete transformation of the global food and economic systems to end hunger.

"Hunger is not caused by scarcity. It is caused by the failure of the economic framework that we have designed. . . we must change the system," he said while presenting the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the annual World Food Forum at the Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

At this time Prof Yunus placed his six proposals, which are: ending wars and ensuring food access in conflict zones, fulfilling SDG finance commitments and supporting climate resilience, establishing regional food banks to stabilise

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

3 economists win Nobel for work on innovation, growth



Joel Mokyr



Philippe Aghion



Peter Howitt

REUTERS, Stockholm

Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the 2025 Nobel economics prize yesterday for their work on how innovation and the forces of "creative destruction" can drive economic growth and lift living standards across the globe.

Their research explains how technology gives rise to new products and production methods which replace old ones, resulting in a better standard of living, health and quality of life.

"Over the last two centuries, for the first time in history, the world has seen sustained economic growth. This has lifted vast numbers of people out of poverty and laid the foundation of our prosperity," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the prize, said in a statement.

The laureates have also shown that such progress cannot be taken for granted, the Academy said, while two of the prize winners highlighted that U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policies would impinge on growth.

"Economic stagnation, not growth, has been the norm for most of human history. Their work shows that we

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Next JS will decide on PR issue: Fakhrul

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the next parliament will decide on the application of the proportional representation (PR) system in national elections.

"The decision regarding PR should be left to the next parliament. If the representatives of the next parliament think that they will adopt the PR system and if the people think that they will go for the PR system, then the election will be held using the PR system," he said.

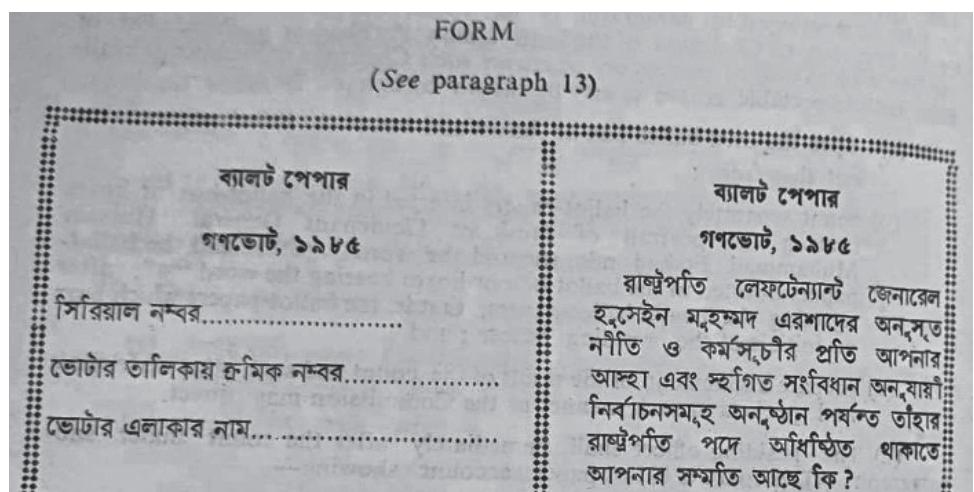
Fakhrul made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting with a delegation of the Christian community at the BNP chairperson's office in the city's Gulshan.

"If the upcoming elections are held using the PR system, the public will not understand this process. Consequently, there is a possibility of complications arising."

"The PR system is prevalent in many countries. However, the people of our country are not very familiar with this method. Today, this issue is being brought up suddenly and with ulterior motives and there is an agitation for it," he added.

A look back at past referendums

From Ziaur Rahman to Ershad to 1991's democratic shift



Amid growing public opposition, HM Ershad held a referendum on March 21, 1985, following the issuance of the Referendum Order, 1985. Photo: Collected



Media coverage of 1991 referendum

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

More than three decades after the last referendum, Bangladesh may see another this time over the July National Charter.

All three previous referendums were held during periods of political crisis -- times when rulers sought legitimacy for their regimes or a new form of government.

The referendums in 1977 and 1985 were widely viewed as attempts to legitimise the military regimes of Ziaur Rahman and Hussain Muhammad Ershad, while the third in 1991 was a constitutional exercise that marked Bangladesh's return to parliamentary democracy.

Following the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, a period of political instability ensued, marked by coups and counter-coups. This culminated in Ziaur Rahman assuming the presidency in 1977.

Following the issuance of the Referendum Order, 1977, the first referendum was held on May 30 that year, with the question: "Do you have confidence in President Major General Ziaur Rahman, BU [Bir Uttam] and the policies and actions he pursued?"

The Election Commission's report on the referendum shows the turnout was around 88.05 percent, with 98.88 percent voting "Yes".

According to the report, voting took place in a secret room where two ballot boxes were placed. One box was marked with Ziaur Rahman's image on all four

sides and labelled "Yes", while the other was labelled "No".

In his book "Electoral Corruption in Bangladesh", Muhammad Yeahia Akhter, the vice chancellor of Chittagong University, wrote that though the official figures showed a very high turnout, the referendum was only "partially successful".

"The opposition camp claimed the figures were exaggerated," he noted.

He mentioned that one analyst attributed the overwhelming vote of confidence to several factors: active participation of bureaucrats in mobilising public support; backing from a majority of newly elected union parishad leaders; support from moderate and right-wing forces; influence of state-controlled media; and the absence of any opposing candidates.

A month before the referendum, Ziaur Rahman, on April 30, presented a 19-point programme that included safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty, and reflecting the four fundamental principles of the Constitution -- absolute faith in Almighty Allah, democracy, nationalism, and socialism based on social and economic justice -- across all spheres of national life.

It aimed to ensure public participation in governance, prioritise agricultural development to achieve food security, uphold women's dignity, encourage private sector growth and foster global friendships, especially with Muslim nations, among other goals.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Now govt college teachers go on strike

To boycott classes today over assault; MPO-listed teachers continue protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government college teachers would abstain from classes today in protest against alleged assault on their colleagues by students at Dhaka College.

Teachers under the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) General Education Association made the announcement yesterday.

Meanwhile, teachers listed under the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme continued their work abstention, demanding higher house rent allowances and protesting alleged police action against them.

At the Central Shaheed Minar, the MPO-listed teachers yesterday announced that they would march towards the Secretariat at noon today if their demands were not met by last night.

Several hundred teachers have been demonstrating and observing work stoppage since Sunday.

Speaking at the Shaheed Minar, Delwar Hossain Azizi,



Teachers continue strike at Shaheed Minar yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, said, "We have started our work abstention to protest the police action against teachers. MPO-listed institutions have already become paralysed."

"Until the government issues a circular granting a house rent allowance of 20 percent [of salaries], Tk 1,500 medical allowance, and 75 percent festival bonus, our programme at the Shaheed Minar will continue. Teachers will not attend any classes."

He warned that if the circular was not issued by last night, teachers and staff from every upazila would march towards the Secretariat at noon today.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

'No more talks, strike at the very start'

ICT hears Hasina phone call ordering July crackdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A phone conversation played before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday revealed that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina ordered an official to launch an immediate crackdown on demonstrators during last year's July uprising.

In the recording, the caller, identified as Hasina, is heard saying, "They have started gathering in different places -- at Mirpur 10, Uttara, BRAC University, and other areas. You must act right from the beginning. If you chase them, they'll scatter into the alleys. This time, no more talks, strike at the very start."

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told the tribunal that experts at the CII lab checked the authenticity of the call record and had identified the officer on the other end of the call as Colonel Rajib, who then served as deputy military secretary to the prime minister. The conversation, he said, took place on July 29 last year.

Tajul said the recording was among several pieces of evidence showing that orders to suppress public protests came directly from the highest level of government.

The prosecution, for the second consecutive day, presented its arguments in the crimes against humanity case against former premier Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Jamaat wants polls, referendum to be held separately

Party nayeb-e-ameer tells CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has proposed that the upcoming national election and the referendum be held on separate days, saying the two are "entirely different in nature".

The party demanded the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) system in the upcoming polls.

The proposal came during a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin and four election commissioners at the Election Commission headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said the party was mentally prepared for the referendum to be held separately.

"If the national election is held first, political parties will focus more on winning rather than on reforms. And if, for any reason, the national election is postponed, the referendum will also be delayed," Taher said. "These two are entirely different in nature."

He said the EC informed them it would have no difficulty implementing the decision if the government decided to hold the two separately.

"A referendum is a relatively simple election; it doesn't require significant financial involvement," he said.

Taher also said Jamaat proposed appointing election officials through a lottery system to ensure neutrality and transparency.



SO CLOSE YET SO FAR: Bangladesh all-rounder Rabeya Khan celebrates the dismissal of South Africa's Annerie Derkse during their ICC Women's World Cup fixture in Visakhapatnam yesterday. After posting 232 for six, the Tigresses had the Proteas on the ropes at 78 for five. However, Marizanne Kapp (56), Chloe Tryon (62) and Nadine de Clerk (37*) eventually guided South Africa to a thrilling three-wicket win.

PHOTO: ICC