



## Toxic blaze at warehouse, RMG unit claims 16 lives

### Fire began with explosion at unauthorised chemical storage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 16 people were killed and several others injured after a devastating fire broke out at a chemical warehouse and an adjacent garment factory unit in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The victims might have died after inhaling toxic gas following a chemical explosion, said Lt Col Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury, director (operations and maintenance) of the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

"The exact cause [of the fire] will be known after investigation," he told reporters at the site.

The bodies were found scattered across the first and second floors of the four-storey RMG unit in the Shialbari area. The tin-roofed chemical warehouse was next to the RMG unit.

"Their faces are completely unrecognisable due to the extreme heat. Identification will only be possible through DNA testing," Lt Col Tajul said. All bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The fire started around 11:40am and spread rapidly, said witnesses.

By 4:15pm, nine bodies had been recovered. Later, around 7:15pm, the fire service updated the death toll to 16. Officials fear the number of casualties may rise further.

In the afternoon, firefighters were spraying water in a frantic effort to control the blaze. CID's crime scene and chemical lab experts were deployed to collect evidence.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus directed the authorities to investigate the incident and provide assistance to the victims and their families.

"This loss of innocent lives in such a tragic



A woman shows the photo of her missing relative.

accident is deeply painful and heartbreaking. We stand beside the affected families in this time of grief," he said in a message.

In a statement, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said the RMG factory in question was a washing unit, not an affiliate of the association.

Witnesses said they first heard a loud bang from the warehouse. The first fire service team reached the site at 11:56am, said Talha Bin Jasim, an officer at the fire service media cell.

"There was white smoke all around. Windowpanes were shattered, and we could not see anything," said Abdul Hannan, a worker from a nearby factory.

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*'We're trapped, we can't get out'*

### Woman tells her father over phone before going silent

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

When the fire broke out at the Arian Fashion factory yesterday morning, 18-year-old Marzia Sultana Alo's father called her.

"The factory is on fire. We're trapped, we can't get out," she said. Her voice was trembling.

Her father, Md Sultan, tried to calm her, saying, "Don't panic. Follow the others and find a way out."

He did not hear her voice again. Her phone was reachable for nearly 10 more minutes before calls stopped going through.

Alo and her husband Joy, 22, who worked in the same RMG unit, remains missing.

Their families fear the worst.

Joy and Alo, from Netrakona's Madan upazila, joined the RMG unit on October 1. The couple lived in a small tin-roofed room in Mujibur's

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## Final version of July Charter sent to all parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission yesterday sent the final version of the July Charter to political parties, seeking their firm commitment to its full implementation.

The charter also calls for assurances that parties will not challenge its legality or necessity in court, and that they will uphold legal and constitutional safeguards throughout every stage of its execution.

The charter did not include any implementation roadmap.

The commission will submit its recommendations on implementing the July Charter after its signing on October 17, commission sources said yesterday.

"The July National Charter has been sent to all parties. It does not have any significant changes [from the final draft]," commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz told The Daily Star.

The July National Charter represents a rare moment of political junction, offering a roadmap for institutional reform grounded in dialogue and shared commitment.

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## 'Jamaat shadow over EC's polls plan'

### Say BNP policymakers; party to meet CA, CEC to warn them

**The leaders said during past elections, the Awami League did not rig votes through politicians but "used government officials on election duty". The party fears a repeat of such tactics.**

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has alleged that a section of officials in the administration and the Election Commission are linked to the Jamaat-e-Islami.

It fears that these officials may attempt to influence the upcoming national election in favour of the Jamaat.

Expressing doubt over the neutrality of the current government and parts of the EC, the BNP has decided to separately meet Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin to raise its concerns and seek "urgent corrective measures" ahead of the polls.

"A BNP delegation will meet Chief Adviser Yunus and the CEC soon to discuss these issues," said a BNP Standing Committee member, seeking anonymity.

The party discussed these issues at a Standing Committee meeting on Monday night at the chairperson's Gulshan office, several members of the committee told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity. Acting chairman Tarique Rahman joined the meeting virtually from London.

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## Some advisers trying to turn admin partisan

### Says Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Taher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several advisers to the interim government are conspiring to turn the administration partisan, claimed Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher yesterday.

"We have the names of the advisers who are involved in conspiracies. We have their voice recordings. We know what they say in meetings. We are not revealing this to the public now because we want to give them a chance."

Taher's comment came at a human chain joined by Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and five other like-minded parties yesterday at the Matsya Bhaban intersection in the capital.

The leaders formed a human chain stretching from Jatrabari to Gabtoli in the capital demanding a referendum before the polls and the proportional representation system along with four other demands.

"The situation in the administration and the ongoing conspiracies must stop."

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## Cucusu polls return today after 35yrs

MD ABBAS and SM MAHFUJ AHMED

The Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections are set to take place today after a gap of 35 years, becoming the third public university to hold such polls after the political changeover in August last year.

A total of 908 candidates are vying for 40 posts: 415 are contesting for 26 Cucusu posts and 493 for 14 hall union posts. The total number of voters is 27,521.

Polling will begin from 9:00am and end at 4:00pm at the 15 centres set up in five faculty buildings.

There will be 700 polling booths in total. Each student will receive five ballot papers. Four of them will list the Cucusu candidates and the fifth will list the hall union candidates.

Students will have a maximum of ten minutes to cast their votes, meaning they will need to cast about one vote every 20 seconds.

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## Some critical antibiotics now show 79-97% resistance

### Finds WHO study; experts warn of severe health consequences

CAUSE	ADVERSE EFFECT
Over-prescribing and overuse of antibiotics	Longer illnesses
Non-completion of antibiotic courses	Prolonged hospital stays
Antibiotics overuse in livestock and fish farming	Increased treatment failures
Poor infection control in hospitals	Greater surgical and medical risks
Lack of hygiene and poor sanitation	Higher mortality
	Drive-up treatment costs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Several widely used antibiotics in Bangladesh are losing their effectiveness at alarming rates, with resistance ranging from 79 to 97 percent, a WHO report says, highlighting the country's worsening antimicrobial resistance crisis.

Resistance levels of some of

these drugs are among the highest in South-East Asian countries, including India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, according to the Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025, released on Monday.

For example, Acinetobacter spp., the Gram-negative bacteria that can cause bloodstream infections, showed an estimated resistance rate of 97 percent to

imipenem, a powerful antibiotic typically applied as a second last-resort treatment for blood infections.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines, infections become difficult or impossible to treat,

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## 19 dead after bus catches fire in Rajasthan

REUTERS

At least 19 people died yesterday afternoon when a private bus in the western Indian state of Rajasthan caught fire, Indian broadcaster NDTV said, citing the police.

The bus was travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur with 57 passengers on board when smoke emerged from the rear of the vehicle. The driver stopped the bus along the side of the road, but flames engulfed the vehicle within moments, NDTV reported.

The police believe that a short circuit caused the fire, the report added.

Fifteen passengers, including two children, sustained serious burn injuries, with some suffering up to 70% burns, NDTV said.

Reuters could not independently verify details of the report. Rajasthan's police did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

"Distressed by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an X post.



Election materials are being transported to polling stations as the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall unions go to polls today. The photo was taken in front of the Cucusu building yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 80 South Koreans missing in Cambodia scam centre row: Seoul

AFP, Seoul

Eighty South Koreans who were possible victims of fake jobs or scam centres were unaccounted for in Cambodia, South Korea's foreign ministry told AFP yesterday, after the torture death of a student there shocked the country.

Between January and August this year, 330 South Koreans were reported to have gone missing or been held against their will after entering Cambodia, a foreign ministry official said.

As of August, "the safety of about 80 people has yet to be verified", the official added.

The ministry said it was cross-checking the figures with police data at home to avoid overlap.

The number of abduction cases involving South Koreans in Cambodia has surged dramatically, rising fifteenfold from 2023, lawmaker Yoon Hukduk said during a parliamentary hearing.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said the recent kidnappings in Cambodia were causing "significant harm to South Koreans", and urged immediate government action.

"The numbers are not small, and many of our citizens are deeply concerned about their family members, friends and neighbours who have been detained in Cambodia," Lee said in a cabinet meeting.

The presidential office said it would dispatch a joint response team to Cambodia on Wednesday, led by the second vice foreign minister.

## Toxic blaze at warehouse, RMG unit claims 16 lives Cucsu polls return today

FROM PAGE 1

Three of the injured — Mamun, 35, Sohel, 32, and Suruj, 30 — were admitted to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. They were rescued unconscious around 2:45pm and taken to the emergency unit, said Shaon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon.

Relatives rushed between the site and nearby hospitals in desperate search for their loved ones. Many broke down in tears, holding photos of the missing.

Fire service, police, and army personnel cordoned off the site, preventing anyone from entering. Around 5:00pm, a fresh line of ambulances entered the site, worrying relatives of the missing.

Newly married Md Joy, 22, and Marzia Sultana Alo, 18, workers at the RMG unit, are among the missing.

Amanullah was searching for his cousin Anwar Islam, 21, a helper at the RMG washing unit, holding a photo.

Another person was looking for Asma Akter, 14, who worked at the unit.

One Shakil Ahmed held a photo while searching for his cousin Khalid Hasan, 32, a storekeeper at the RMG factory unit.

From the condition of the site and the burnt materials, initial signs indicated a rapid flashover — the sudden ignition of all combustible materials — which spread through the building, said the fire service.

Citing initial findings, Lt Col Tajul said, "We suspect the fire began with a chemical explosion that released highly toxic gas. Many people managed to escape, but those trapped between the first and second floors might have died instantly after inhaling the toxic fumes."

"The roof was made of tin and thatched materials, and the rooftop exit was locked with two padlocks. They could not go up, and because of the toxic gas and the flashover caused by the chemical explosion, they became unconscious and died instantly," he said.

He said the fire service was not allowing anyone, even firefighters, to enter the chemical warehouse since the site became very risky.

A total of 12 fire engines were at the site. "The fire in the garment [factory] section has been brought under control, but the fire inside the chemical warehouse is still burning," Tajul said around 7:00pm.

The fire service was using ground monitors and drones. "The process of neutralising the chemicals is not yet complete. We urge everyone to maintain a minimum distance of 300 yards from the site," Tajul said in the evening.

He also said the fire service learnt that the facility was known as Alam Chemical Factory, but the authorities have not been able to contact the owner, manager, or any employees. "Police and army personnel are trying to locate them."

Neither the garment factory unit nor the chemical warehouse had any fire safety licence, fire safety plan, licence, and proper fire protection measures, Tajul said.

Locals told the authorities that six to seven types of chemicals were stored in the warehouse, including bleaching powder, meta potash, enzymes, salt, and hydrogen peroxide.

The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) formed a five-member committee to investigate the fire, Atiqur Rahman, deputy inspector general of DIFE, told The Daily Star.

Led by Md Matiur Rahaman, joint inspector general (safety wing) of

DIFE, the committee has been asked to submit its report within seven working days.

This correspondent found numerous small factories along narrow lanes in the area. Locals said most factories employ 30–40 workers and mainly operate on subcontracts.

The BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami separately announced Tk 1,00,000 financial assistance for the family of each deceased victim.

Brig Gen Muhammad Jahed Kamal, director general of the fire service, blamed unauthorised chemical warehouses and structural irregularities for the devastating fire, saying such negligence continues to cost lives despite repeated warnings.

"I want to appeal to you all: let us be a little more aware," he said while visiting the spot.

At 11:40pm, he said smoke was still billowing from the warehouse. The fire service will bring a team from BUET to assess and help take the next steps.

"The fire is under control but we cannot declare it extinguished; because this is a chemical fire it will take time. It will not be put out as quickly as ordinary fires."

FROM PAGE 1

The university administration has arranged special shuttle train trips and additional buses to help students who live in the city reach the campus, located about 22 kilometres from the city, near Hathazari upazila.

Out of the university's 14 entry gates, seven will remain closed on election day. Students can enter only by showing their identity cards. To prevent outsiders from entering the campus, security arrangements have been made at 24 points.

"Managing such a large election has been a new experience for the teachers and administration," said Ali R Raji, assistant professor at the university's journalism department.

Transparent ballot boxes and ballot papers have been prepared, said Monir Uddin, the chief election commissioner.

Enough time has been allocated for voters and all secret voting rooms will be under CCTV monitoring, he said, adding that the footage will be stored even if the electricity goes out.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has fined the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel 'Sompriti Shikharthir Jote' Tk 20,000 for violating the code of conduct. Activists of the panel used loudspeakers inside classrooms for campaigning.

So far, nearly 20 complaints about code of conduct violations have been submitted to the Election Commission office and several candidates and panels were warned after reviewing the complaints.

"Several punitive measures have been taken, but we are not making them public for now," said Amir Mohammad Nasrullah, head of the code of conduct committee.

The details will be shared after the election, he said.

"The preparations seem fair and well-organised," Raji said.

## Some advisers trying to turn admin partisan

FROM PAGE 1

He went on to urge the government to appoint honest and neutral people to the important positions.

"I want to give you time to correct yourselves. If you do not heed the warning in time, we will make the names public."

He expressed doubts about the fairness of the upcoming national election.

He also criticised the appointment of a secretary to the public administration ministry.

"A person with a long record of corruption has been appointed there. He is fully loyal to a particular party

and previously held various posts in its student and political wings. We can see that four to five advisers are controlling all appointments, in favour of one particular party..."

He reiterated his demand for a referendum by November.

"Some are trying to twist it by saying the referendum and the national election should be held together," Taher added.

From the Shapla Chattar demonstration, Islami Andolan's Joint Secretary General Maulana Gazi Ataur Rahman demanded holding a referendum on the July Charter before the announcement of the election

schedule.

"Otherwise, implementation of the July Charter may face obstacles, and even the national election could become uncertain," he said.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish took positions at Dainik Bangla, Jatrabari, Asad Gate and Technical Intersections.

Speaking from Dainik Bangla intersection, the party's Secretary General Maulana Jalal Uddin Ahmad said: "The July Charter will form the basis of national unity. Its prompt implementation is necessary. If people's demands are ignored, we will be compelled to launch a tougher

movement."

Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party leaders held their programme at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

From there, Secretary General Maulana Musa Bin Izzar and others warned that if there was any delay in holding the referendum or in granting the July Charter a legal basis, the movement would "take a new turn".

Khelafat Majlish also held a human chain at Purana Paltan intersection, while Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan activists took position at Shahbagh intersection.

## Some critical antibiotics now show 79-97% resistance

FROM PAGE 1

increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death, according to the World Health Organization.

Health experts say higher AMR rates can lead to more critical illnesses, prolonged hospital stays, increased treatment failures, greater surgical and medical risks, and ultimately higher mortality.

They warn it would also drive up treatment costs, increase the burden on healthcare systems, and reduce productivity.

"The latest WHO report echoes concerns highlighted in previous AMR

poor sanitation are all blamed for the situation.

Prof Halimur Rashid, the immediate past line director of the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) unit at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said the AMR situation has become very alarming due to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, which can be easily bought from any pharmacy without prescription.

He added that under the Drug and Cosmetic Act 2023, selling antibiotics without a prescription is strictly prohibited, but the law is rarely fully enforced for a lack of manpower and

for four types of infections — bloodstream, gastrointestinal, urinary tract, and urogenital — and assesses the effectiveness of seven antibiotics used to treat these infections.

The drugs are: Imipenem, Cefotaxime, Cephalosporins, Ciprofloxacin, Methicillin, Penicillin G and Ceftriaxone. However, Bangladesh data regarding Penicillin G and Ceftriaxone was not available.

WHO classifies antibiotics into three categories — Access, Watch, and Reserve — to guide their appropriate use and combat antimicrobial resistance. Antibiotics under Access

79.9 percent resistance in treating bloodstream infections caused by E. coli, while third-generation Cephalosporins exhibit 88.1 percent resistance against the same infection by the same pathogen.

Cefotaxime shows 87 percent resistance in treating bloodstream infections caused by Klebsiella pneumoniae, while Imipenem shows 51.1 percent resistance against the same infections, the report shows.

Ciprofloxacin shows 89.1 percent resistance in treating gastrointestinal infections (that attacks digestive system) caused by Shigella spp while Cefotaxime shows 64.7 percent

Infection	Acinetobacter	Bloodstream				Gastrointestinal	
Pathogen	Spp.	E. coli		K. pneumoniae	S. aureus	Shigella spp	
Drug	Imipenem	Cefotaxime	Cephalosporins	Cephalosporins	Cefotaxime	Methicillin	Ciprofloxacin
Resistance	96.6%	79.9%	88.1%	88.1%	87%	79%	89.1%

reports released by icddr,b and other government agencies. "This is deeply alarming," Dr Gazi Md Salahuddin Mamun, an assistant scientist at the AMR Research Unit at icddr,b, told The Daily Star.

He said the findings of the WHO report are similar to those of an icddr,b AMR study, which monitored patients in hospital Intensive Care Units between July 2023 and January 2024.

Mamun said over-prescribing and overuse of antibiotics, patients not completing their antibiotic courses, overuse of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming, poor infection control in hospitals, lack of hygiene, and

other challenges.

"The situation will become even more alarming if we fail to stop the indiscriminate use of antibiotics," he told this paper yesterday.

**AMR SITUATION IN BANGLADESH**  
WHO began monitoring AMR in 2015, and released its latest global surveillance report on Monday, based on over 23 million bacteriologically confirmed infections reported by 104 countries, including Bangladesh.

The previous report, published in 2022, did not include data from Bangladesh. The latest report presents WHO's infection data for 2023.

It covers 16 pathogens responsible

group should be widely available and used as first- or second-line treatments for common infections.

Antibiotics under Watch group use should be monitored and restricted to specific indications while antibiotic under reserve is the last-resort antibiotics for treating infection caused by multi-drug-resistant organisms.

Of the seven drugs mentioned above, six are from Watch group while Penicillin from Access group.

These drugs show 79 to 96.6 percent resistance in dealing infection caused by five types of pathogens, shows the report.

For example, Cefotaxime shows

resistance in treating urinary tract infection caused by E. coli.

In treating at least five pathogens, resistance levels of some of these drugs in Bangladesh are among the highest of 11 South-East Asian countries, the report shows.

All these pathogens can be treated with several drugs, five of which have developed at least 79-97 percent resistance.

For other pathogens, Bangladesh ranks between the second and fifth highest in terms of drug resistance.

At least five pathogens have developed resistance between 16 and 30 percent three pathogens between 51 and 65 percent resistance.

## 'Jamaat shadow over EC's polls plan'

FROM PAGE 1

"If Jamaat-linked officials remain on election duty, they may try to rig votes or influence the process," said a Standing Committee member.

The meeting decided that Standing Committee members Abdul Moyeen Khan and Nazrul Islam Khan will meet the EC soon.

BNP leaders said the team will formally seek appointments and submit specific complaints about partisan officials.

The leaders said during past elections, the Awami League did not rig votes through politicians but "used government officials on election duty". The party fears a repeat of such tactics.

One Standing Committee member who was present at the meeting said, "Already, a large number of officials, including DCs, SPs and UNOs, have Jamaat connections."

"I've heard that around 4,000 officials from Islami Bank will work as presiding officers. These are the concerns."

The EC plans to finalise the panel of polling officials by October 30.

A circular issued on September 2 instructed district election officers to prepare lists of presiding, assistant presiding and polling officers with recruits from government offices, private institutions, schools, colleges, banks and insurance firms.

At the Standing Committee meeting, BNP leaders said many of those being shortlisted were once affiliated with Shibir or currently maintain ties with Jamaat.

They said that from their own survey and local information, they found a large number of individuals with Jamaat ties holding various positions in government offices, schools, and colleges.

They alleged that chairmen of

governing bodies of schools and colleges were also being removed and replaced with partisan persons.

They said that recent remarks and actions by some advisers are hurting the interim government's neutrality.

The BNP leaders said a few advisers have shown bias in recent administrative changes and appointments, favouring a "particular political group".

They alleged that while lists of polling officials were being prepared, people linked to "one party" were being prioritised.

**JULY CHARTER**

The BNP reaffirmed that it is ready to sign the July Charter.

A delegation of over 100 leaders will attend the October 17 signing ceremony, where Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed will sign on behalf of the party.

The BNP also reiterated that if a referendum is held, it must take place on the same day as the national election, and that the party will not accept holding the polls under the proportional representation (PR) system.

Although the National Consensus Commission said it would send a final version of the charter to parties yesterday, BNP leaders said they did not receive any copy until 8:00pm.

The meeting also reviewed organisational readiness for the polls. Leaders admitted weaknesses in field-level campaigning and discussed plans to strengthen the party's media and communication cells.

They also expressed concern over growing online smear campaigns and misinformation targeting the BNP and discussed strategies for countering them, especially through stronger social media outreach.

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## MPO teachers threaten to block Shahbagh

Warn of hunger strike if demands not met

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers from non-government MPO-listed institutions continued their indefinite work abstention for the third consecutive day yesterday, warning that they would go on a hunger strike if the government failed to meet their demands.

However, last night, they announced a blockade at Shahbagh today to press home their demands.

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

Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, made the announcement in front of the High Court on behalf of the teachers.

He said if the government does not issue the gazette notification by 12:00pm today, they will block Shahbagh.

Earlier in the day, at a rally in front of the High Court

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Police intercept teachers from non-government MPO-listed institutions near the High Court gate during their "Road to Secretariat" march yesterday. The teachers continued their indefinite work abstention for the third consecutive day, demanding a 20 percent house rent allowance and other benefits.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

5 more die of dengue, 841 get hospitalised



STAR REPORT

At least five dengue patients died while 841 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, four were reported from Dhaka South City Corporation areas and one in Mymensingh division.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths this year rose to 238, while total cases rose to 56,257.

Among the total cases, a total of 53,354 dengue patients have been released so far after treatment.

Currently, 2,665 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 1,694 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

## Court summons Hasina, 261 others in sedition case

Asks them to appear on November 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the relevant authorities to publish a gazette asking ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 261 others to appear on November 11 in a sedition case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jewel Rana issued the directive after receiving police reports on earlier arrest warrants against the absconding accused, said a court staffer.

During the hearing, 24 accused, who were arrested in the case, were produced before the court. The court also rejected their bail petitions, the staffer added.

According to the prosecution, if the absconding accused do not appear, the trial will proceed in their absence.

Meanwhile, a CID press release said a total of 91 people accused in the sedition case are now in different jails across the country.

On August 14, the court issued arrest warrants against 286 people, including Hasina, after taking cognisance of the

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## Political violence hits four-year high

160 killed in last 13 months, reports HRSS

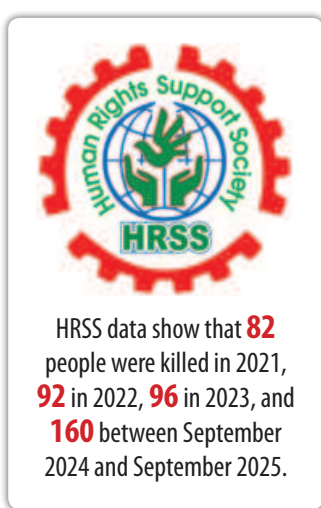
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political violence in Bangladesh reached a four-year high during the first 13 months of the interim government, with at least 1,047 incidents leaving 160 people dead and more than 8,000 injured, according to data from the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

Most of those killed were affiliated with the BNP, followed by the Awami League, with the majority of deaths occurring in intra-party clashes, alongside confrontations between BNP and AL supporters. Of the 160 people killed, 104 were from BNP and 38 from AL.

HRSS compiled its annual data from 15 national newspapers and its own field reports. The latest report covers the first 13 months of the interim government.

Intra-BNP clashes saw the highest fatalities, with 577 such incidents leaving 88 dead. A total



of 221 BNP-AL confrontations claimed 34 lives. Of the 38 AL men killed, 12 died in intra-party violence, while most of the rest were killed during clashes with BNP men.

Meanwhile, three Jamaat-e-Islami activists, one from NCP, and ten from the UPDF were also killed, while four others, including one woman, had no identifiable political affiliation.

According to HRSS, the Jamaat activists were killed in clashes with BNP and AL supporters, while the NCP member died in an Awami League-NCP confrontation. The report did not specify how 10 UPDF activists were killed.

Meanwhile, the rights watchdog also recorded at least 171 incidents of attacks by miscreants on political party leaders and activists, resulting in at least 120 other deaths and over 200 injuries.

HRSS data show that 82 people were killed in 2021, 92 in 2022, 96 in 2023, and 160 between

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## Online bail bonds to be launched from Oct 15

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul yesterday said an online



bail bond system will be launched from October 15 to ease the process of releasing accused persons after securing bail from courts.

"Currently, an accused must go through about 12 steps after securing bail from a court before being released. At several of these stages, people face harassment and often have to spend money," he said.

"With the new system, once bail is granted, the bail bond will be sent directly to the respective jail with a single click," Nazrul added.

He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the internship programme of the Attorney General's Office held at the Supreme Court Auditorium yesterday.

## EC to allot NCP symbol if it fails to choose by Oct 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has once again sent a letter to the National Citizen Party, asking it to choose an election symbol from the list of symbols reserved for political parties and candidates.

Meanwhile, the commission has yet to make any decision regarding the proposed referendum. "If the party fails to select one (symbol) by October 19, the EC will assign a symbol on its own," EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told reporters at the commission's headquarters yesterday.

When asked whether the issue might create unrest, he said, "We'll see when the time comes."



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## Our future depends on next polls: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the political and economic future of the country depends on the upcoming national election.

He made the remark while addressing a meeting of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila and Ruhia Thana BNP executives at District Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

He urged party leaders and activists to act prudently in the coming days, warning against repeating political mistakes that could lead to the return of fascism.

"Neither the people nor we want to see fascism again. The sooner the election is held, the faster the national crisis will end," Fakhru said.



Holding a picture of her loved one who has been forcibly disappeared, a woman breaks down in tears at a human chain in front of the High Court yesterday. Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of the victims of enforced disappearances, organised the event demanding the return of their missing relatives and punishment for those responsible.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## OBITUARY

"Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un"

### Mr. Kazi Golam Rahman:



Mr. Kazi Golam Rahman, former Secretary, Additional Inspector General of Police, Trustee Board Chairman of Hamdard Trust and Chairman of National Center for Hearing and Speech for Children (SAHIC) passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

A distinguished civil servant, Mr. Rahman completed his M.Com from the University of Dhaka in 1962 and began his career with the Planning Commission in 1964. He later joined the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) in 1967 and served with integrity in various capacities including SP in Dinajpur, Sylhet, and Jessore; Police Commissioner of Chittagong; and DIG of Railways.

He also held senior government positions including as Chairman of Power Development Board, founding Secretary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Ministry, Treasurer of Bangladesh Open University, and Director General of NSI. He retired as Member of Planning Commission in 2001.

In addition to his family, friends and well-wishers, he is survived by his wife, one daughter who's a Professor of Microbiology Department of Dhaka University and a son working as a Regional Vice-President of French multinational TotalEnergies.

May Allah grant him eternal peace and Jannah.

## KUAKATA HOSPITAL

# A health centre with no doctors

SHOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The 20-bed hospital in Kuakata has once again been left without doctors, virtually suspending healthcare services for both tourists and residents.

The only physician posted there, Dr Supriya Das, was transferred on September 17. With her departure, the hospital has become completely doctorless, prompting locals to describe it as a "hospital in name only".

According to hospital sources, there are sanctioned posts for six doctors, including four junior consultants, one residential medical officer, and also one medical officer.

All the posts are vacant.

Although five senior staff nurses remain on duty, many other support positions are either vacant or filled through deputations elsewhere.



Out of 17 total posts, 12 are currently vacant.

At present, healthcare services are being run in a makeshift manner.

Kalapara Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Shankar Prasad Adhikari said a sub-assistant community medical officer has been assigned to keep the emergency and outdoor sections running.

Meanwhile, more than one lakh residents of Kuakata municipality and Mahipur and Latachapl unions, as well as tourists, are being deprived of medical care.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

## RUCSU POLLS ON THURSDAY

# Candidates make last-minute push as campaigning ends

SHOANUR RAHMAN RAFI and NUR AHSAN MRIDUL

Campaigns for the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu), hall union, and Senate elections ended at midnight today across the Rajshahi University campus.

Candidates from different panels were seen making a last-minute push to reach as many voters as possible on the final day of electioneering yesterday.

Mir Kadir, an independent candidate for the Rucusu media and publication secretary post, said he printed 4,000 leaflets yesterday to reach students on the last day.

"There has been a long gap due to

earlier postponement, and people might have forgotten everything. So, I am trying to make sure they remember my ballot number," he said.

Salauddin Ammar, a general secretary candidate from the "Adhipottya Birodhi Oikko" panel, was seen campaigning around the Paribahan Chattar area.

The panel's executive member candidate Habib Himel addressed a press conference at the same venue, refuting rumours that some members of his panel were

Party (NCP) and Bangladesh Ganotantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS).

At another press conference, Zahin Biswas Esha, assistant general secretary candidate from the "Oikyoboddho Notun Projonmo" panel, received open support from independent AGS candidate Fazle Rabbi.

Meanwhile, Mehedi Maruf, vice-presidential candidate from the "Rucusu Radical Change" panel, criticised the election commission's actions to confiscate food intended for a

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



## MPO teachers threaten to block Shahbagh

FROM PAGE 3  
during their "Road to Secretariat" programme, they threatened to go on a hunger strike.

"We will stay here today [yesterday]. If our demands are not met by 11:00am tomorrow [Wednesday], we will move to Shahbagh. If still ignored, we will march to the Jamuna. And if nothing changes, we will begin a hunger strike unto death," said Azizi during the rally.

Azizi made the remarks after teachers were

reportedly prevented from marching towards the Secretariat.

He said the movement had reached its "final stage" and that there was no scope for retreat. "The government must fulfil our demands now. We will continue to surround the Secretariat as long as necessary," he added.

The teachers have been demonstrating at the Central Shaheed Minar since Sunday, demanding a 20 percent house rent allowance and other benefits. A section of teachers has been staying at the Shaheed Minar overnight as part of their sit-in, while others have been joining in the mornings.

Teachers from schools,

colleges, and madrasas across the country joined the protest after police dispersed their rally in front of Jatiya Press Club on Sunday using water cannons, baton charges, and sound grenades.

Later, they took position at the Shaheed Minar, where they protested the police action and announced a countrywide work abstention from the next day.

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

On August 13, the

teachers had issued an ultimatum to fulfil their demands by September 14 but postponed their strike following assurances from the education ministry.

At entry level, MPO-listed teachers receive a monthly salary of Tk 12,500, including Tk 1,000 as house rent, Tk 500 as medical allowance, and 50 percent of their basic pay as festival allowance. Recently, the finance ministry approved a Tk 500 rise in the house rent allowance, which the teachers rejected, calling it "insufficient".

Currently, there are over 26,000 MPO listed non-government institutions in the country, employing around 3.8 lakh teachers and 1.7 lakh staffers.

## Court summons Hasina, 261 others

FROM PAGE 3  
charges brought against them in the case.

Earlier in the day, Investigation Officer Md Enamul Haque, an assistant superintendent of police of the Criminal Investigation Department, submitted a probe report before the court accusing Hasina and others of conspiring to overthrow the interim government through a civil war.

On March 27, the CID filed the case with the court against Hasina and 72 others for their alleged involvement in the conspiracy.

After a hearing that day, a Dhaka metropolitan magistrate directed the

CID to submit a report after investigating the case.

According to the case statement, the CID received information about an online meeting held on December 19, 2024, where participants formed a platform called the "Joy Bangla Brigade" and discussed plans to bring Hasina back to power by waging a civil war.

A total of 577 individuals from home and abroad attended the meeting and expressed support for Hasina's directives.

Rabbi Alam, vice-president of Awami League's US chapter who convened the virtual meeting, has been named as the second accused in the case.

## Political violence

FROM PAGE 3  
September 2024 and September 2025 in political violence.

Political violence in 2021 and 2022 was largely driven by internal feuds and dominance disputes within Awami League, while in 2023 it mainly stemmed from clashes between AL and BNP supporters during opposition marches and counter "peace rallies".

The report noted that most of the violence resulted from power struggles, factional disputes over committee formation, and efforts to assert territorial control across different parts of the country.

Despite the change in government, the overall human rights and law-and-order situation has not improved, HRSS said, with new forms of political and

mob violence emerging over the past year.

It also recorded attacks near courts and police stations, growing tensions among student groups, and continued assaults on journalists and minorities.

HRSS urged political parties to promote internal democracy and accountability and called on the interim government to uphold citizens' constitutional rights and the rule of law.

"To establish the rule of law and democracy and improve the human rights situation, every political party must play a more responsible role," the HRSS report said.

"Unless these issues are addressed, the overall human rights situation of the country will further deteriorate," it warned.

**Commercial Space Available**  
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Level: 14 B. Size: 3,430 sqft.  
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## Request for Quotation: Anti-Malware Solution for AIX

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 191 Branches, 107 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking potential vendor(s) to provide Anti-Malware Solution for AIX.

A Technical Request for Quotation (RFQ) is hereby issued for this purpose. The RFQ, along with details of the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website: <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their technical offers as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) outlined in the bidding process.

**BRAC BANK**  
আসসালামু আলাইকুম

## EC to allot

FROM PAGE 3  
Asked if there were any legal barriers to including the shapla in the list of symbols, the EC secretary said, "There are no legal barriers... but the EC believes there is no need to include it as an election symbol."

On NCP's statement that it would not accept registration without the shapla symbol, Akhtar said, "That's their matter."

He said the EC has invited all law enforcement and security agencies involved in election-related activities to a meeting at the EC Secretariat on October 20.

The First Private University with Permanent Government Charter  
**Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology**  
141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208  
Phone: PABX 8870422 (Extn: 103 & 107); Website: [www.aust.edu](http://www.aust.edu)

**FACULTY SEARCH**

Applications are invited for the teaching posts in the following Departments/School:

1. Architecture, 2. Civil Engineering, 3. Computer Science and Engineering, 4. Electrical and Electronic Engineering, 5. Mechanical and Production Engineering (IPE & ME Discipline), 6 Arts and Sciences and 7. School of Business.

Details can be obtained from the website ([www.aust.edu](http://www.aust.edu)).

All applicants including Professor and Associate Professor are requested to fill up the online form. Applicants for the position of Lecturer (Grade-II) to Assistant Professor are requested to download the online generated CV and [send it to regr@aust.edu](mailto:regr@aust.edu). Please also send the hard copy of the online generated CV to the Registrar along with a full resume, copies of published articles/papers, two recent passport-size colored photographs and attested copies of all certificates, mark sheets/ transcripts, testimonials, etc. For the post of Professor and Associate Professor, applicants are requested to submit 10 (ten) set hard copies of their applications in the prescribed Application Form alongwith all certificates, mark sheets/ transcripts, testimonials, etc.

Last date of application is 28 October 2025. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

**INNOVATION :: CREATION :: LEADERSHIP**



## Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208  
Tel: (8802) 8870422, (Ext.-201); email: [procurement@aust.edu](mailto:procurement@aust.edu); Web: [www.aust.edu](http://www.aust.edu)  
Ref. No. AUST/Kunipara Project/OTM/Tender-07/2025-26

## TENDER INVITATION

Sealed Tender both Technical & Financial are hereby invited from the Manufacturer or their local agent for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of:

- (1) THREE PHASE DRY TYPE 800 KVA TRANSFORMER & THREE PHASE 400 KVA & 160 KVA GENERATOR at 22/A, Kunipara, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. (Re-Tender)
- (2) 250 TR VRF A/C SYSTEM for 9-STORIED BUILDING WITH (2) TWO BASEMENTS at 22/A, Kunipara, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. (Re-Tender)
- (3) 1600 Kgs (20 Persons), 2 Nos. Passenger Lift (UK/US/EU/Japan origin and manufacturer) for a 9-Storied building with 2 basements at 22/A, Kunipara, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. (Re-Tender)

The tender documents will be available for purchase from the office of the Treasurer, Ahsanullah University of Engineering and Technology during office hour 10am to 5pm at a cost of Tk. 5,000.00 (Five thousand) (non-refundable) only in Pay Order in favour of "AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY".

The tender will be received in the same office and will be opened the outer envelope containing technical and financial offer and the technical part only on the last date of submission of tender in presence of the Bidders/Tenderers or their representative (if any). The tender should be accompanied by a Bank Draft / Pay Order of Tk. 5,00,000/- per item (for SL-1 & 2) and Tk. 2,50,000/- (for SL-3) only with technical offer from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of "AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" as earnest money without which the tender shall be outright rejected. Noted that the Pay Order shall be released to the bidders after issuance of the respective work order. The AUST authority reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning the reason what-so-ever and is not bound to award the work to the lowest bidder.

Last date of selling Tender Document: Nov. 06, 2025 up to 2:00pm

Prebid Meeting: Nov. 11, 2025 at 2:00pm at VC Seminar Room (Lift-3, Blk-D)

Dead Line of Submission Tender: Nov. 16, 2025 (Sunday) at 2:00pm and Tenders will be opened at 02:30pm on the same day (Nov. 16, 2025)

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## United Nations Development Programme

জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী



## Procurement Notice: Invitation to Bid

Quantum Reference number: UNDP-BGD-00983

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is seeking bids from interested firms for the following requirement:

Procurement of construction work, Replacement of Bamboo Pillars with RCC Pillars for the GCA project, UNDP.

The deadline for submission of Bids is 4:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Local Time), November 3, 2025.

Quotation may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the procurement notice. For learning more about ITB, pre-bid meeting link & submission documents through the quantum platform, please visit the link below: [https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view\\_negotiation.cfm?nego\\_id=39403](https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=39403)

For any technical queries, please write to us at [bd.procurement@undp.org](mailto:bd.procurement@undp.org), mentioning the reference number UNDP-BGD-00983 in the email subject line, by 30 October 2025.

## CHINA RARE EARTH CONTROL EU working with G7 partners on response

AFP, Brussels  
The EU is coordinating with G7 partners on a response to China's "unjustified" export controls on rare earths, the bloc's trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic said yesterday.

China last week announced new controls on the export of rare-earth technologies. It is the world's leading producer of the minerals used to make magnets crucial to the auto, electronics and defence industries.

"Such restrictions have already forced some EU companies to halt production, causing real economic harm. This is not about security or non-proliferation. These controls are targeting civilian industries directly," Sefcovic said.



Protesters hold a slogan reading "Right to have pension at the age of 65" as they take part in a demonstration during a national day of action against the austerity of the federal Arizona government, in Brussels on October 14, 2025. The strike is the last in a series to hit the European country since Flemish nationalist Bart De Wever took office as prime minister in February. Grappling with a budget deficit whose size violates European Union rules, the government is looking to reform pensions and make other savings that have infuriated trade unions.

PHOTO: AFP

## Truce does not mean impunity Says Spain prime minister on Gaza 'genocide'

AFP, Madrid

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said yesterday the truce between Hamas and Israel must not come at the expense of holding accountable those responsible for the "genocide" in Gaza.

"Peace cannot mean forgetting; it cannot mean impunity," the Socialist premier said during an interview with Cadena Ser radio.

"Those who were key actors in the genocide perpetrated in Gaza must answer to justice, there can be no impunity," he added when asked about the possibility of legal proceedings against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Spain, one of the most vocal critics in Europe of Israel's offensive in Gaza, announced in September that its prosecutor would investigate "serious violations" of human rights in the Palestinian territory in coordination with the International Criminal Court.

The court has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Israel's former defence minister Yoav Gallant.

Sanchez, who attended a peace summit on Gaza in Egypt on Monday, reaffirmed that Spain's arms embargo on shipments to and from Israel remains in place. "We will maintain this embargo until the process is consolidated and definitively moves towards peace," he said.

Sanchez also suggested Spain could take part in future efforts to secure peace and aid reconstruction in Gaza.

## UN aid for Rohingya refugee children faces 'funding cliff'

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations warned yesterday that its ability to help children in the sprawling Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh was rapidly shrinking and would soon fall off a "funding cliff".

The UN children's agency UNICEF said conditions in the camps were already dire and would only get worse in 2026 as financial support dries up.

Around a million largely Muslim Rohingya fled a military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar's Rakhine state, launched in 2017, and now live in the beachside town of Cox's Bazar.

"A funding crisis is unfolding, and it's threatening to erase years of progress for the Rohingya children," said Carla Haddad Mardini, UNICEF's private fundraising and partnerships chief, after returning from Cox's Bazar.

"It was disheartening to watch classrooms close, services shrink, and the futures of hundreds of thousands of children that are hanging by a thread.

"We're doing everything possible to really stretch every dollar -- but we're running out of options."

She said education, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance were among the services hardest hit.

Bangladesh has recorded a surge of refugees from Myanmar since early 2024, with 150,000 more Rohingya arriving.

But the surge comes at a time when the United States --



Rohingya refugee children wait to receive food outside the distribution center at Palong Khali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on November 17, 2021.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

traditionally the world's top donor -- has slashed foreign aid, causing havoc in the humanitarian sector across the globe.

Other major donor countries are also tightening their belts.

Successive aid cuts have already caused severe hardship among Rohingya in the overcrowded settlements, where many rely on aid and suffer from rampant malnutrition.

"Indications are that the situation will be even more dire next year," said Haddad Mardini.

"The overall Rohingya response faces a funding cliff in early 2026.

"We're progressing towards this funding cliff at high speed -- with worst-case projections

suggesting that already-insufficient contributions could fall by half."

She said that despite efficiency savings, merging aid programmes and localising support, "no amount of cost-cutting can offset such a deep decline".

Haddad Mardini said there were several armed groups operating in the region, with 685 cases of child recruitment recorded so far this year -- more than five times the number for all of 2024.

"Seeing an increase in recruitment is extremely worrying for the future," she said.

Haddad Mardini said severe acute malnutrition among children was now at its highest level since the crisis spilt over in 2017.

## SPYING CHARGES Iran hands down prison sentences to 2 French people

AFP, Tehran

Iranian authorities yesterday handed down lengthy prison sentences to two French nationals after convicting them on multiple charges, including spying for Israel, the judiciary said.

The judiciary's Mizan Online website did not identify the two French nationals, but two sources close to the case told AFP that academics Cecile Kohler, 40, and Jacques Paris, 72, were the citizens sentenced.

The date of their arrest in May 2022, on the final day of their holiday, does not tally with the date noted by Mizan, March 2023.

Mizan said one of the defendants was sentenced "to six years in prison for spying for the French intelligence services, five years for association to commit a crime against national security, and 20 years in exile for intelligence cooperation with the Zionist regime".

The other defendant was "sentenced to 10 years in prison for spying for the French intelligence services, five years for assisting in intelligence cooperation with the Zionist regime", Mizan added. Under Iranian law, jail sentences run concurrently.

## Madagascar's military takes power, president impeached

REUTERS, Antananarivo

Madagascar's military has taken charge of the Indian Ocean island, an army colonel said yesterday, after President Andry Rajoelina fled abroad during a standoff with youth-led protesters and security forces.

"We have taken the power," Colonel Michael Randrianirina, who led a mutiny of soldiers joining anti-government Gen Z demonstrators, said on national radio.

Randrianirina added that the military was dissolving all institutions except the lower house of parliament or National Assembly, which voted to impeach Rajoelina minutes earlier.

In a day of turmoil for the nation off east Africa, the 51-year-old leader had sought to dissolve the assembly by decree. Despite flying out on a French military jet, Rajoelina is refusing to step down in defiance of weeks of Gen Z protests demanding his resignation and widespread defections in the army.

The presidency did not immediately react to Randrianirina's comments but earlier said the assembly meeting was unconstitutional and thus any resolution "null and void."

Rajoelina has said he has moved to a safe place because of threats to his life. An opposition diplomat, a military source and a foreign diplomat told Reuters he had fled the country on Sunday aboard a French military plane.

### ESCALATING DEMOS

Demonstrations erupted in the country on September 25 over water and power shortages and quickly escalated into an uprising over broader grievances, including corruption, bad governance and a lack of basic services.

The anger mirrored recent protests against ruling elites elsewhere, including Nepal and Morocco.

On Tuesday, at Antananarivo's 13 May Square, along the main drag lined with palm trees and French colonial buildings, thousands of protesters danced, marched, sang songs and waved banners denouncing Rajoelina as a French stooge because of his dual citizenship and support from Madagascar's former coloniser.

Many were waving Malagasy flags and the signature Gen Z protest banner of a skull and crossbones from the Japanese "One Piece" anime series.

## Final version of July Charter sent to all parties

FROM PAGE 1

Formed in mid-February, the consensus commission was tasked with reviewing and adopting proposals from six major reform bodies covering the constitution, judiciary, electoral system, Anti-Corruption Commission, and public administration.

After two rounds of discussions with political parties, the consensus commission drafted 84 proposals, half involving constitutional reforms. BNP and its like minded parties had issued notes of dissent on at least nine issues.

On September 10, the commission sent the final draft version of the charter to the parties. The next day, it started the third round of talks with parties on the ways of implementation of the charter.

During the talks, the parties reached a consensus that non-constitutional reforms will be enacted via ordinances and executive orders, and a referendum will be held on reforms

requiring constitutional changes.

They, however, failed to agree on the timing, procedures, and framework of the referendum.

The commission will now combine expert and party opinions to prepare a set of recommendations for the charter's implementation and submit it separately to the interim government after the signing ceremony on October 17, a commission source said.

"No further opinions will be taken from the political parties. The final version is basically the same as the previous final draft, with minor language corrections," the source said.

The ceremony will take place at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus as the chief guest.

Besides the reform issues, the charter seeks pledges from the parties to enshrine the document in the constitution, either as a schedule or in another

appropriate place.

It seeks commitment that the parties will provide constitutional and state recognition to the people's 16-year long uninterrupted struggle to establish democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and especially the historical significance of the July mass uprising of 2024.

The document also commits parties to ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearances, killings and torture during the 16-year struggle against authoritarian rule as well as for all killings during the uprising.

It calls for state recognition of the martyrs, proper assistance to their families, and medical care and rehabilitation for the injured.

implement its decisions.

It further stipulates that decisions that are immediately implementable must be carried out without delay by the interim government and relevant authorities.

The July National Charter 2025 is a "tribute to the heroic martyrs and injured of the anti-fascist democratic movement over 16 years and the mass uprising of July-August 2024", says the charter.

The document stands as a "gesture of sympathy for those arrested and imprisoned, and as an expression of gratitude to all who directly or indirectly took part in that historic uprising", it adds.

In the preamble, it affirms that the document "reflects the aspirations of the people and must be implemented in full as a consensus outcome achieved through a continuous process".

It further highlights that the people are the true owners of the state, and their will is the highest law.

## Russia strikes aid convoy in Ukraine: UN

AFP, Kyiv

Russian forces struck a UN aid convoy in the partially occupied southern Kherson region of Ukraine yesterday, Kyiv and the UN said, adding there were no casualties in the attack.

The United Nations said its convoy of four vehicles was clearly marked and came under attack from Russian drones and artillery while delivering aid to the frontline town of Bilozerkia.

"Such attacks are utterly unacceptable. Aid workers are protected by international humanitarian law and should never be attacked," said the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine Matthias Schmale.

He added that two World Food Programme trucks were damaged in the strike, while local authorities said the remaining two were unscathed.

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শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২৬ (ব্যাচ-২০২৬)

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Ref. No. 46.06.2000.000.315.31.0122.25-4106 Date: 13.10.2025

### e-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Package No.	Package description	Tender method	Tender ID No.	Tender opening date & time
1.	46.06.2000.000.315.31.0122.25	Supply and Installation of LS Vacuum Contactor Switch (VCS) Contoller Card under Nasirabad Water Management Control & Booster.	OTM	1159820	26-Oct-2025 12:00:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches within date mentioned in Tender Notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

SPR 161/14/10/25

Abdullah Muhammad Shaker  
Executive Engineer (C. C.)  
Nasirabad Water Management Control & Booster  
Chattogram WASA, Chattogram

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Don't normalise violence against women

### Expand support services, ensure justice for victims, and end child marriage

The outcome of a recently unveiled national survey on violence against women, jointly conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is truly depressing. It's a shameful reflection of the deep-rooted discriminatory mindset of not only policymakers but also society in general. Perhaps the survey's most shocking, if not entirely surprising, finding is that most offenders are those whom victims usually trust: close family members, intimate partners, or husbands. It also paints a grim picture of marital relationships, with three out of every four women saying they have experienced some form of intimate partner violence.

Our policymakers need to take a hard look at the underlying causes of the persistent and appalling trend of physical and psychological abuse of women. One key factor behind its normalisation is the feudal notion of so-called family honour, which restricts or discourages women from speaking out about the violence they face. The survey found that two in every three women never shared their experiences with anyone. Covering 27,476 women aged 15 and above nationwide, the survey shows how violence continues to affect women in every social group, including those living in slums, disaster-prone areas, and women with disabilities.

Another deeply worrying finding is that 62 percent of survivors of such violence are girls aged between 15 and 19—either victims of child marriage or barely above the legal age limit. This fact alone should raise alarm, as it reflects the failure of national initiatives to prevent child marriage. These young women will likely bear the scars of marital violence for years to come, as it inevitably affects their family lives and mental and physical well-being.

The survey—the third national study of its kind, following earlier rounds in 2011 and 2015—exposes the distressing reality that, instead of seeing improvements in women's safety over time, their suffering continues apace. It is also deeply concerning that state support for victims of violence remains so inadequate and ineffective that more than 51 percent of women do not know where to report abuse. Although the authorities have introduced some special programmes, including the telephone helpline (short code 109) and One-Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs), awareness of these support services remains alarmingly low. Less than 16 percent of women apparently know about the helpline, while only 2.2 percent have heard of the OCCs.

This state of affairs is unacceptable. To prevent the widespread violence against women, the government must intensify its campaigns to raise awareness about available state support, expand and strengthen the support services, ensure justice for victims, and redouble efforts to eradicate child marriage. Sociocultural organisations must also step up and build strong social resistance against all forms of violence targeting women and girls.

## CCC must play the role expected of it

### Address the myriad problems facing Chattogram residents

Chattogram city has long been grappling with a host of problems exacerbating the plight of its residents. Despite spending an estimated Tk 10,000 crore to address the waterlogging crisis over the past eight years, the city still goes under water during heavy rainfall. Its drains and canals remain clogged with waste, hampering the drainage system, while frequent flooding during monsoon often turns its open drains and canals deadly. Adding to the city's woes, there has been a sharp rise in mosquito-borne diseases this year. Against this backdrop, it is unfortunate to learn about the Chattogram City Corporation's (CCC) struggle to clean its 1,600-kilometre drainage network and 57 canals apparently due to a lack of modern machinery.

Reportedly, while the government has approved a long-pending CCC project to purchase essential equipment for this purpose, the approval came with a condition that 60 percent of the funding would come as a loan and 40 percent as a grant. Already burdened with debt, the CCC is reluctant to take on additional loans. The mayor argues that the organisation is a service-oriented body, not a commercial entity, and therefore should not be required to operate under commercial loan terms that involve paying interest. However, the government has urged the CCC to become more self-reliant and accept the loan.

While ideally the CCC should be a self-sustaining entity with its own sources of income, this is not the case in reality. It primarily carries out development activities with funds received from various projects, while only a small portion of its income comes from holding taxes and other sources. The CCC's ability to increase revenue or obtain grants is also dependent on the approval of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives. But the project in question being an important one for the city, we think the authorities should find a way to address funding shortages through proper discussion among the parties involved.

At the same time, the CCC must fulfil its responsibilities properly. Its inefficiency or neglect in carrying out basic duties—such as keeping the city clean, addressing the mosquito menace, covering open drains that frequently cause fatal accidents, and regularly cleaning drains and canals under its jurisdiction—is deeply unfortunate. The corporation also has a history of delaying development projects for indefinite periods, a practice that should no longer be tolerated. Experts have repeatedly criticised its failure to properly maintain the city's vital waterways and highlighted serious flaws in project implementation. Going forward, this must change. Moreover, the persistent lack of coordination among various government agencies, which continues to worsen the city's waterlogging problem, must be urgently addressed.

# Why the 2025 Nobel prize in economics matters for us



## MACRO MIRROR

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

## FAHMIDA KHATUN

This year's Nobel Prize in economics went to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for explaining how innovation creates sustained prosperity. It is a prize for a particular way of seeing growth: as a restless, experimental process that constantly replaces old technologies, firms, and even mindsets with better ones. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honoured the trio "for having explained innovation-driven economic growth," with half the prize awarded to Mokyr "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress," and the other half to Aghion and Howitt "for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction."

At its core, their combined contribution is putting dynamism at the heart of economics. Joel Mokyr demonstrates how a culture that prized useful knowledge and tolerated disruption transformed scientific insight into practical technologies, while Aghion and Howitt provide the mathematical foundation for this story: a model in which new ideas displace incumbent technologies, thereby increasing productivity over time, even as they unsettle the status quo. The press release and scientific background from the Nobel committee make the complementarity of their work plain: Mokyr explains the historical turning point that made continuous improvement possible; Aghion and Howitt show how, once that engine is running, competition, incentives, and policy shape its speed and direction.

Mokyr, in his seminal books *The Lever of Riches* (1990), *The Gifts of Athena* (2002), and *A Culture of Growth* (2016), argues that Europe's Industrial Revolution did not happen by chance or because of coal or colonial wealth. Rather, it was the result of what he calls an "Industrial Enlightenment"—a period when people began to value practical, useful knowledge. This included both scientific understanding (theory) and hands-on skills (know-how). The two began to reinforce each other: science inspired better tools and machines, while the problems faced by inventors and craftsmen inspired new scientific discoveries. Once this continuous exchange began, innovation became self-sustaining. Mokyr shows that, in earlier times, bursts of creativity faded because societies lacked institutions that encouraged experimentation and accepted failure.

Aghion and Howitt, on the other hand, took Joseph Schumpeter's evocative phrase "creative destruction" and made it operational. Schumpeter was one of the most influential economists of the early 20th century. Aghion and Howitt's 1992 *Econometrica* paper, "A Model of Growth Through Creative Destruction,"

formalises an economy where firms climb a quality ladder by innovating, and every innovation replaces the old one, taking business away from existing firms. Growth, therefore, arises within the economy itself, driven by the motivation to stay ahead and earn profits from new ideas. But this process involves a delicate balance. If policymakers protect established firms too much, they discourage new ideas and competition. On the other hand, if inventors are not protected enough, they lose the incentive to invest in innovation.



Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt won the Nobel Prize in economics this year for explaining how innovation creates sustained prosperity.

PHOTO: REUTERS

The Nobel Committee's background paper explains the basic idea of their model. Economic growth happens through gradual, step-by-step improvements in technology. Innovators get temporary rewards, such as patents, for their discoveries. The overall economic growth depends on how effectively resources like labour and capital move from old technologies to new ones. Over time, this framework has been expanded to study many modern issues, including competition policy, trade, taxation, and inequality, and to design social protection systems for workers losing jobs to technological change.

Furthermore, the "creative destruction" model helped economists examine growth in the real world. The model shows that innovation and competition are closely linked. When companies compete to produce better ideas or products, productivity and living standards rise. This theory has helped researchers understand how competition, trade, research, and development-friendly policies can boost long-term growth while shaping debates about how much governments should support innovation through tax incentives or subsidies, and how workers,

and automation. The Nobel Committee emphasised a key lesson from the laureates' work: that long-term progress depends on constant renewal. Economics must allow new ideas and firms to emerge, even if that means replacing old ones. However, innovation can be sustainable only if people are protected through fair competition, education, and social safety nets. In other words, growth and inclusion must go hand in hand.

These ideas are highly relevant for Bangladesh. Over the past three decades, garments, remittances, and entrepreneurship have powered the country's growth. However, it now faces the challenges of a middle-income economy while experiencing limited export diversity, energy shortages, urgency to move up the value chain, and pressure to cut carbon emissions. A Schumpeterian view suggests that Bangladesh should focus on dynamism itself, making it easier for new firms to enter, for weaker ones to restructure or exit, and for technologies to spread across all sectors. The key lessons for Bangladesh from this year's Nobel Prize in economics are discussed below.

First, encourage fair competition. The Aghion-Howitt model shows

that competition drives innovation. When a few powerful players dominate the market, new ideas struggle to grow. Bangladesh needs a stronger competition authority, fair public procurement, and transparent regulation so that smaller or newer firms can compete on equal terms.

Second, invest in practical knowledge, in line with Mokyr's emphasis on "useful knowledge," combining scientific ideas with practical skills. Bangladesh should strengthen technical and vocational training, link universities with industries, and support engineering and innovation at the factory level. Without this connection, imported technology will not translate into productivity gains.

Third, support innovation, not protectionism. Industrial policy should encourage experimentation, not preserve outdated industries. Incentives and subsidies should be time-bound and focused on emerging areas like green textiles, pharmaceuticals, IT services, and sustainable manufacturing. Protecting inefficient firms only slows progress.

Fourth, protect people. Workers displaced by technological change should be helped through training, re-employment programmes, and portable benefits. As Aghion argues, social protection makes innovation politically acceptable. For Bangladesh, this means aligning skills programmes with future-oriented sectors like green energy and digital services.

Fifth, stay open to the world. Openness to trade, ideas, and people is essential for innovation. Mokyr's historical research shows that knowledge grows through exchange, not isolation. For Bangladesh, predictable trade policies and openness to global collaboration are vital for upgrading its economy.

Three sectors where Bangladesh can apply these lessons are presented here. First, the garment industry must adopt advanced technologies and design capabilities to move up the value chain. Policies should reward firms that innovate through automation, digital design, and waste reduction, and allow underperforming ones to exit or merge to raise overall productivity.

Second, the financial sector must be disciplined. When poor-performing firms continue to receive easy loans, better ones are starved of capital. Completing banking and bankruptcy reforms will help move money and resources from less productive to more innovative uses. Third, Bangladesh should strengthen research and innovation networks by linking universities, industries, and training centres. As Mokyr argues, the greatest progress happens when science and practice feed each other. Encouraging young engineers and researchers to solve real industrial problems will help create that culture.

At a time when automation and artificial intelligence are transforming economies, the Nobel laureates' work offers both caution and hope. For Bangladesh, the message is to nurture learning, create open space for innovators, and ensure that the gains of growth are shared by all.

# Gen-Z discontent in Asia can affect geopolitical shifts



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## K.M. ARSHAD

South and southeast Asia, in recent years, has become a focal point for large-scale uprisings that have overthrown regimes, exposed deep-seated frustrations, and triggered major political shifts.

Although the protests—Sri Lanka's Aragalaya protests, Bangladesh's 2024 July uprising, Nepal's Gen Z revolution and Indonesia's anti-corruption protests—differ in their immediate causes, they share common roots in economic despair, governance failures, and a generational demand for accountability. In Sri Lanka, decades of poor economic management, such as unsustainable tax cuts and reckless money printing, created a devastating debt trap with foreign reserves falling to mere billions while debt repayments soared. The country's 2022 debt default, its first since independence, triggered unprecedented inflation, shortages

of essentials, and a sharp economic contraction. Likewise, Bangladesh, despite its impressive growth trajectory, experienced widening inequality, with a youth unemployment rate of 13.54 percent and inflation, which eroded purchasing power. In Nepal, youth unemployment exceeding 20 percent, coupled with widespread anger at the extravagant lifestyles of political elites amid public hardship, drove discontent. Indonesia's protests, though initially sparked by police brutality, were underpinned by economic anxieties from rising food inflation and austerity. These crises were both structural and cyclical and rooted in corruption, nepotism, and failures to meet basic needs.

The protests represent a wholesale rejection of entrenched elites and dynastic politics. In Sri Lanka, the Rajapaksa dynasty, once hailed for

ending the civil war, came to symbolise corrupt authoritarianism. The Aragalaya movement, after successfully ousting President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, also revealed the fragility of leaderless protests when establishment figure Ranil Wickremesinghe reasserted institutional power. Bangladesh's July uprising led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, whose regime was infamous for nepotism and cronyism. Nepal's protests, initially sparked by a social media ban, grew into a sweeping indictment of the entire political class symbolised by the torching of parliament and leaders' residences. Indonesia's protests targeted not only police brutality but also a wider culture of impunity and elite privilege. Furthermore, young people, especially students, have emerged as powerful voices for meritocracy, accountability, and fairness in these protests. Also, social media both mobilised movements and became a target of government repression, as seen in Nepal's platform bans. Yet, such repression often backfired, intensifying public outrage and broadening the base of support for these movements.

These upheavals also carry significant geopolitical ramifications. South Asia has long been a battleground for India-China rivalry, and political unrest is reshaping those

dynamics. India's billions in credit lines have deepened Sri Lanka's dependence and China's reluctance to cooperate on debt restructuring initially did not help. Bangladesh's predicament could compel it to recalibrate relations with Western nations and regional powers, particularly if prolonged unrest affects its garments sector, which accounts for over 80 percent of its exports. Nepal's unrest could invite greater involvement from both India and China, each seeking to influence its political trajectory.

Looking ahead, the future paths of these countries remain uncertain. Sri Lanka's new leadership will have to navigate debt restructuring, governance reform, and the lingering pressures of Aragalaya. Bangladesh must rebuild public trust in its institutions while tackling the economic pressures that have already cost billions. Nepal faces the challenge of reforming governance to address widespread disillusionment, particularly among the youth, and to combat corruption. Indonesia's government, though initially responsive to parts of the protesters' demands, will need to pursue long-term reforms to avert further unrest. Regionally, whether these movements succeed or fail will determine if South Asia advances towards greater accountability and prosperity or regresses into repression and instability.

TRIBUTE TO SYED MANZOORUL ISLAM

# He moves still, in the gyres of our memory



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ARUN GUPTO

It has been several days since the passing of Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, yet I remain grief-stricken. I find myself asking: what is loss? Or rather, what is loss for those like me who have lost such a man? And what is loss for those who have never lived with such men?

As I travel back to the beginning, I recall—Manzoorul da's doctoral thesis was on Emanuel Swedenborg's influence on WB Yeats. He had titled it "Gyres and Spirits," exploring Swedenborg's notion of spiralling motion and how it resonates through Yeats's idea of the gyre—an image that envisions histories and human consciousness as moving in intersecting spirals, ever-evolving, ever-rotating. I try to picture him as a young student walking the streets of Kingston in the late 1970s, his mind alive with ideas of motion. I think of Manzoorul da's passing through this very idea of motion.

He loved Yeats. When it comes to death, the poet believed in the afterlife; Manzoorul da did not. "I don't believe in the afterlife. Rather, I'm happy spending my life as a teacher. I'll be extremely fortunate if this happiness remains till the end of my life," he once said, and indeed, it did. Yet, he now gyres back as an element of nature through his burial.

Manzoorul da never forgot to text me after Bangladeshi or Nepali cricket victories. I was revisiting some of those old messages yesterday morning. After Nepal's recent win over the West Indies, I had written, "It's amazing! What has happened to the West Indies?" to which he replied, "No, it's what happened to Nepal that is amazing! I guess Stuart Law is giving them a sense of confidence." Manzoorul da was quite fond of Nepal. Whenever we invited him to a conference or a meeting, he would be there

without any delay. The last time he visited Nepal was in 2024, as a keynote speaker at a conference.

He first visited Kathmandu 34 years ago for a literary conference. I remember the day he met my family for the first time. My daughter, Pallabi, was three. He bent down, held her face, and touched the tip of her nose with his. It took very little time for Soma, my wife, to find a brother in him. We laughed at how I had instantly become his *jamai*, the brother-in-law. "I have a sister in Nepal," he would often tell his friends. I cannot describe when or how our families became one.

Come to think of it, he never met our son-in-law, nor did we meet his daughter-in-law, but how lovely these two recent additions were in our lives was always part of our regular conversations. Once, I visited Dhaka without Soma, and Manzoorul da chided me, saying I was "not welcome" there without his sister. The depth and warmth of his love were magnificent.

One day, I called him to complain about the nature of religious discourses and regressive foundational thinking in South Asia. He listened patiently as I said, "I'm detesting reading the Upanishads and Hindu texts on philosophical systems." "Why?" he asked. "Too much mediocrity in the use of these texts—people use them to propagate regression, division, and fundamentalism!" I replied. He said, "No, Arun! They are, as you already know, monuments of unaging intellect. All religious texts are, in their deep structures. You cannot read or unread them based on how people interpret them. You are Shreedhar's student. Go and talk to him again."

The regard he held for Professor Shreedhar Lohani was of a different league. Once, in

Pokhara, I asked him about Shreedhar sir. "I feel like there are just two or three scholars left in South Asia who carry this dynamic oral tradition of the Socratic kind. Two of them are pirs or sadhus by the lonely hut and riverside, and one is your Shreedhar," he said. I never heard either Manzoorul da or Shreedhar sir say this outright, but I often wondered if their shared fondness for Yeats might have drawn them to each other. In fact, Shreedhar sir had

South Asia look when we discuss it from Bangladesh's perspective, or Nepal's, for that matter?" I don't remember his exact words, but recalling that conversation, he said something like this:

"Arun, it expands South Asia into a range of perspectives—the myths and sea discourse Kaiser (Prof Kaiser Haq) is writing about, Fakrul's (Prof Fakrul Alam) interregional literary sensibilities, or Abhi's poems, where

people like Manzoorul da and Shreedhar sir. They taught me the meditativeness of listening.

A week ago, as we do every year during Durga Puja, Soma and I called him to seek his blessings. He asked how we were, and Soma told him about our plans to return to Kathmandu from the US, where we were visiting our daughter, *jamai*, and granddaughters. "What is Jhinki (Pallabi) doing?" he asked. "Working away as usual," Soma replied. His response: "Tomra shobai dosh haathe kaaj kore jao, tomrai toh Durga" ("You all work with ten hands; you are the Durga"). It was always about perspective—I always learned that from him.

Just a week ago, before his passing, Soma and I were thinking about grandchildren—not just ours, but the very idea of them, the peace they bring, and the joy they radiate. We had just hung up after talking to Manzoorul da, and Soma recalled his fondness for his grandchildren, and we reminisced about a funny story he once shared with us.

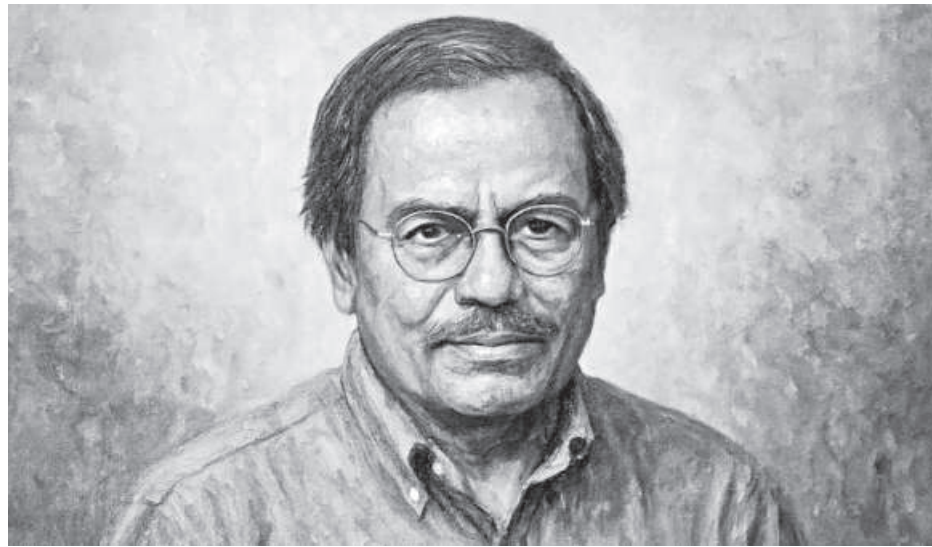
Once, while stranded in a city during floods, Manzoorul da took his toddler granddaughter downstairs to see the water. As he held her, she stretched out her arms towards the puddles that the floodwater had formed inside their hotel. Glancing over his shoulder to see the father distracted, he quickly let her dip her feet in the water, and she splashed away happily. Upon returning upstairs, he carefully reminded the child that the splash was their secret. "But the moment she saw your *boudi*, she let it all out! Oh, her look!" he told us, laughing. Soma and I could picture his mischievous smile and the mock-fear on his face—like a child himself...

Manzoorul da, the human child, who has now been stolen from us.

As I finish this piece, written in memoriam of Manzoorul da, these lines from Yeats's "The Stolen Child" feel peacefully fitting:

"Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than  
you can understand."

Go, Manzoorul da. Go with a fairy hand in hand. And here we remain, mourning this loss for the rest of our days.



Syed Manzoorul Islam (1951 - 2025)

FILE ILLUSTRATION: STAR

met him even before I knew either of them—at Oxford. Two days ago, when I told him the news, Shreedhar sir wrote, "I'm heartbroken, Arun. I will never go to Bangladesh." He meant it. His friend isn't there anymore.

As I write this, these lines from Yeats's cross my mind:

"Think where man's glory most begins  
and ends,  
And say my glory was I had such friends."

It was 2018. Manzoorul da and his wife, our *boudi*, had visited us, and we had gone to Nagarkot. It was that time of year when the icy peaks were still visible. We sat facing them, drinking tea. I remember asking him something along the lines of, "How does

he sees you beyond your room and sees us beyond ours. The Bangladeshi perspective can connect South Asia to Southeast Asia—the maritime silk route from Bengal, eastern Nepal, and India to China in the north. The cartographic vision can thus shape both similarities and contradictions in South Asian studies."

One cannot forget such nuances. His understanding of Islam was linguistically and vernacularly driven. "Arun, Bangla bhasha (language) will retain the culture of Bangladesh," he once told me. At another time, he said, "If languages are lost, the philosophies of religion go haywire!"

I had developed the habit of listening to

# RTI: Are our political parties ready for transparency and accountability?

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SHAMSUL BARI and RUBI NAZ

An encouraging outcome of the protracted crisis confronting Bangladesh's right to information (RTI) regime over the past year has been the growing attention the law has received from concerned citizens and civil society leaders. The July 2024 uprising further amplified the debates.

Out of this moment has emerged a clear public demand: to explicitly include political parties within the RTI Act's definition of "public authorities." Such inclusion is contested in most jurisdictions, most notably in neighbouring India, precisely because it would subject political parties, like other public-serving bodies, to statutory record-keeping and disclosure obligations. Unsurprisingly, many parties resist this expansion, wary that their internal records, finances, and decision-making processes could be scrutinised under the law.

A close look at the definition of "authority" under Bangladesh's RTI Act, 2009, helps explain how political parties contest their inclusion. To qualify as an "authority," an entity must be: (i) any organisation constituted under the constitution; (ii) any ministry, division, or office established under what is known as the "Rules of Business;" (iii) any statutory body established by or under any act; (iv) any private organisation funded by government grants; (v) any private organisation funded by foreign grants; (vi) any organisation performing public functions under a government contract; or (vii) any organisation notified in the official gazette.

Political parties argue that they fall into none of these categories and, therefore, lie outside the RTI Act's purview, not being obliged to respond to citizens' RTI requests.

Citizens, on the other hand, argue that they should have access to information about political parties' activities, given their central role in governance. The RTI Act was adopted to make public officials more open and accountable to the

people. In practice, politicians—operating through their parties—are integral to governance, such as shaping policy, selecting candidates, forming cabinets and coalitions, and influencing public expenditure and regulation. In that context, political parties too should be considered "public authorities," accountable to citizens.

Though untested in Bangladesh, similar issues have been debated in India. As RTI requests to political parties were repeatedly stonewalled, the Central Information Commission (CIC) of India faced numerous complaints from citizens. In 2013, the CIC ruled that political parties are indeed "public authorities," as they are "substantially financed by the Central Government," and they receive benefits from it, and perform functions of public importance.

Parties enjoy benefits such as the allocation of land for offices, government accommodation at subsidised rates, and income tax exemptions, the CIC noted. It reasoned that political parties wield significant influence over government power and must therefore be accountable to citizens.

As expected, the parties ignored the CIC's decision. Yet, since it was never overturned, it remains valid, albeit in legal limbo. This led an NGO to file a writ petition before the Indian Supreme Court in 2015, which the court finally took up for hearing in April 2025. The outcome remains awaited.

Given India's experience, incorporating political parties into Bangladesh's RTI framework is likely to be a challenging task. As a starting point, citizens could test the parties' positions by submitting RTI requests. If they refuse, the Information Commission's complaint mechanism, once revived, should be invoked. Failing that, a writ petition may be filed in court.

This process will likely take considerable time. Meanwhile, citizens may pursue three avenues in parallel.

First, they may lobby the interim government to include political parties as "public authorities" through an amendment order to the RTI Act, reportedly under consideration with input from citizens, which the next parliament will hopefully endorse. A few

countries—Mexico, Nepal, and North Macedonia—have explicitly brought political parties within the scope of RTI laws. Others, such as Chile, Spain, and South Africa, have achieved the same effect through related legislation or judicial rulings.

Second, citizens and NGOs could engage directly with political parties on the importance of transparency and accountability and on their readiness to accept inclusion under the RTI Act. NGOs with relevant expertise could organise dialogues ahead of elections to discuss parties' likely obligations under the RTI framework, ideally encouraging them to include a commitment to the law in their manifestos.

Third, citizens may begin seeking information about political parties that is already available from public bodies. Under the Representation of the People Order, 1972 (President's Order), parties must submit reports to the Election Commission detailing financial statements, income, expenditure, and sources of funds. These can be requested directly from the commission. Similarly, tax-related information may be obtained from the National Board of Revenue.

The Information Commission has previously ruled against releasing such information held by the Election Commission in response to citizen requests. This prompted Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), the civil society organisation, to file a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the decision. In its landmark judgment of February 2016, the Court declared the Information Commission's order to have been "passed without lawful authority and of no legal effect," directing the Election Commission to release the requested information.

More importantly, the court stated unequivocally: "Ignoring the people's right to know, keeping them in the dark, and playing hide-and-seek with them in a democratic country like ours, where all powers belong to the people and their mandate is necessary for ruling the country, no registered political party can be allowed to take the stand that the audited statements submitted to the Election Commission are 'secret information.'"

There is, therefore, reason for

hope. Let us proceed constructively: first, by opening dialogue with political parties on this vital issue and promoting greater use of the law by citizens committed to strengthening democracy; and second, by urging

the interim government to enhance transparency and accountability by swiftly filling the vacant posts of Information Commissioners with qualified, credible persons, making the necessary amendments

to the law, and ensuring its proper implementation. After all, it was a caretaker government that first enacted the RTI Ordinance, 2008, which was later passed as the RTI Act, 2009.



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## Tanim Noor to adapt Humayun Ahmed's 'Kichhukkhon' as 'Bonolota Express'

Director Tanim Noor has announced his new feature film *Bonolota Express*, adapted from Humayun Ahmed's acclaimed novel *Kichhukkhon*.

The teaser, unveiled yesterday, confirms the film will release in theatres on Eid-ul-Fitr 2025. Presented by Buriganga talkies, in association with hoichoi studios and DOPE productions, the project follows the success of Noor's award-winning film *Utshob*.

The filmmaker revealed the adaptation while accepting the Cinematic Excellence Award at The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

Although details on the cast and shooting schedule remain undisclosed, the announcement has generated strong anticipation among audiences eager to see Noor's cinematic take on one of Humayun Ahmed's most beloved literary works.



PHOTO: RATUL CHOWDHURY

## LIVING ON DEATH ROW A voice for the wronged and forgotten

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

Sitting in the comfort of our homes, we often forget the unseen injustices that unfold every day. But imagine, for a moment, that the warmth of that cup of tea fades away. The soft bed is replaced by a cold, hard floor. The familiar room becomes a six-by-eight-foot cell shared with seven others. The thought alone is unsettling.

In Bangladesh, countless individuals face such realities — thrown into condemned cells after being accused of crimes they may not have committed. Some are executed, others die of illness, and a few are eventually released. But even for those who walk free, is it truly freedom? Social death lingers. The whispers, the suspicion, and the stigma follow them everywhere.

These are the questions that photographer Mostifqur Rahman Johan confronts in his exhibition *Living on Death Row*, curated by Tanzim Wahab and co-curated by Hadi Uddin. The exhibition, hosted at Drik Gallery, portrays the stories of 12 individuals who spent years in condemned cells before finally being released.

The moment visitors step into the gallery, they are greeted by a stark chart displaying death-penalty statistics from 2010 to June 2025 — a striking reminder of how many lives hang in uncertainty. The exhibition's title captures this paradox of existence



PHOTO: NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

— living while waiting to die.

The photographs depict ordinary moments: people sitting with family, resting in their bedrooms, or walking down a street. At first glance, they appear like any other citizens. But their stories reveal the haunting truth — each portrait belongs to someone who spent years on death row. These innocent people lived in fear every day, eating their meals thinking each might be their last. Their resilience, however, shines through. Despite losing youth, loved ones, and decades of life, they continue to persevere, refusing to surrender to despair.

Through *Living on Death Row*, Johan hopes to ignite a conversation about the justice system and its consequences. He said, "There is little accountability for those who wrongfully imprison innocent people.

My goal is to raise awareness and push for judicial reform." He also intends to advocate for compensation for those unjustly sentenced, seeing it as the first step toward restorative justice.

The exhibition stands as both art and activism — a reminder that behind every statistic lies a story, a family, and a life interrupted. *Living on Death Row* is not merely a showcase of photos; it is a call to see, to remember, and to seek change.

The exhibition is currently on display at Drik Gallery, DrikPath Bhubon, in Panthapath, Dhaka. Supported by the European Union, the Embassy of France in Bangladesh, Drik Picture Library, and The Death Penalty Project, the show opened on October 10, 2025, and will run until October 19, 2025, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm every day.

## Bangladesh-China diplomacy's Golden Jubilee celebrated in Beijing

To celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China, a special cultural evening was held at 6 PM in Beijing, yesterday.

The event showcased the musical heritage of Bangladesh, featuring renowned music composer Emon Chowdhury and the Bengal Symphony, joined on stage by rock vocalists D Rockstar Shuvo and Oni Hasan.

The performance spanned generations of Bangladeshi music — from the timeless songs of legendary mystic bards such as Lalou Shah, Hason Raja, Shah Abdul Karim, and Abbasuddin Ahmed, to the anthems of contemporary rock icon Ayub Bachchu.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### Film Screening: Khacha

Drishyapat Film Society will screen Akram Khan's acclaimed film *Khacha* as part of its fifth showcase. Set during the 1947 Partition, the film follows a Brahmin family's perilous journey from East Pakistan to India, exploring faith, loss, and identity amid the turmoil of religious division.

DATE: THURSDAY | OCT 16, 2025  
TIME: 5 PM ONWARDS  
VENUE: DUCSU CAFETERIA, DHAKA UNIVERSITY



## NEWS

### July attacks were systematic crimes

FROM PAGE 12  
Tajul placed his arguments for the third consecutive day in the case filed against the trio.

Quoting physicians who treated the victims, the prosecutor said patients were shot from elevated positions and even from helicopters. Some had parts of their skulls blown off, while hundreds were hit in the eyes with metallic pellets and bullets.

"These attacks were consistent, not random, and similar weapons were used in Dhaka and other districts in a coordinated manner — hallmarks of systematic attacks," Tajul told the three-member tribunal.

He said evidence also showed that women, girls, and children were targeted, abused, and in some cases killed, detained, or tortured by security forces and armed AL supporters. "Our investigation agency and the UN fact-finding report both identified these patterns, proving the attacks were directed systematically against civilians."

Referring to the UN report, Tajul said forensic examinations of 130 victims conducted by Dhaka Medical

College's forensic department found that 66 percent died from military-grade rifles, 12 percent from shotguns, two percent from pistols, and 20 percent from other weapons.

The prosecution also alleged that injured protesters were denied medical treatment, doctors were obstructed from performing post-mortems of many victims, and bodies were buried as unidentified or under coercion.

"These meet the criteria of systematic attacks under the Rome Statute, which Bangladesh has ratified," Tajul said, referring to the treaty defining crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

To support the first charge, Tajul cited inciting remarks made by Hasina on July 14, when she branded protesters as "Rajakars", and by AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader the following day, saying Chhatra League was "ready to respond".

He added that following the statements, Chhatra League members attacked students at various universities, after which

police and armed AL supporters launched assaults on protesters, killing over 1,400 and injuring more than 25,000.

Quoting testimony from ex-IGP Mamun, Tajul named several leaders of AL-led 14-party alliance who allegedly urged Hasina to use lethal force.

Tajul cited audio recordings of Hasina's conversations with her nephew, then Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, in which she said she had already given instructions on the use of lethal weapons, drones, and helicopters. "This evidence is sufficient to establish Hasina's command responsibility."

He also referred to Hasina's alleged phone calls with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu and then Dhaka University VC Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, as well as a wireless message from then DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman directing police to open fire on protesters.

The arguments will continue today.

### 'No rank above justice'

FROM PAGE 12  
Itekaruzzaman said, "How can discrimination based on identity or position be acceptable in cases involving the same allegations? In the trial process of individuals accused of crimes against humanity, there is no scope to consider professional identity or rank."

"Granting or assessing anyone with special privileges in this way goes against the principle of justice. If other accused persons can be held in civilian custody under regular procedures, what is the justification for establishing specialised sub-jails for accused military officers?"

The statement also asked, "Will the government then offer as many types of sub-jails as there are professional or institutional identities among the accused from state and non-state sectors?"

"This discriminatory behaviour by

the government will call into question the judicial process of the International Crimes Tribunal, creating the risk of public confusion regarding the government's intentions, particularly among victims and their families. Effective measures must be taken to ensure that there is no scope for even the slightest doubt about the impartiality and transparency of the trial process."

Itekaruzzaman further said, "According to article 27 of the constitution, which guarantees 'equality before the law,' and under the basic principles of relevant international law, no person accused of crimes against humanity is entitled to any special privilege — this applies equally to members of the armed forces."

Referring to the example of a former military officer accused of crimes against humanity, Itekaruzzaman said, "In some cases, the army arrested

the accused at the airport and handed them over to the police, which we consider a positive precedent. That individual is currently detained under civilian control.

"Therefore, why are other accused military officers required to remain in military custody? The military authorities and the government must provide an explanation," reads the statement.

TIB also said, "All parties involved must ensure that accountability for crimes against humanity, such as enforced disappearances, killings, and torture, is secured in accordance with constitutional commitments and internationally recognised procedures."

"The opportunity for exemplary justice, achieved through immense sacrifice, must not be undermined by discriminatory behaviour that grants special privileges to a particular group."

### WFP reaffirms Rohingya food

FROM PAGE 12  
— stating that it had successfully "brought international attention back to the crisis."

"It was an important meeting. We must ensure it remains high on the international agenda," said Skau.

The duo also discussed the potential for securing funding from new sources, including wealthy nations and multilateral financial institutions.

Skau noted that following fresh humanitarian aid commitments from the United States and the United

Kingdom announced during the UN high-level meeting in New York, WFP would continue providing the \$12 monthly food stipend to each Rohingya.

Prof Yunus expressed appreciation for WFP's global leadership in combating hunger and famine. He also thanked the UN agency for its support in launching a new school feeding programme in Bangladesh.

"Some Asian countries have made amazing progress with school feeding. We aim to strengthen our efforts,

ensuring both quality and gradual expansion," the Chief Adviser said.

The discussion also touched on the hunger conditions in the world. Skau mentioned WFP's ongoing efforts to deliver hundreds of food trucks into Gaza, amid rising food insecurity affecting nearly 300 million people globally.

Food Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter, SDG Coordinator Lamiya Morshed and Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam were present at the meeting.

### 'We're trapped, we can't get out'

FROM PAGE 1  
slum on Road-12 of Rupnagar residential area, only 300 yards away from work.

Her mother, Yasmin Begum, told The Daily Star that the couple, who got married three months ago, had come to Dhaka to build a better future.

"Joy used to work at a garment factory in Gazipur before her marriage. They then joined the same factory [Arian Fashion] — Joy as an operator and Alo as a helper on the same floor.

"We can see the factory from our home," Yasmin said, adding, "There was a loud bang, and then we heard people shouting that the factory caught fire."

At the scene, Sultan was standing with a photograph of his daughter and son-in-law. "I called her when I heard about the fire."

"She picked up and said they were trapped. I told her to find a way out,

like everyone else."

Firefighters recovered 16 bodies from the site. The fire service said DNA tests will be required to identify the victims as the bodies have been badly burnt.

Joy's mother, Sheuly Begum, who arrived at the site in tears, said, "My son took this job hoping for a better life. Now I can't find my son or his wife."

Another worker, Munni Akhter, who lived next door to Alo and worked on the same floor, was also missing. Her husband, Naim, was seen running frantically from one end of the street to another, searching for her.

Munni's mother-in-law, Tahera Begum, said, "She left for work after breakfast. Later, we heard about the fire."

Munni had married Naim only six months ago.

"Naim works at a sweet shop, but his income wasn't enough. So, Munni started working at the factory for Tk

7,500 a month. She even managed to send money home."

Grieving relatives crowded the entrance of the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, some clutching photos.

Among them was Parvin Begum, holding a photo of her niece Asma Akhter.

Asma came to Dhaka from her village three months ago to live with her aunt. Her parents sent her to the city hoping she could help support their family of eight. Asma worked as a helper on the third floor of the RMG unit.

"She was supposed to come home for lunch but never did," Parvin said. "When we heard about the fire, we ran to the factory but couldn't find her."

Dhaka Medical College Hospital said families of the missing victims would be called to provide DNA samples for identification once testing begins.

## RAPE OF STUDENT Fugitive man sentenced to 44 years in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced a man to 44 years' rigorous imprisonment in absentia for abducting and raping a student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College eight years ago.

Judge Munshi Md Moshir Rahman of Dhaka Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-4 delivered the verdict against Anis Ahmed Neel.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 1.5 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve 18 more months in jail.

According to the case documents, Neel used to harass the victim on her way to and from school.

On October 30, 2017, he abducted her from Kamrangirchar while she was going to attend a coaching class and raped her.

The victim's father filed a case with Kamrangirchar Police Station, and police later rescued the girl from Dinajpur.

Police submitted a charge sheet on March 31, 2018.



Individuals from low-income households wait in line early in the morning to buy rice at Tk 30 per kilogramme from OMS (open market sale) dealers on Boyra College Boundary Road in Khulna. Like them, many endure long hours to purchase daily essentials at a subsidised rate.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Jubo Dal man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A local Jubo Dal activist was hacked to death by miscreants in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat early yesterday.

The deceased is Jahidul Islam Mintu, 45, of Shibpur village under Raripara union, said police.

Raripara union BNP President Rezaul Hossain said Mintu was a Jubo Dal activist.

According to locals, Mintu's family had been dealing with complications due to his two marriages. On Monday night, an argument broke out between Mintu and his first wife, Jharna Begum. Around 3:00am, a group of 8-10 men stormed their house, beat him up, and hacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured.

He was declared dead at Khulna Medical College Hospital, said Shamim Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kachua Police Station.

Md Shamim Hossain, additional superintendent of police (Sadar Circle), said police launched an investigation to identify and arrest the killers.

He said police detained Jharna Begum in connection with the murder.

No case was filed till the filing of this report around 6:00pm.

## Rusty bell rings again

School for tea workers' children reopens after 2 years

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

For two long years, an eerie quiet hung over the schoolyard of Bawani Tea Garden Primary School in Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila. The bell that once rang every morning had gathered rust.

But on Sunday, the bell rang again — and with it, laughter returned to the schoolyard.

The small school reopened through the initiative of local administration officials. It had been shut down two years ago due to ownership complications at Bawani Tea Garden.

With salaries and allowances remaining unpaid for months, the teachers gradually left. With no replacements, the classrooms fell silent.

For the children of more than a hundred tea worker families, the closure was devastating. Most of their parents earn daily wages, plucking leaves under the scorching sun, and sending their children to school had always been their only hope for a better future.

Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Md Faridur Rahman and Nabiganj UNO Md Ruhul Amin took the initiative to reopen the school.

They also appointed a temporary teacher to resume classes.

The reopening brought life back to



the once-deserted school premises, now filled with children's laughter once again. Some students were seen eagerly flipping through new books, while parents looked on with tears of joy and gratitude.

Md Yamin Mia, the newly appointed teacher, said, "We are currently operating from 9:00am to 12:30pm due to the lack of basic facilities such as water and proper sanitation. As a result, we allow students to leave early."

"However, we are in the process of admitting students across various year groups. Today, we welcomed three new

students," he added.

Sabuj Jhara, a fifth grader, said, "There hasn't been a school in our area for a long time. I studied at home for the past two years. It's really nice that the school has reopened. I come to school in the mornings, and it's great to see my friends again."

"Our children couldn't study for two years. Today, they've returned to their classrooms. This is a day of great happiness for us," said Rambhajan Robidas, a tea worker.

UNO Ruhul Amin said, "Efforts are underway to appoint permanent teachers."

## Security tightened around US embassy

FROM PAGE 4

A police intelligence source said the move followed a specific threat alert shared with law enforcement, which prompted an urgent reinforcement of security.

"Upon receiving the intelligence input, we immediately strengthened security and coordinated with all relevant units, including the Detective Branch and uniformed police," another senior DMP official said.

"In the Diplomatic Security Division, we always remain alert and take precautionary measures whenever necessary," the officer added.

M o h a m m a d Salauddin Sikder, deputy commissioner (cybercrime and investigation) of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, confirmed to The Daily Star that an investigation has been launched.

Asked about the source of the threat, he said no breakthrough had yet been made, but further details may emerge as the probe continues.

## Candidates make last-minute push as campaigning ends

FROM PAGE 4

campaign meeting of the Shibir-backed "Sommito Shikharthi Jote" on Monday night.

"The move actually benefited Shibir. It sent a message that Shibir wanted to serve food but the administration did not allow it," he said, adding that no action had been taken against earlier code violations by other panels.

On Monday night, the Rucsu Election Commission stopped around 400 food packets brought by "Sommito Shikharthi Jote" during a campaign meeting at Mannujan Hall and Khaleda Zia Hall, citing a violation of the electoral code of conduct.

Panel representatives, including its VP candidate Mostakur Rahman Zahid and Shibir's general secretary Mujahid Faisal, alleged that they

were obstructed during campaigning by the commission.

Rucsu Chief Election Commissioner Prof F Nazrul Islam said the decision was made to maintain fairness, noting that not all candidates could afford such expenses.

"We want to ensure equal opportunities for all. Our teams are visiting halls regularly to prevent irregularities and intimidation," he said.

Nur Uddin Abir, VP candidate from the Chhatra Dal-backed "Ekushey Notun Projonmo Panel", accused Shibir-backed candidates of violating the polls code by distributing food and gifts in different halls.

According to a notice signed by RU Proctor Prof Mahbubur Rahman,

only vehicles bearing university stickers will be allowed on campus, while all motorcycles will be

completely restricted.

Media personnel with passes issued by the Rucsu Election Commission will be allowed entry.

Students with disabilities will be exempt from the vehicle restriction. Teachers, officers, and staff living in the western residential area will enter through the Shahid Sakib Anjum (Kajila) gate and exit via the Paris Road main gate.

Prof Mahbubur said strict security measures have been taken for election day. "All temporary shops near polling centres will remain closed. Two thousand police personnel, six platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and 12 platoons of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will be deployed," he said.

"We have also coordinated with the army. However, we hope their deployment won't be necessary," he added.

## Try accused military personnel

FROM PAGE 4  
officers were charged at the ICT on October 8 in three cases — two over enforced disappearances during the Awami League government and one over killings during the July uprising.

"Military law could work in coordination with the ICT to set a historic example of justice. Otherwise, the sustainability of such trials might be uncertain in the future," said Lt (ret'd) Saifullah Khan Saif,

general secretary of the association.

"We stand for justice, but it must be transparent, evidence-based, and consistent with the Constitution and human rights," he said.

The association also called on citizens, including current and former military personnel, and the media to reject "propaganda by vested quarters".

Brig Gen (ret'd) Rokan Uddin said those involved

in crimes such as enforced disappearances and killings during the "fascist" period before the July uprising must be brought to justice, but trials should be coordinated under both military and civil law.

He warned that hastily amending the ICT Act or conducting one-sided trials could make the process flawed and resemble those carried out during the "fascist era".

## A health centre

FROM PAGE 4

Local resident Faruk Hossain said, "Since its inception, this hospital has never been fully staffed. As a result, the people of the area have always been deprived of healthcare."

The hospital, inaugurated on February 25, 2012, has been chronically short-staffed ever since. At times, there were only two physicians and sometimes just one, as many doctors were unwilling to settle in the small town.

Earlier this year, Dr Sayem Poonam left on a two-month training programme in April, leaving the facility doctorless. Even though Dr Supriya Das joined later, her transfer last month has pushed the hospital back into crisis.

Al Amin, 45, a resident of Bahamkanda village near the hospital, was admitted with fever on September 30. However, as there was no doctor available, he did not receive any treatment and had to get admitted to Kalapara Upazila Health Complex on October 2.

"There is no doctor at the hospital. We have to come to the upazila town for treatment, which increases our expenses and causes suffering," he said.

Patuakhali Civil Surgeon Dr Khaledur Rahman Mia said almost all hospitals and health complexes in the district are suffering from a shortage of doctors.

"We have already informed the higher authorities several times, and they have assured us that the vacant posts will be filled soon," he said.

## Three children drown in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three children drowned in a pond during a wedding ceremony at Chanpur Tea Garden in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Moskan Akhter, 13; Shamima Akhter, 12; and Sania Akhter, 9. They were from Ramganga area of the upazila.

Quoting locals, Zahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chunarughat Police Station, said the children, along with their family members, were attending the wedding ceremony of a relative at a house inside the tea garden. While wedding preparations were underway, the children went to a nearby pond to bathe.

As none of them could swim they drowned, he added.

Locals later rescued and rushed the children to Chunarughat Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them dead.

## Madrasa director held over rape of student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police have arrested a madrasa director in Kurigram's Ulipur upazila on charges of raping a student.

The arrestee, Riazul Islam, 28, is a resident of Sarai Para village in the upazila.

Ulipur Police Station's Officer-in-charge Zillur Rahman said, "The incident took place on October 5. Locals caught Riazul on October 12 when the madrasa student disclosed the matter."

Later locals handed him over to police, he said. The girl's father filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on Monday, he added.

The victim has been sent to Kurigram General Hospital for a medical test.

## Hajj registration extended till October 16

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has extended the deadline for hajj registration until October 16, according to a press release signed by Md Abubakar Siddique, public relations officer at the ministry, yesterday.

The notice was addressed to prospective pilgrims for hajj 2026, hajj agencies, banks, and other relevant parties.

It requested all eligible individuals to complete their registration within the extended period to ensure participation in the pilgrimage.

Earlier, following the roadmap announced by the Saudi government, the original deadline for hajj registration was set for October 12.

The extension applies to both government and private registration channels, giving prospective pilgrims additional time to secure their arrangements.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
OCTOBER 15

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-15	5-45	7-15
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-50	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
খুলনা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বরঃ ইমাপত্রঃ ০৩/২০২৫ তারিখঃ ২৮ আশ্বিন ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ  
১৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৫খ্রিঃ

**টিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ ও নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ অনুযায়ী সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি অনুসরণপূর্বক আগামী ০১-০১-২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে ৩১-১২-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ০১ (এক) বছর মেয়াদে এ অফিসের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে টিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তি এবং পূর্ববর্তী তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়নের জন্য আগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী টিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, খুলনা অফিস, খুলনা-৯০০০।
আবেদন ফরম জরুরি তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৩/১০/২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ০৪/১১/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস সময়ে ইমারত প্রকল্প শাখা, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, খুলনা অফিস।
আবেদন ফরমের মূল্য	৩০০.০০ (টাকা তিনশত মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও স্থান	০৫/১১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে যুগ্মপরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২) এর কক্ষে মঞ্জিত বাবে দাখিল করতে হবে।
আবেদনপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০৫/১১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে যুগ্মপরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২) এর অফিস কক্ষ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, খুলনা অফিস (আবেদনকারীগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন)।
কাজের সর্বাঙ্গিক বিবরণ	অফিস, রূপসা কর্মকর্তা নিবাস ও বাসিন্দাখামার কর্মচারী নিবাসের ভবনসমূহের বিভিন্ন ধরনের পূর্ত কাজ (মেরামতি/রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ/সংস্কার)।
ফি (নির্বাচনী পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, খুলনার অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে প্রদেয়)	শ্রেণিভিত্তিক তালিকাভুক্তি ফি ৬৫,০০০.০০ (টাকা পঁচ হাজার মাত্র) ও নবায়ন ফি ৬২০০০.০০ (টাকা দুই হাজার মাত্র)। (উভয় ক্ষেত্রে বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট প্রযোজ্য)
প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি (১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে)	১। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ২। ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ৩। TIN সনদ ৪। হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ ৫। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ ৬। মালিকানা হলকনামা ৭। প্রতিষ্ঠানের সত্ত্বাধিকারী এনআইডি ও ছবি।

২। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ইমারত প্রকল্প শাখা)

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-২৭৬০  
তারিখঃ ১৪/১০/২০২৫

মোঃ মতিয়ার রহমান মৌল্য  
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)  
ফোনঃ ০৪১-৭৩৩৬১৪

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-2204



PHOTO: PUBLICHEALTHPOST.ORG

LAW VISION

# Addressing climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh

SAKHAWAT SAJJAT SEJAN

Climate change is acknowledged as a critical factor in human migration around the world. It causes a significant amount of displacement in countries like Bangladesh. Bangladesh is situated in a very climate-vulnerable region- very prone to floods, cyclones, river erosion, sea-level rise, drought, and other climate-induced hazards. These environmental disasters cause displacement in our low-lying, and sometimes in high-lying areas too. For instance, in 2024 Feni district of Bangladesh experienced a flood, which displaced around 10,000 coastal people, after almost 5 decades due to climate change. This article will explore the institutional and legal responses to climate-induced migration within Bangladesh, focusing on the gaps and challenges that increase the sufferings of displaced persons.

**The new Climate Displacement Protection Act and other new policies or reforms should provide a legal framework for Bangladesh to protect climate-induced migrants and displaced persons, making Bangladesh a pioneer among South Asian nations in the pursuit. Only through incorporating inclusive, rights-based and sustainable protection mechanisms can Bangladesh reduce the negative impacts of climate-induced displacement to establish a better future for the vulnerable displaced persons or migrants.**

According to the United Nations, by 2050, approximately 13 million people will be displaced due to climate-induced events. The scenario of flood-prone and coastal areas can be a great case study for Bangladesh to measure the impact of climate change and

related displacement in the country. Bangladesh is a frontline victim of climate change, being at the delta of the Bay of Bengal with numerous rivers. The maximum population of Bangladesh live in the disaster-prone areas or in places of environmental degradation, where people are getting displaced for slow-onset events like sea-level rise or salinisation.

Despite this acute vulnerability, Bangladesh has not built a compact legal framework to acknowledge and address the needs of climate-induced displaced persons. The danger and risk of climate change are addressed by some laws and policies, such as the Disaster Management Act 2012 and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 (BCCSAP). Unfortunately, none of the law or policy recognise climate-induced displacement within their provision. Hence, the affected ones by the events of climate change cannot receive proper protection under the legal framework of Bangladesh. Due to this non-recognition by the laws, the displaced persons cannot access basic services as housing, health care, and education.

This lack of law also works as a barrier to providing protection to climate-induced displaced persons through institutional coordination. Without a centralised body and coordination, concerned ministries of environment, housing and disaster management operate independently for the relocation and rehabilitation approaches towards the displaced persons. As an outcome, the displaced persons fall through the cracks by facing complications in getting the support they need. The legal vacuum is not only within the territory of Bangladesh; but it also extends to the broader international legal framework gaps. International refugee law as the 1951 Refugee Convention fails to include the refugees created by the climate-

induced events. Similarly, international human rights law provides very narrow recourse of protection towards climate-induced migrants, displaced persons or refugees. With a light of hope, international environmental law has started to differentiate between climate change and climate change-induced migration or displacement very recently, but it lacks implementation and direct protection mechanisms for the displaced populations.

The displacement that happens through climate change does not only has an environmental dimension; it impacts socio-economic and gendered dimensions too. Several vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities, religious minorities, landless families, and women-led households, are disproportionately affected by climate change. Especially, women are at risk of gender-based violence, limited access to reproductive health and child marriage while transitioning into the displaced settings. The International Rescue Committee has found that child marriage has increased by up to 39% in Bangladesh after being affected by climate-induced displacement. In fact, this research further shows that Bangladeshi displaced women are facing 60% more gender-based violence in the displaced areas. Loss of livelihood due to land tenure increases displaced populations' sufferings and vulnerability, as they often lack financial resources to live. These gendered and social vulnerabilities are screaming to focus on the need for designated interventions to safeguard the marginalised groups related to climate change. Policy reforms and legal adoptions must incorporate provisions to acknowledge the specific needs of children, women, the elderly, ethnic communities, and religious minorities. And it must also uphold the dignity and rights of the displaced populations within Bangladesh.

Moreover, to address the pressing challenges of climate-induced displacement and migration, several stakeholders of Bangladesh have suggested some policy responses aimed to protect the climate-induced displaced persons and migrants. The proposal of a Climate Displacement Protection Act is one of them, which would designate the rights and duties of the climate-induced displaced persons and migrants. It also aspires to find a legal framework for their rehabilitation, relocation and integration.

This proposal includes: legal recognition of the Climate Induced Displaced Persons (CIDPs); access to employment, healthcare, housing, and education; approaches for community-based social protection and resettlement; and the establishment of Climate Migration Authority to monitor coordination and planning process of government agencies.

The National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan has also been suggested for Bangladesh's long-term scheme to include climate-induced displacement concerns into the national development strategies. Notably, these strategies still fail to include climate-induced migration issues within their frameworks. Compact legislative reformation or amendment is required to acknowledge the problem and solve it accordingly. Regional and international cooperation is required to address climate change-related issues in Bangladesh and South Asia, considering the fact that climate change is a transboundary issue. South Asia shall come forward with the South Asian Compact on Climate Mobility to acknowledge climate-induced migration and foster cross-border coordination and burden sharing for climate-induced migrants or displaced persons.

This approach may: introduce definition for climate-induced migrants

and migration; increase reciprocal acknowledgement of the protection process and displaced persons; introduce burden sharing approaches and early warning mechanisms; and ensure regional insurance and funding plans to accelerate adaptation and migration efforts.

Global forums like the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the UN Global Compact for Migration shall be pursued by Bangladesh to lead the advocacy for stronger international protection for climate-induced migrants. This will also help Bangladesh to get the required support to safeguard the climate-induced migrants in Bangladesh by encouraging regional cooperation and stability. As the climate is changing drastically, Bangladesh will face several displacement crises in the near future, especially in the coastal and flood-prone areas. Hence, it should focus on enacting laws and plan immediate policy reforms to acknowledge the rights of displaced persons by increasing institutional coordination and including climate migration issues into national development strategies. Regional cooperation and international support will be necessary to ensure that climate-induced migration is handled comprehensively, and such populations are treated with rights, dignity and respect. The new Climate Displacement Protection Act and other new policies or reforms should provide a legal framework for Bangladesh to protect climate-induced migrants and displaced persons, making Bangladesh a pioneer among South Asian nations in the pursuit. Only through incorporating inclusive, rights-based and sustainable protection mechanisms can Bangladesh reduce the negative impacts of climate-induced displacement to establish a better future for the vulnerable displaced persons or migrants.

*The writer is Assistant Professor (Law), Bangladesh University.*

RIGHTS WATCH

## The costs of Bangladesh's shipbreaking industry

JOYDEEP CHOWDHURY

The ship-breaking industry in Bangladesh has been a source of national pride for decades, and it has also been potential source of environmental disaster too at the same time. Being one of the world's largest ship-breaking industries, thousands of people, primarily from marginalised communities, are employed to dismantle derelict ships under the open sky. However, the coastline gets contaminated with asbestos, heavy metals, oil waste, and other harmful particles beneath the surface of economic benefit.

Bangladesh became a major shipbreaking centre in the early 1980s, when stricter laws on the environment and workers forced Western yards to close. What started as a means to make money has turned into a deeply rooted enterprise having numerous implications for people and the environment. Even when statistics showed that injury rates were increasing and the shoreline was becoming polluted, successive governments continued to support the sector, as it created jobs and produced steel. The Ship Breaking and Recycling Rules 2011 and the Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act 2018 (BSR Act) both established legal protections intended to mitigate these harms. However, they have not been effective due to lack of enforcement.

The human cost is also significant. A 2023 report by Human Rights Watch details how shipyards consistently compromise safety, discharge hazardous waste onto land, and deny workers equitable wages, rest, or compensation for injuries, exposing

a system that evades international export regulations. Similarly, medical research from Chattogram indicates that shipyard workers experience respiratory diseases and malignancies at an elevated rates compared to national averages. Local inhabitants, especially minors, have elevated blood lead and cadmium concentrations directly associated with metal scrap dust and oil pollution.

Additionally, the mangrove buffer is deteriorating, exacerbating storm surges

**Regulatory agencies also need independent enforcement units empowered to issue immediate stop-work orders and levy substantial fines. Simultaneously, coastal communities must have statutory standing to bring civil actions for ecological and health damages- a model that has succeeded in neighbouring jurisdictions. International partners should also come forward by conditioning technical assistance and loans on demonstrable improvements in health and environmental indicators and requiring third-party audits of the shipyards.**



and diminishing fish populations. These detriments worsen the pre-existing vulnerabilities, poverty, inadequate healthcare, and climate risks, necessitating legal solutions that transcend mere aspirational directions.

Industry proponents, on the other hand, point to thousands of jobs and the supply of scrap steel to mills. However, when a worker loses limbs or contracts a chronic disease, the cost shifts to families and the public health system. These social and environmental externalities are omitted from official economic accounts.

International treaties reinforce

Bangladesh's obligations. As party to the Basel Convention and the Hong Kong Convention on Ship Recycling, we have committed to prohibiting hazardous waste exports for unsafe recycling. Yet vessels continue to arrive on our beaches with toxic inventories intact. National courts have issued orders requiring pre-beaching clean-up and the provision of protective gear, but compliance remains minimal.

In fact, meaningful reform will require both top-down and bottom-up initiatives. Dry-dock recycling facilities, modelled on Turkish and Chinese yards, contain contaminants within sealed docks and

treat waste systematically. While initial investment is high, the long-term benefits- safer employment, healthier ecosystems, compliance with international norms- outweigh the costs. Hence, Parliament must amend the BSR Act 2018, making dry-dock conversion within five years mandatory. At the same time, it should impose criminal sanctions for deliberate non-compliance with such mandate and extend "producer responsibility" to former ship owners.

Regulatory agencies also need independent enforcement units empowered to issue immediate stop-work orders and levy substantial fines. Simultaneously, coastal communities must have statutory standing to bring civil actions for ecological and health damages- a model that has succeeded in neighbouring jurisdictions. International partners should also come forward by conditioning technical assistance and loans on demonstrable improvements in health and environmental indicators and requiring third-party audits of the shipyards.

Indeed, the challenge we face is not solely industrial. The issue is our constitutional obligation to uphold the right to life, health, and a secure environment. Although our supreme law upholds these rights, unrestrained industry undermines them. Citizens, civil society organisations, and the global community must advocate for accountability, ensure enforcement of the existing laws, and uphold our international commitments.

*The writer is Lecturer in law and Assistant Course Coordinator at Sonargaon University, Dhaka.*

## Hong Kong draw too little too late

SPORTS REPORTER

A late goal from Rakib Hossain rescued Bangladesh as they came from behind to secure a 1-1 draw against 10-man Hong Kong in their AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers clash at Kai Tak Stadium yesterday.

A win would have kept Bangladesh's slim chances of reaching the finals alive, but the second away draw in four matches further complicated the equation for the men in red and green. However, after India's 2-1 loss to Singapore later in the evening, both Bangladesh and India were eliminated, meaning that either Hong Kong or Singapore will advance from Group C.

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera made three changes to the starting XI, bringing in Topu Barman, Shamit Shome, and Zayyan Ahmed in place of Taj Uddin, Sobel Rana Jr, and Faisal Ahmed Fahim. Cabrera seemed to prioritise possession, instructing his side to build from the back -- a tactic that backfired in the 34th minute.

Under pressure from Hong Kong's high press, a miscommunication between Topu and Tariq Kazi saw the latter lose control inside the box and foul Fernando Azevedo. The referee awarded a penalty, which captain Matt Orr converted, sending Mitul Marma the wrong way.

Bangladesh nearly equalised in first-half stoppage time through a move involving Saad Uddin, Hamza Choudhury, and Shamit Shome,



PHOTO: BFF

but the final effort was blocked.

After the break, Bangladesh grew into the match. In the 51st minute, Saad latched onto a long ball from Topu and unleashed a low drive, only to be denied by Tse Ka Wing's superb save.

Cabrera introduced Jamal Bhuiyan and Fahamedul Islam to inject urgency. Fahamedul missed a golden chance in the 73rd minute, failing to connect with a waist-high cross from Saad despite losing his marker in front of goal.

Hong Kong were reduced to 10 men in the 75th minute when Oliver Benjamin received a second yellow card for a foul on Shamit. Bangladesh seized control, and finally broke through in the 89th minute. Substitute Fa-

**Definitely, the feeling, as usual, is that we deserved more points but we end up this window with one point. Regardless of the points, the match was very competitive. I think we deserved a win today.**

Bangladesh coach **Javier Cabrera**

**“We should have won this match. We missed a few chances. Everyone played well. It wasn't easy considering the ground and the crowd. I think we should have got four points from these two matches against Hong Kong.**

Goalscorer **Rakib Hossain**

him delivered a pinpoint cross from the left, Fahamedul headed it down, and Rakib Hossain calmly flicked the ball past Tse Ka Wing to earn a dramatic draw and silence the home crowd.

## 'Must credit the fight shown' in Vizag

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Often, the effort a team show in a competitive match can outweigh the final result. The Tigresses' determined performances against England and South Africa in the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup, following a crucial opening win over Pakistan, highlight the significance of their fight, as it will strengthen the team for future challenges.

After a three-wicket, last-over loss to South Africa in Vizag on Monday, most players were left in tears in the dressing room, but the camp's mood had brightened by the next day following retrospection. The fight shown would help build morale.

"They gave hundred and ten percent effort... to come out of it in the very next match shows their determination. During the bad times, everyone sticks together... the way they played is of international standard and the effort will boost them going forward," batting coach Nasiruddin Faruque Shajib told The Daily Star yesterday.

The dew factor was significant against South Africa. Marufa Akter was not bowled as it became harder for the pacer to grip the ball than for some of the spinners. Fielding was where the Tigresses let themselves down, but despite the vital dropped catches, overall fielding standards have also improved.

"I can't really comment fully on the fielding... but even looking at how they coped with the dew factor, you must credit the fight shown," Shajib said.

Skipper Nigar Sultana Joty highlighted the lessons learned from a close game against a quality opponent after the match in Visakhapatnam.

"There are many things to learn... what we should do to get the result in our favour if we



find ourselves in this kind of situation in the next matches," she said.

Not only in lessons, the Tigresses are also discovering players who can establish themselves further in international cricket. Against the Proteas, Rabeya Khan's superb delivery to bowl Annerie Dercksen was a highlight, while Shorna Akter's innings shows her potential despite her youth. Shorna is just 18, while Rabeya and Marufa Akter, who dazzled in this tournament, are in their 20s.

"There is no doubt about their prospects... it will be some time before players of their quality arrive again. Shorna, Rabeya and many from their batch are players with potential and players for the future," Shajib said.

## Litton 'likely' to miss WI ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Litton Das is all but ruled out of Bangladesh's upcoming three-match ODI series against the West Indies, starting October 18 in Mirpur, Dhaka as the wicketkeeper-batter continues to recover from a left-side strain.

The 31-year-old has been sidelined for nearly a month after sustaining the injury during a practice session ahead of Bangladesh's Asia Cup T20 Super Four clash against India in Dubai last month. He missed two crucial Asia Cup matches against India and Pakistan, followed by the T20I and ODI series against Afghanistan.

Litton underwent an MRI scan yesterday, and selectors are awaiting the report before making a final decision. Chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu said Litton's participation "looks highly unlikely" as he has yet to start full-fledged batting. "After the scan report, the medical team will decide when he can begin. It was expected by now, given the nature of the injury, but it seems delayed."

The squad for the West Indies series is expected to be announced today, though Litton's absence is almost certain. His participation

in the T20I series -- set to begin on October 27 in Chattogram -- is also doubtful.

Litton's ODI form has been poor, failing to reach double figures in his last eight innings and last scoring a fifty against India in the 2023 World Cup, which earlier saw him dropped from the ICC Champions Trophy squad. However, he has shown revival in T20Is, winning Player of the Series awards against Sri Lanka and the Netherlands after being handed the captaincy role in the format in May this year.

Selectors had hoped to recall him for the West Indies series to inject experience, but will now plan without him. The West Indies are set to arrive in Dhaka today.

Amid criticism over the national team's decline in the 50-over format, Ashraf acknowledged the limited options: "We don't have enough available players. I have to work with what's in my basket."

"There is only one domestic league for the ODI format. Foreign players don't play there anymore. How many national team players get a chance to play? If we can't increase the 'A' team's matches simultaneously, what can you expect from the team in the 2027 World Cup?"



PHOTO: ACB

## Bangladesh suffer 200-run defeat

Bangladesh suffered a crushing 200-run defeat in the third and final ODI against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, conceding a 3-0 whitewash. Chasing 294, the Tigers collapsed for just 93 in 27.1 overs. Opener Saif Hassan was the only batter to reach double figures, making 43 off 54 balls. Bilal Sami's career-best 5-33 and Rashid Khan's 3-12 wreaked havoc as Bangladesh endured their lowest total of the series to cap a miserable campaign marked by poor batting. Earlier, Afghanistan posted 293 for nine, built around Ibrahim Zadran's 95 and Mohammad Nabi's explosive 62 not out off 37 balls. "We accept that we haven't played well in this series. We are not getting the runs, we had opportunities but we didn't take it. Everybody accepted that we are not playing well. They have a good bowling attack but we have to handle it. We have to take responsibility in the top and middle order and then towards the end. We will talk about how we can get better," said Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

## Cape Verde: From tiny shores to the world stage

AGENCIES

Cape Verde has made history. On Monday, the Blue Sharks secured their first-ever FIFA World Cup appearance with a 3-0 win over Eswatini in Praia, topping Group D ahead of African powerhouse Cameroon. Goals from Dailon Livramento, Willy Semedo, and veteran Stopira sparked celebrations across the archipelago.

For a nation of just 550,000 people, football is a unifying force. Streets in Praia overflowed with dancing fans, honking cars, and bursts of fireworks. Music filled the air -- the upbeat rhythms of funana and reggae accompanying waves of joy. "I've been dreaming of this moment since I was a child," said goalkeeper Vozinha, 39, his voice trembling.

The triumph is especially poignant as it coincides with 50 years of independence from Portugal. Coach Pedro 'Bubista' Brito called it "a victory for everyone who fought for our freedom." FIFA President Gianni Infantino congratulated the team, calling the achievement "a historic moment likely to power a new generation of football lovers" across

the nation.

Cape Verde's journey has been remarkable. Once rarely seen in international football, they now join Africa's nine World Cup representatives. The team finished Group D with 23 points, four ahead of Cameroon, recording seven clean sheets in ten matches. Their campaign included a famous 1-0 home win against Cameroon last month, signaling their potential to challenge Africa's traditional powers.

Stopira, 37, scored the final goal after coming on as a substitute, symbolizing his long service since 2008 and years of collective effort. Fans like Jorge Junior Livramento described the scene as unforgettable: "I shouted until I lost my voice. It's a dream -- for the first time, the world will hear our anthem at the World Cup."

Cape Verde becomes the second-least populous nation to reach a World Cup, after Iceland, and the smallest by land area, at just over 4,000 km<sup>2</sup>. From their islands in the Atlantic to North America 2026, the Blue Sharks prove that even the smallest nations can achieve monumental dreams.



### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Population: 550,000 (smallest African nation ever to qualify)

Area: 4,033 km<sup>2</sup> (smallest nation by land area to reach a World Cup)

FIFA Ranking: 70th in the world (as of October 2025)

Top of Group D: 23 points (4 ahead of Cameroon)

Record: 7 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss

Clean Sheets: 7 in 10 matches

Historic Wins: 1-0 vs Cameroon, 3-0 vs Eswatini

Founded: 1975 (50 years of independence in 2025)

Previous best achievement: AFCON quarterfinals (2013, 2023)

## Gill wins first series as India captain

AFP, New delhi

Shubman Gill on Tuesday won his first Test series since becoming India captain as his side beat the West Indies by seven wickets at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium for a 2-0 sweep.

Chasing 121 for victory in the second Test, India resumed on day five at 63-1 and reached their target in the first session with KL Rahul unbeaten on 58.

India are a team in transition under 26-year-old Gill, after the retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

They won the opening Test by an innings and 140 runs after a thrilling 2-2 draw in their five-Test series in England from June to August, Gill's first in charge.

"It's a really big honour and I would say I'm getting used to it," Gill said at the post-

match presentation.

"Managing all the players and leading this team is a great honour."

India head coach Gautam Gambhir said the young leader was marching on after having passed his "toughest test as a Test captain" in England.

"No one has done him a favour by appointing him the Test and one-day captain," the former batsman told reporters.

"I think he deserves every bit of it. I think he's worked hard, and he ticks all the boxes."

Gill has been in the form of his life after being named Test captain in May, scoring 754 runs in the five England Tests and then a half century and a hundred in the two West Indies matches.



PHOTO: AFP



## WFP reaffirms Rohingya food aid commitment

### Its acting chief meets CA



**BSS**  
World Food Programme (WFP) acting Executive Director Carl Skau has reaffirmed its commitment to mobilising food aid for 1.3 million Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh, saying the crisis remains one of the Rome-based UN agency's top agenda.

The acting WFP chief made the comments when he called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday at a hotel in the Italian capital, said the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

The meeting focused primarily on the ongoing Rohingya crisis, famine situations in Gaza and Sudan, and the growing challenges in mobilising funds to combat global hunger affecting tens of millions.

Skau praised Prof Yunus for his leadership over the past 15 months, particularly his unwavering efforts to bring international attention back to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis.

Both leaders emphasised the urgent need for increased funding to support the Rohingyas residing in camps in Bangladesh.

Skau commended the September 30 high-level UN meeting on the Rohingya issue -- convened at Prof Yunus's request

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A digger removes debris from a street, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Gaza City, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 6 killed in Gaza amid truce

### Civil defence agency says victims were returning home

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israeli forces killed at least six Palestinians while they were returning to their homes yesterday, said Gaza's civil defence agency, in the first major violation since the US-brokered ceasefire began.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military claimed its troops had opened fire on suspects who approached their positions.

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue force under Hamas, said five people were killed as they inspected

their homes in the Shujaiya district of Gaza City.

"Israeli quadcopter drones opened fire on civilians inspecting their homes in Shujaiya," Bassal said.

The Israeli military, however, said its troops fired after "several suspects were identified crossing the yellow line and approaching IDF troops operating in the northern Gaza Strip".

"Attempts were made to distance the suspects," the statement said.

"The suspects did not comply and continued approaching the troops, who opened fire to remove the threat."

Under a ceasefire deal agreed with

Hamas, Israeli forces have pulled back to a so-called "yellow line", behind which troops still hold roughly half of Gaza.

In a similar incident, Bassal said an Israeli drone strike killed one person when it targeted a group of civilians in the town of Al-Fukhari, southeast of Khan Yunis city.

When asked for comment, the Israeli military told AFP the group had posed "an immediate threat" to troops stationed there.

"The suspects attempted to move toward an area where a Hamas weapons storage facility was positioned and was

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## 'No rank above justice'

### TIB questions why accused army officers getting 'special treatment'

"The opportunity for exemplary justice, achieved through immense



sacrifice, must not be undermined by discriminatory behaviour that grants special privileges to a particular group."

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN  
TIB executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has raised concern over the government's decision to keep military officers, accused by the International Crimes Tribunal of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture during the fallen authoritarian regime, in military custody in the cantonment area.

This decision is questionable in the light of constitutional commitments and the principle of equal application of the law, the anti-graft watchdog said in a statement yesterday.

TIB called on the government to clarify the rationale and considerations behind the decision to treat military officers accused of crimes against humanity differently from other accused.

Emphasising the fundamental principle that "all are equal before the law", the organisation has strongly urged the government to immediately withdraw this discriminatory decision.

In the statement, TIB Executive Director

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A motorcyclist covers his nose on a road in Uttar Jurain. During the dry season, vehicle movement stirs up fine dust particles, which can cause respiratory issues, eye irritation, and skin problems. Locals say the situation has worsened due to irregular water spraying and unfinished roadwork. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Border tensions flare as Pakistan forces engage Afghan Taliban

DAWN ONLINE

Fighting flared up again last night between Pakistani forces and the Afghan Taliban in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reported Pakistan's state broadcaster.

"Afghan Taliban and Fitna al-Khawarij opened unprovoked fire in Kurram. Pakistani Army responded with full force and intensity," reported PTV News, quoting security sources on X.

"Fitna al-Khawarij" is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

It added that Taliban regime posts suffered heavy damage and a tank caught fire after being hit, with Taliban fighters fleeing from their posts.

In a subsequent post, PTV said: "Another post and tank position of the Afghan Taliban destroyed in Kurram sector."

PTV added that a fourth tank position at Shamsadar post was destroyed. "There are reports of the killing of an important commander of Fitna al-Khawarij in this important operation of the Pakistan Army."

ICT CASE

## July attacks were systematic crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that the attacks on protesters during the July uprising were not isolated incidents but part of a coordinated and systematic campaign of atrocities directed against civilians.

Citing witness testimonies, UN fact-finding report, and other evidence, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam argued that the materials clearly established a pattern of organised attack and substantiated the first two of the five charges framed against the accused.

The first charge accuses the defendants of murder, attempted murder, torture, and other inhumane acts -- alleging that they abetted, incited, facilitated, or failed to prevent such crimes committed by law enforcement agencies and armed cadres of Awami League and its affiliated bodies.

Under the second charge, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina is accused of ordering the use of drones, helicopters, and lethal weapons to subdue protesters.

Hasina's co-accused former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who has turned an approver, are charged with facilitating and executing this directive through law enforcers. The count alleges that the three conspired to commit crimes against humanity knowingly and systematically.

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### দায়িত্বশীল ও টেকসই পর্যটনে নির্দেশনাবলী

পর্যটন শিল্প বাংলাদেশের একটি বিকাশমান অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ড যা দেশে কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি ও জিডিপিতে ক্রমবর্ধমান হারে অবদান রাখছে। বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশে সারাবছরই বিভিন্ন গন্তব্য কেন্দ্রিক পর্যটন কার্যক্রম সংগঠিত হয়ে থাকে, তবে অক্টোবর থেকে মার্চ পর্যন্ত সময়টি পর্যটনের প্রধান মৌসুম (সিজন) হিসেবে বিবেচিত হয়। এসময়ে সর্বাধিক পর্যটন কার্যক্রম সংগঠিত হয়ে থাকে এবং দেশী বিদেশী পর্যটকদের পদচারণায় পর্যটন গন্তব্যসমূহ মুখরিত হয়ে ওঠে। পর্যটন গন্তব্য কেন্দ্রিক ভ্রমণের ক্ষেত্রে পর্যটন সংশ্লিষ্ট অংশীজনের নিম্নবর্ণিত নির্দেশিকা পালন করে দায়িত্বশীল ও টেকসই পর্যটন নিশ্চিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো:

- পর্যটন গন্তব্যে অবস্থানের জন্য ভ্রমণের পূর্বেই নিরাপদ ও টেকসই আবাসন নিশ্চিত করুন, বিশেষ করে ছুটির সময় যাতে আপনার ভ্রমণ আনন্দদায়ক হয়।
- নিবন্ধিত ট্যুর অপারেটর, ট্যুর গাইড, ট্রাভেল এজেন্টদের নিকট থেকে পর্যটন সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা গ্রহণ করুন।
- পর্যটন গন্তব্যে ভ্রমণকালীন একক-ব্যবহার্য প্রাস্টিকসহ সকল আবর্জনা নির্ধারিত স্থানে ফেলুন এবং পুনর্ব্যবহারের উদ্যোগ নিন, যাতে পরিবেশের ক্ষতি না হয়।
- পর্যটন গন্তব্যের প্রতিবেশ ও পরিবেশ অক্ষুণ্ন রেখে ভ্রমণ করুন যা টেকসই ও দায়িত্বশীল পর্যটন নিশ্চিত করবে।
- পর্যটক বান্ধব ভ্রমণ ও উন্নত সেবা প্রদানে আবাসন সেক্টরে নিয়োজিত অংশীজনের দায়িত্বশীল আচরণ একান্ত কাম্যঃ পানি ও বিদ্যুৎ সংরক্ষণ, বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা এবং স্থানীয় কর্মীদের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে টেকসই সেবা প্রদান করুন।
- পর্যটন গন্তব্যে নিয়োজিত ফটোগ্রাফার, ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা, বেঞ্চ ও ছাতা ব্যবসায়ী, ক্রাফট স্যুভিনিয়ার প্রস্তুতকারী, বাইক রাইডারসহ অন্যান্যরা দায়িত্বশীল আচরণ নিশ্চিত করুনঃ যেমন স্থানীয় পণ্য প্রচার এবং ন্যায্য মূল্য নির্ধারণ।
- ভ্রমণকালে স্থানীয় সংস্কৃতি, আচার-অনুষ্ঠান, কৃষ্টি এবং সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাশীল হোনঃ স্থানীয় ঐতিহ্যের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ আচরণ করুন।
- পর্যটন গন্তব্যে আগত ট্যুরিস্টদের প্রতি স্থানীয় সম্প্রদায় অতিথি পরায়ণ ও ইতিবাচক মনোভাব বজায় রাখুন, যাতে সাংস্কৃতিক বিনিময় সহজতর হয়।
- রেস্টুরেন্টে নিরাপদ, স্বাস্থ্যকর খাবার ন্যায্যমূল্যে পরিবেশন করুন।
- রেল, বাস, বিমান এবং ক্রুজ শিপে ভ্রমণকালে সকল পক্ষ পরিবেশবান্ধব ও দায়িত্বশীল আচরণ করুন, যেমন কম কার্বন নির্গমনের যানবাহন ব্যবহার এবং বর্জ্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ।
- পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে ভ্রমণ পরিকল্পনার পূর্বে জেলা প্রশাসন ও পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদের হালনাগাদ নির্দেশনা মেনে চলুন।
- টেকসই সেন্টমার্টিন গঠনে ট্রাভেল পাসসহ ভ্রমণ করুনঃ ট্রাভেল পাস টিকেটেই অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকবে এবং এটি পরিবেশ রক্ষায় সহায়ক।
- প্রাকৃতিক সংরক্ষিত এলাকায় (যেমন সুন্দরবন) ভ্রমণকালে বন্যপ্রাণী ও জীববৈচিত্র্যের প্রতি সতর্ক থাকুনঃ অবৈধ শিকার বা ক্ষতিকর কার্যকলাপ এড়িয়ে চলুন এবং গাইডের নির্দেশনা মেনে চলুন।
- পর্যটন গন্তব্যে ভ্রমণকালে জরুরী প্রয়োজনে ট্যুরিস্ট পুলিশের সহযোগিতা গ্রহণ করুনঃ হট লাইন নম্বর: ০১৩২০২২২২২২।

**নুজহাত ইয়াসমিন**  
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা  
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বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়