



“To see the devastation [in Gaza] ... [It is] just a wasteland, and absolutely devastating to see.”

Tom Fletcher
UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs

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Blaze guts cargo village at Dhaka airport

Operations closed for around 7hrs; losses over Tk 1,000cr feared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A massive fire tore through the cargo complex of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday, burning goods stored at the facility, disrupting flights, and causing long delays and diversions.

The fire started around 2:30pm, with thick black smoke engulfing the airport and surrounding areas, visible from afar for hours.

At 9:18pm, the Fire Service and Civil Defence announced the flames had been brought under control. Around the same time, airport authorities said flight operations -- including the return of flights diverted to other airports -- had resumed.

The blaze broke out near Gate No. 8 of the import cargo complex and quickly engulfed warehouses packed with imported chemicals, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and garments.

The cause was yet to be determined till the filing of this report at 12:30am.

As many as 37 units from 13 fire stations, joined by the Air Force, Navy, Army, Civil Aviation Authority, Border Guard Bangladesh, and police, worked for hours to contain the blaze.

At 10:07pm, Brigadier General Mohammad Jahed Kamal, director general of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said, “We are still working at the site. We’ll hand over the area [to airport authorities] after the fire is completely put out. Two firefighters and several Ansar members were injured, but none of them are in critical condition.”

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Passengers suffer as fire sparks chaos

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A fire at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) yesterday caused significant disruption and anxiety for thousands of passengers, who were left frustrated by a lack of clear information about their flights.

Many outbound passengers told The Daily Star they were instructed by airlines to come to the airport with assurances their flights would take off but were given no specific times.

Upon arrival, they faced restrictions at the gates.

Azizul Haq, a labour visa holder from Noakhali scheduled for a 9:30pm flight last night, said the fire “made him very anxious.”

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Tk 1,200cr lost in missed savings as pipeline sits idle

Govt has yet to find operator over a year and half after completion of Single Point Mooring project in Cox’s Bazar

MID NAZRUL ISLAM

Bangladesh has lost around Tk 1,200 crore in missed savings over the last one and a half years due to the delay in commercial launch of a dual pipeline that can carry imported oil directly from Cox’s Bazar’s Maheshkhali to Patenga in the port city.

Though construction of the pipeline under the Tk 8,300-crore Single Point Mooring (SPM) project was completed in March last year, the government has not been able to find an operator, leaving the facility idle.

According to the Development Project Proposal, once implemented, the SPM project would save Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) around Tk 800 crore annually in fuel transportation costs.

The delay stems from the interim government’s decision not to give the job to any company without a tender, as well as the failure to select a qualified operator through a tender, said officials at BPC and Petroleum Transmission Company Limited (PTCL).

Moreover, 44,000 tonnes of fuel oil worth around Tk 300 crore have remained stuck in the 220km dual pipeline since March last year.

Moni Lal Dash, senior general manager (commerce and operations) at the BPC, said the corporation currently lacks the skilled manpower required to operate and maintain the pipeline.

About fuel oil stuck in the pipeline, he said the low water temperature beneath the sea surface would help preserve the fuel quality.

The project was aimed at serving as a less expensive, secure

and environment-friendly mode of transporting imported fuel. Bangladesh requires seven million tonnes of fuel per year to meet domestic demand, with imports accounting for 90 percent -- 65 percent of which is diesel.

Currently, imported fuel is offloaded from mother vessels and carried onshore through lighter vessels. It is time-consuming, costly,

they were unsure about when it will come into operation as the latest international tender for selecting an operator was called off in the last week of September, with all participating firms getting disqualified for various reasons.

Md Raihan Ahmed, managing director of PTCL, said that of the several companies that participated, only two met the criteria.



Moreover, 44,000 tonnes of fuel oil worth around Tk 300 crore have remained stuck in the 220km dual pipeline since March last year.

and risky, said BPC officials.

When contacted, AKM Azadur Rahman, director (operations) of the BPC, said there are concerns about both financial losses and potential damage to equipment due to the long delay in bringing the pipeline into service.

Seeking anonymity, a top BPC official told The Daily Star, “With the dual pipeline sitting idle, BPC had to spend around Tk 3.5 crore on its maintenance.”

Officials at PTCL and BPC said

“Later, one was disqualified for technical reasons and the other for financial weaknesses. We have forwarded a proposal to the energy ministry for calling a fresh tender,” he said.

Rahman said that following the tender’s cancellation, China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co Ltd and Indonesia’s Pertamina Refinery wrote to the energy ministry through their embassies, seeking to operate the pipeline

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A Biman Bangladesh Airlines plane stands on the tarmac as firefighters try to extinguish a fire that broke out in the cargo section of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: AFP

Climate debt storm threatens financial stability

Losses from natural disasters stood at around Tk 2,00,000cr between 2009 and 2020

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh’s hard-won economic resilience is being tested as the twin pressures of climate change and mounting external debt converge to threaten its financial stability.

The country’s debt-sustainability outlook, once viewed as robust, is deteriorating amid intensifying climate disasters, faltering export growth, and tighter international credit conditions, according to a new report launched at an international conference yesterday.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the event-- A World Beyond Crisis: Climate Solutions That Work -- at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka, attended by policymakers, researchers, youth leaders, and practitioners to explore equitable and practical climate solutions.

“The results from multiple scenarios and stress tests indicate that the economic loss

and damage due to climate change pose a significant threat to Bangladesh’s short-run debt sustainability, particularly when combined with other shocks such as an increase in interest rates for variable interest rate loans or a fall in exports,” said the report authors, led by CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun.

The report comes ahead of the upcoming 30th United Nations climate change conference (COP30), to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November.

It said Bangladesh has struggled with macroeconomic management in recent years, and several red flags are now clearly visible.

“Against this stressed financial background, climate change-related economic loss and damage might generate instability and undermine Bangladesh’s debt sustainability.”

The report highlights that Bangladesh, which is scheduled to graduate from the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

NCP to be in talks, on streets too

SHAMIMA RITA and MAMUNUR RASHID

The government and the consensus commission have continued active engagement with the National Citizen Party in an effort to persuade it to sign the July Charter.

NCP leaders have maintained that they will sign the charter only if their demand for a legal basis is met and unresolved issues regarding implementation of the reforms are settled.

They said NCP will simultaneously take to the streets while joining formal talks, though it is not considering headline programmes for now as it remains hopeful the issues can be resolved through discussions.

Twenty-four of the 30 parties that took part in the dialogues on reforms signed the charter at a ceremony on Friday.

The NCP and four leftist parties stayed away over unresolved issues. The Gono Forum attended the event but refrained from signing. Yesterday it said it would sign the charter as the commission accepted its demand to retain the Proclamation of Independence in the constitution.

The BNP, which signed the document, said it remains hopeful that the parties that refrained from signing will eventually come on board.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

FRIDAY’S VIOLENCE

5 cases filed, 2,900 sued

Police describe accused as ‘miscreants’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have filed five cases against around 2,900 unidentified individuals, describing them as “miscreants” and people with “fascist ideologies”, in connection with Friday’s violence outside the parliament complex ahead of the July charter signing ceremony.

In four of the cases, police alleged that the unidentified miscreants, criminals, saboteurs, and people with “fascist ideologies” carried out attacks and vandalism.


A youth was arrested in one of the cases, according to the case statements.

The arrestee, identified as Rimon Chandra Barman, 26, was detained at the scene and produced before a Dhaka court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer for extensive interrogation.

In the remand prayer, Sub-Inspector Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Atikur Rahman said police want to identify the saboteurs who, posing as “July Warriors”, attempted to disrupt the July Charter signing and those who instigated the unlawful entry into the Key Point Installation-designated parliament premises.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Officer-in-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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তারিখ : ১৩/১০/২০২৫ খ্রি.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এসএসসি/সমমান-২০২৫, এইচএসসি/সমমান-২০২৪ ও ডিপ্লোমা-২০২৪

ক্যাটাগরিতে প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তানদের শিক্ষাবৃত্তি প্রদানের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান।

প্রবাসী কর্মীর মেসারী সন্তান যারা ২০২৫ সালের এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে একাদশ/সমমান অথবা ডিপ্লোমা কোর্সে (১ম সেমিস্টার/বার্ষিক) অধ্যয়নরত ও ২০২৪ সালে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/ মেডিকেল কলেজে (১ম সেমিস্টার/বার্ষিক) অধ্যয়নরত এবং বাংলাদেশে কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ২০২৪ সালে ডিপ্লোমা ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে (১ম সেমিস্টার/বার্ষিক) অধ্যয়নরত তাদের নিম্নে বর্ণিত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলি :

(১) যে সব প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তানগণ শিক্ষাবৃত্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে-

(ক) রিমেইন্টর ভাটসেজের মাধ্যমে বর্ধিতম হাউজিং গ্রহণকারী অথবা ওয়েব আর্নিস কল্যাণ বোর্ডের মেসারী গ্রহণকারী প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তান;

(খ) ওয়েব আর্নিস কল্যাণ বোর্ড হতে আর্থিক অনুদান পেয়েছেন বা পাবেন এমন দুই প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তান।

(২) নিম্নোক্ত ছকে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে শিক্ষার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবে-

ক্রম	ক্যাটাগরি	বিভাগ	বাংলাদেশের কারিকুলাম অনুযায়ী জিপিএ	
			(ক) গ্রন্থাসে কর্মরত কর্মীর সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে	(খ) গ্রন্থাসে মুক্ত কর্মীর সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে
০১	এসএসসি/সমমান ২০২৫	বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ	৫.০০	৪.০০
		মানবিক ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ	৪.৭৫	৪.০০
০২	এইচএসসি/সমমান ২০২৪	বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ	৪.৮০	৪.০০
		মানবিক ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ	৪.৫০	৪.০০
০৩	ডিপ্লোমা ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ২০২৪	-	৩.৫০	৩.০০

(৩) আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি আপলোড করতে হবে :

(ক) পিতা/মাতা প্রবাসী কর্মী হওয়ার স্বাক্ষর প্রমাণক হিসাবে BMET বর্ধিতম হাউজিং সফটিক পাশপোর্ট-এর কপি/WEWB সদস্যদের পাশপোর্ট-এর কপি।

(খ) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান গ্রন্থাসে মেসারী নম্বরসহ অধ্যয়নরত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়ন পত্র।

(গ) গ্রন্থাসে মুক্ত কর্মীর সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশস্থ বাংলাদেশ মিশন কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত NOC (দূতাবাস সদস্য)-এর কপি।

(ঘ) শিক্ষার্থীর যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাকের হিসাব নম্বর ও ব্যাংক রাউটিং নম্বরের স্টেটমেন্ট (একচেই ব্যাংকিং গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়)।

(ঙ) শিক্ষার্থীর জন্মনিবন্ধন/NID কার্ড-এর কপি।

(৪) শিক্ষাবৃত্তি প্রদানের মেয়াদ :

(ক) এসএসসি/সমমান ক্যাটাগরিতে শিক্ষাবৃত্তির জন্য মেসারী শিক্ষার্থীদের একাদশ ও দ্বাদশ শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত ০২ (দুই) বছর ও ডিপ্লোমা শ্রেণিতে অধ্যয়নরতদের জন্য ০৪ (চার) বছর।

(খ) এইচএসসি/সমমান ক্যাটাগরিতে শিক্ষাবৃত্তির জন্য মেসারী শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক পর্য্যায় ৩ (তিন) বছর/স্নাতক (সম্মান) পর্য্যায় ৪ (বছর) ও মেডিকেলের জন্য ৫ বছর; এবং

(গ) বাংলাদেশে কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ডিপ্লোমা ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ক্যাটাগরিতে শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য মেসারী শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বিএসসি ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পর্য্যায় ৪(বছর) বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হইবে।

(৫) অনলাইনে আবেদনের সহযোগীতা :

(ক) অনলাইনে শিক্ষার্থীর নামের সাথে https://portal.wewb.gov.bd লিঙ্কে ভিজিট করুন।

(খ) অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময়সীমা : ২৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ হতে ২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।

(৬) শর্তাবলি :

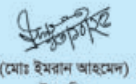
(ক) শিক্ষার্থীর মেসারী নম্বর এবং তার মাতা/পিতা/ভ্রাতৃভগ্ন-এর মেসারী নম্বর অবশ্যই আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

(খ) প্রবাসী কর্মীর পাশপোর্টে উল্লিখিত নামের সাথে আবেদনকারীর নামের উল্লিখিত পিতা/মাতার নামের পরিচয় পরিচিতি হলে আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(গ) শিক্ষাবৃত্তির আবেদন শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে করতে হবে, সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগেণে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

(ঘ) অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ভুল ভ্রম প্রদানকৃত আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং বৃত্তি প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ঙ) এ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য ২৪/৭ প্রবাসবন্ধ কলসেন্টারে দেশ থেকে ১৬৩৩৫ (টোল ফ্রি) এবং বিদেশ থেকে +৮৮০৯৬১০১০২০৩০ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইবে।



(মোঃ ইমরান আহমেদ)
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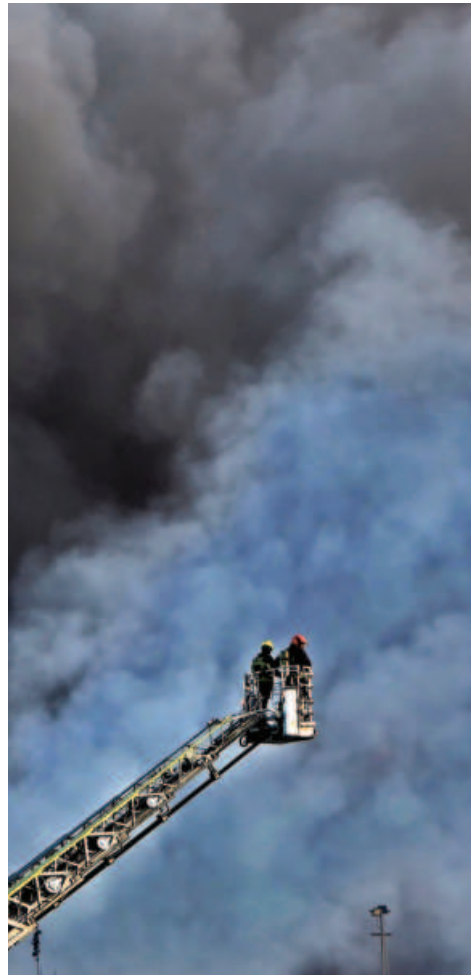
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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Firefighters battle a massive blaze that broke out at the cargo section of Dhaka airport yesterday. People were moved to safety as thick smoke engulfed the area, while several firefighting units worked to bring the flames under control. Authorities said all aircraft were safe, while flight operations were suspended as efforts to fully extinguish the fire continued.

PHOTO: STAR

‘A lighthouse for all of us’ Speakers recall Syed Manzoorul Islam’s warmth, wisdom, enduring legacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The legacy Professor Emeritus Syed Manzoorul Islam left behind must be carried forward and shared with the younger generation, said speakers at a commemorative event yesterday.

They also described him as a beacon of intellect and humanity.

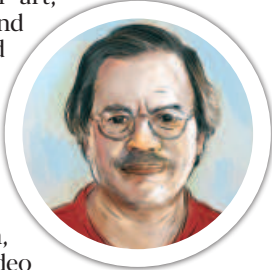
Author of around 50 books in both Bangla and English, Prof Islam wrote extensively on art, literature, and aesthetics. Beyond the classroom, he was celebrated for his steadfast commitment to liberal and secular values, they said.

The programme, held at Bengal Boi in Dhanmondi, began with a one-minute silence in memory of Syed Manzoorul Islam, followed by the screening of a video highlighting his life and contributions.

Writer and Prof Fakrul Alam said, “He was a writer of great stature -- witty and fond of lively conversation. He may have left us, but he will remain with me for as long as I live, and with all of you as well.”

Dhaka University Prof Farida Zaman said, “We cannot forget Syed Manzoorul Islam. He is constantly in our thoughts. Artists will never forget him. He was a powerful writer, novelist, and critic. Through his writing, he

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



‘One repatriation, one recruitment’

Dhaka, Rome in talks on new deal for legal hiring

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and Italy are working on a new mechanism under which the European country will hire one Bangladeshi worker for every irregular migrant repatriated from Italy.

The idea was discussed when Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri held a meeting on the sidelines of the World Food Forum in Rome on October 13.

It was also discussed during Yunus’ meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in late September.

“Italian authorities said they will recruit one Bangladeshi in exchange for repatriating one irregular one,” Yunus told a Bangladeshi community event at a hotel in Rome on October 14.

He said Bangladesh was negotiating for the recruitment of two Bangladeshis in exchange for repatriation of one irregular migrant.

Foreign ministry officials told The Daily Star that Italy was concerned over the growing irregular migration from various countries, especially through the Mediterranean Sea.

There are about 4,00,000

Bangladeshis in Italy, but the exact number of irregular ones is not known.

According to the Italian home ministry, between January this year and October 15, more than 15,000 Bangladeshis arrived in Italy through the Mediterranean.

Amid the surge in illegal migration, the European Union (EU) and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of

➤ 15,000 Bangladeshis reached Italy via the Mediterranean this year

➤ 4 lakh Bangladeshis currently live in Italy

➤ 28,000 irregular migrants have been repatriated since 2017

understanding (MoU) in 2017 for the repatriation of irregular migrants.

By 2023, around 28,000 Bangladeshis have been repatriated, he said.

The EU also signed another MoU with Bangladesh last year to promote skilled labour migration from Bangladesh to EU countries.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Gono Forum to sign July charter today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum is set to sign the July National Charter today, after the National Consensus Commission accepted its demand to retain the Proclamation of Independence in the constitution.

According to a press statement issued by the commission, the charter will be signed at 12:00pm at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Confirming the decision, Gono Forum General Secretary Mizanur Rahman said the party agreed to sign the charter as the commission had accepted its demand.

Gono Forum was present at the charter signing event yesterday but refrained from signing, opposing the commission’s initial recommendation to remove the Proclamation of Independence issued on April 10, 1971 by the Mujibnagar Government from the constitution. “It is one of the bases of the constitution,” Mizanur said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MPO teachers continue protest for seventh day



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MPO-listed teachers and employees of private educational institutions continued their sit-in protest at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for the seventh consecutive day yesterday, pressing for a three-point demand.

As part of the programme, they held a black flag procession from the Shaheed Minar and blocked the Kadam Foara intersection near the Jatiya Press Club after 12:00pm for half an hour.

Their demands include a 20 percent house rent allowance on basic pay, a medical allowance of Tk 1,500, and an increase in festival allowances for employees to 75 percent.

Rashed Khan, general secretary of Gono Odhikar Parishad, joined the demonstration in solidarity.

Addressing the gathering around 12:45pm, Rashed Khan urged Education Adviser Professor CR Abrar to accept all the teachers’ demands.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

‘Condemned cells dehumanise people’ Speakers call for major reform of death penalty system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts and rights activists yesterday called for sweeping reform of Bangladesh’s death penalty system, describing it as inhumane, overextended, and burdened by systemic failures that deny justice to those on death row for years.

They made the observations at a seminar held at Drik, organised to mark an exhibition by Mosfiqur Rahman Johan on the lives of death row convicts.

The event brought together members of the legal and rights community to discuss the human cost of prolonged confinement and the urgent need to reform laws prescribing capital punishment.

Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, professor at the Department of Law, Dhaka University, said the appeal process for prisoners sentenced to death remains stalled even six years after sentencing due to the massive backlog in the courts.

“With this systemic miscarriage of justice, the state must take responsibility,” he said. “It is not justice to keep a person in a condemned cell for many years. Condemned cells dehumanise a person.”

People can be dissuaded from demanding the death penalty if trust in the justice system can be restored, he said. He also highlighted the absence of safeguards for

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

SONGS OF THE SOUL

Grand tribute marks Lalon’s 135th death anniversary at Suhrawardy Udyan



Artists perform on the second day of the special programme organised to commemorate the 135th death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah. The event took place at the capital’s Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As dusk fell over Suhrawardy Udyan, the air was filled with the rhythmic sound of ektaras and soft hum of mystic verses that have travelled through generations.

Fakir Lalon Shah -- the philosopher, saint, and poet whose words still echo across Bengal -- is being remembered once again.

Marking the 135th death anniversary of the legendary bard, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs organised a three-day festival. The programme, began on October 17, concludes today with a discussion and musical soiree at Saiji’s Mazar, Lalon Academy, in Kuarkhali.

The celebrations moved to Dhaka yesterday, with a Lalon fair. The evening featured a special tribute to one of Lalon’s most celebrated interpreters, Farida Parveen.

The musical segment featured performances by Anny Bairagi, Fahmida Ahmed Shifa, Suchona Shely, Baula Band, Pathik Nabi and Team Creative, Arup Rahi, Samageet, Neerab and Bauls, Dina Mondal, Mujib Pardeshi, and numerous others.

Dr Md Rashiduzzaman, professor of the Department of Bangla at Islamic University, Kushtia, delivered the keynote address.

30 hurt as BNP, Jubo Dal clash in N'ganj

Six suffer gunshot wounds in Araihaazar turf war

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of BNP and Jubo Dal over establishing supremacy in Narayanganj's Araihaazar upazila yesterday morning.

Among the injured, six with bullet wounds are receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said.

The clash broke out around 10:00am and continued for more than an hour at Khaliarchar Paschimpara village – a remote river-char area of the upazila, said Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police.

Members of both groups were armed with firearms, harpoons, spears, and locally made sharp weapons.

The situation was brought under control after additional police personnel were deployed, he said.

According to police and locals, a long standing rivalry between Kabir Hossain, vice-president of Kalapaharia union BNP, and Fakir Jahirul Islam, president of the union Jubo Dal, led to the violence.

The two sides have been locked in a power struggle since the fall of the Awami League government last August, with each group trying to expand its influence and recruit new supporters.

An argument between the followers of Jahirul and Kabir on Friday evening reportedly triggered the full-scale clash yesterday.

Jubo Dal leader Fakir Jahirul Islam alleged, "Kabir's men are sheltering murder case accused. When the locals protested their movement in the area, Kabir's followers attacked them. Locals then retaliated."

Denying the allegation, BNP leader Kabir Hossain claimed, "Jahirul's followers attacked our people without provocation. Several of our men were injured in the incident."

Senior ASP Mehedi said legal action would be taken over the incident.

Police have been deployed in the area, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Playground in Kulaura shrinks as locals grab land

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Influential locals have allegedly been encroaching on a school playground in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila, gradually shrinking the field and depriving students of their only space for recreation.

The field has long been the only open space in the area. Over the past few years, much of it has reportedly been grabbed by some locals who have built homesteads and other structures on the land.

Although the field is associated with Telibeeel High School and Telibeeel Government Primary School, official records reportedly identify it as government land. This technicality has opened the door for influential locals to claim ownership.

"People have built homes and extended their boundary fences onto the field. I've spoken to

several individuals about the issue, but no one seems willing to take responsibility," said Md Lutfur Rahman, acting headteacher of Telibeeel Government Primary School.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed that the northern and southern ends of the field have already been occupied. Tin-roof houses now stand where children once played, and fences restrict movement. Locals said many of these structures were built in recent years.

Children still gather there every afternoon but can barely play due to lack of space. "Sometimes the ball goes into someone's compound, and they get angry and verbally abuse us. We just want a place to play," said Asad, a student.

Several individuals, including Abdul Khalek, Abdu Mia, Jamir Ali, Amir Ali, Junab Ali, Majid Mia, and

Masud Mia, are allegedly involved in grabbing the field illegally. They, however, claimed they built homes on their own land.

Saidul Islam, acting headteacher of Telibeeel High School, "We've informed the local administration regarding the illegal grabbing."

Despite repeated appeals from locals, no concrete action has yet been taken. "We demand the authorities' intervention to save the field from encroachment," said local resident Nurul Mohaimin Milton.

Contacted, Sharifpur Union Parishad's acting chairman Nipa Rani Das said she took charge recently and was unaware of the matter. "I will speak to the UNO in this regard," she said.

Md Anisul Islam, assistant commissioner (Land) in Kulaura, said they will take necessary steps after reviewing the situation.

RMG workers block road over arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

RMG workers blocked a road in the Konabari area of Gazipur yesterday morning after the factory authorities closed the facility without prior notice amid the workers' demand for unpaid salaries.

Around 8:00am, more than 100 workers of Shadhin Garments Ltd blocked the Jaron-Konabari regional road in the Konabari Palli Bidyut area.

The blockade caused severe suffering for both pedestrians and commuters.

The aggrieved workers said the factory authorities have not paid their salaries for the



past three months, including the current month. Despite repeated notices promising payment, no action has been taken.

Morshed Zaman, police inspector of Konabari Zone, Gazipur Industrial Police-2, said, "Workers have blocked the road to demand their unpaid salaries. We are managing the situation and have reached out to the factory authorities to resolve the issue."

Kamruzzaman, admin manager of Shadhin Garments Ltd, said, "We are working to pay the workers' three months' arrears. The delay is due to the factory's financial difficulties. We are making every effort to resolve the issue quickly in coordination with the director of finance."

He, however, could not say how long the factory will remain closed.

Shafiuddin Ahmed's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today marks the 13th death anniversary of Shafiuddin Ahmed, a local organiser of the Liberation War, politician, and social worker, said a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held today at his village home in Khaishakhali under Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi. His family members have requested everyone to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Ban leaded products

Demand activists marking International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of young activists staged a protest in Dhaka yesterday, urging the government to impose an immediate ban on leaded products to safeguard public health, particularly that of children.

The demonstrators marched from the Bangladesh National Museum to the mazar gate of the Supreme Court, drawing attention to the dangers of lead exposure and the lack of comprehensive regulation.

The event was organised by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), in partnership with the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP) and Unicef Bangladesh, to mark International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW), observed from October 19 to 25, according to the ESDO press release.

This year's theme, "No Safe Level: Act Now to End Lead Exposure," underscores the urgency of the issue.

Lead poisoning remains a severe public health crisis in Bangladesh, with children being disproportionately affected. Even minimal exposure can cause irreversible damage to brain development, resulting in cognitive impairments, learning disabilities, and behavioural disorders.

The WHO estimates that lead exposure contributes to approximately one million deaths globally each year, with children bearing the brunt of the impact, the press release added.

Bangladesh currently enforces a limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) of lead in household paints. However, there are no regulations governing industrial paints, leaving workers and the wider population vulnerable.

PRAYER TIMING

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4:50	12:45	4:00	5:38	7:15
JAMAAT	5:25	1:15	4:15	5:41	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Candidates are requested to apply to the undersigned with Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 500/- (In the name of "Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College"), full curriculum vitae, details of BM & DC qualifications, experiences and copies of publication with 2 copies of passport size photo within **02.11.2025**. The application form is available at the college office.

Mohammed Rezaul Karim Azad

Chairman, Governing Body

Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College

Agrabad, Chattogram

Gono Forum

FROM PAGE 3

The National Consensus Commission made last-minute amendments yesterday, including retaining the Proclamation of Independence in the constitution.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, said the change was made in response to demands from several political parties.

Four left-leaning parties, the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Basod), Bangladesh JSD, and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) had also objected to the removal of both the Declaration of Independence (March 26, 1971) and the Proclamation of Independence (April 10, 1971) from the constitution, as well as the exclusion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech.

The leftist parties placed further demands and boycotted the charter signing.

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অফিস আদেশ নম্বরঃ ৫০

তারিখঃ ১০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫

জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত), বান্দরবান বন বিভাগ, বান্দরবান এর বিরুদ্ধে সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৩(ক), ৩(খ) ও ৩(গ) মোতাবেক সরকারি দায়িত্বে অবহেলা, অসদচারণ এবং পলায়ন (Desertion) এর অভিযোগে প্রণীত বিভাগীয় শাস্তিমূলক কার্যধারার অভিযোগনামা (Statement of Facts).

অভিযোগসমূহঃ (১) সরকারি দায়িত্বে অবহেলা (২) অসদচারণ এবং (৩) পলায়ন (Desertion)

যেহেতু, বান্দরবান বন বিভাগ, বান্দরবানের অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন পাইন্দু রেঞ্জের কর্মরত জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী গত ০৩/০৬/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনানুমতিতে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত আছেন এবং তিনি প্রায়শই তার নিজস্ব খেয়াল-খুশিমত চলাফেরা করেন এবং তার সহকর্মীদের সাথে কোনরূপ দাপ্তরিক যোগাযোগ রক্ষা করেন না। রেঞ্জ অফিসার, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ কর্তৃক ২৬/০৬/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী এর ব্যক্তিগত সেলফোনে (মোবাইল নম্বরঃ ০১৭৬৬-৫৬৯৩৭৯) ফোন করা করলে, তিনি রেঞ্জ অফিসারের কল রিসিভ করেননি এবং অদ্যাবধি রেঞ্জ অফিসারকে কল ব্যাক করেননি বা কর্মস্থলেও ফেরত আসেননি। তাছাড়া, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ অফিসের পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার স্থানীয় লোকজন তার বিরুদ্ধে বিভিন্ন সময়ে বিরূপ মন্তব্য করার বিষয়বলী উল্লেখ করে জনাব মোঃ মোদাছেের হোসেন, ফরেস্টার, রেঞ্জ অফিসার, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ, বান্দরবান বন বিভাগ, বান্দরবান এর স্মারক নম্বরঃ ২২.০১.০৩০০.৮১৪.০৫.০০০.২৫.১১৫ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৬/২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলে জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী এর বিরুদ্ধে বিধি মোতাবেক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য সুপারিশ করেন।

যেহেতু, জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী গত ০৩/০৬/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনানুমতিতে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত থাকা, প্রায়শই। তার নিজস্ব খেয়াল-খুশিমত চলাফেরা করা, সহকর্মীদের সাথে কোনরূপ যোগাযোগ রক্ষা না করা, উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে যোগাযোগ রক্ষা করা বা রেঞ্জ অফিসারের ফোন রিসিভ না করা বা কর্মস্থলেও ফেরত না আসা পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ অফিসের পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার স্থানীয় লোকজন তার বিরুদ্ধে বিভিন্ন সময়ে বিরূপ মন্তব্য থাকার দরুন নিম্নাফ্রকারীর দস্তরের স্মারক নম্বরঃ ২২.০১.০০০০.৮০৯.০৫.০৪৭.২৫.১৬৩১ তারিখঃ ০৭ জুলাই ২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলে তাকে কৈফিয়ত তলবকরতঃ ১৫/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে তার নিজ কর্মস্থলে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদানকরতঃ তার স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় (জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী, পিতা-মৃত আলহাজ্ব সৈয়দ মোবারক আলী, সাং-শরীফখালী, ডাকঘর-বানিয়াচং, উপজেলা-বানিয়াচং, জেলা-হবিগঞ্জ) সরকারি ডাকযোগে রেজিটার এডি সিস্টেমে পত্র প্রেরণ করা হয়। ডাক বিভাগ কর্তৃক জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালীর নামীয় উক্ত পত্রনামা গত ১৪/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ হস্তান্তরপূর্বক প্রাপ্তি স্বীকারটি (প্রাপ্ত স্বীকার নম্বরঃ ৯৪৮, তারিখঃ ০৭/০৭/২০২৫ঃ DL 721708346BD) ডাক বিভাগ কর্তৃক নিম্নাফ্রকারীর দস্তরে প্রেরণ করেছেন।

পরবর্তীতে জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী কর্তৃক কর্মস্থলে যোগদানের বিষয়ে প্রতিবেদন দাখিলের জন্য নিম্নাফ্রকারীর দস্তরের স্মারক নম্বরঃ ২২.০১.০০০০.৮০৯.০৫.০৪৭.২৫.১৮০৯ তারিখঃ ২২ জুলাই ২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলে রেঞ্জ অফিসার, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ, বান্দরবান বন বিভাগকে নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হয়। তৎপ্রেক্ষিতে রেঞ্জ অফিসার, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ, বান্দরবান বন বিভাগ, বান্দরবান এর স্মারক নম্বরঃ ২২.০১.০০০০.০৩০০.৮১৪.০৫.০০০.২৫.১৪৬ তারিখঃ ২৭/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলে জানান যে, জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালীকে গত ১৫/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করার নির্দেশন থাকলেও অদ্যাবধি তিনি তার কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করেননি। এমনকি, রেঞ্জ অফিসার, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ কর্তৃক গত ২৩/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখে বর্ণিত বাগান মালীকে ফোন করলেও তিনি রিসিভ করেন নি বা পরবর্তীতে রেঞ্জ অফিসারের সাথে কোনরূপ যোগাযোগ করেননি।

যেহেতু, জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালীকে উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনানুমতিতে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত থাকা, প্রায়শই তার নিজস্ব খেয়াল-খুশিমত চলাফেরা করা, উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষ ও সহকর্মী সাথে সাথে কোনরূপ দাপ্তরিক যোগাযোগ রক্ষা না করা বা রেঞ্জ অফিসারের ফোন রিসিভ না করা বা কর্মস্থলে ফেরত না আসা, পাইন্দু রেঞ্জ অফিসের পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার স্থানীয় লোকজন তার বিরুদ্ধে বিভিন্ন সময়ে বিরূপ মন্তব্য অব্যাহত থাকা, নিম্নাফ্রকারী কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করার নির্দেশনা ডাকযোগে গ্রহণ করা সত্ত্বেও তা প্রতিপালন না করাসহ তলবকৃত ব্যাখ্যার জবাব অদ্যাবধি দাখিল না করার দরুন সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি-১২(১) অনুযায়ী নিম্নাফ্রকারীর দস্তরের অফিস আদেশ নম্বরঃ ৩৩ তারিখঃ ২৭ জুলাই ২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলে জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালীকে আদেশ জারীর তারিখ হতে সাময়িক বরখাস্ত করা হয় এবং তার সাময়িক বরখাস্তকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, থানচি রেঞ্জে সদর দস্তর নির্ধারণ করা হয়।

যেহেতু, জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) কর্তৃক গত ০৩/০৬/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি পর্যন্ত বিনানুমতিতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিনের অধিক সময়কাল কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত থাকা, নিজের খেয়াল-খুশিমত চলাফেরা করা, উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে দাপ্তরিক যোগাযোগ রক্ষা না করা, সরকারি চাকুরির শিষ্টাচার প্রতিপালন না করা, সরকারি সম্পদ সংরক্ষণে নিয়মিত টহল ও প্রশাসনিক কার্যক্রমে বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টির অপচেষ্টা, উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের বৈধ আদেশ প্রতিপালন না করার বিষয়টি সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর ৩(ক), ৩(খ) ও (গ) অনুযায়ী সরকারি দায়িত্বে অবহেলা, অসদচারণ এবং পলায়ন (Desertion) এর পর্যায়ভুক্ত শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

সেহেতু, জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর ৩(ক), ৩(খ) ও (গ) অনুযায়ী সরকারি দায়িত্বে অবহেলা, অসদচারণ এবং পলায়ন (Desertion) এর অভিযোগে অভিযুক্ত করা হলো। জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) বিরুদ্ধে আনীত অভিযোগসমূহ প্রমানিত ও প্রতিষ্ঠিত হলে, কেন্ন তাকে সরকারি চাকুরি হতে বরখাস্ত বা অন্য কোন গুরু দস্ত প্রদান করা হবে না সে বিষয়ে আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব এ পত্র প্রাপ্তির ১০ (দশ) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দাখিল করার জন্য নির্দেশ দেয়া হলো। জনাব সৈয়দ মহসিন আলী, বাগান মালী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) এতদবিষয়ে তার ব্যক্তিগত বক্তব্য পেশ করতে চান কিনা তাও তার আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাবে উল্লেখ করার জন্যও পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো। তিনি যথাসময়ে আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব দাখিলে ব্যর্থ হলে ধরে নেয়া হবে যে, বর্ণিত অভিযোগ সম্পর্কিত বিষয়ে তার কোন বক্তব্য নেই এবং তদানুযায়ী তার বিরুদ্ধে আইন ও বিধি মোতাবেক পরবর্তী প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

যে সমস্ত অভিযোগের উপর ভিত্তি করে উপরোক্ত অভিযোগসমূহ আনয়ন করা হয়েছে, তার একটি অভিযোগ বিবরণী (Statement of Allegation) এতদসঙ্গে প্রেরণ করা হলো।

GD-2212

মোহাম্মদ আবদুর রহমান

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা

বান্দরবান বন বিভাগ, বান্দরবান



People attend a “No Kings” protest against US President Donald Trump’s policies, in Times Square in New York City yesterday. Large demonstrations are expected to hit the streets yesterday from New York to San Francisco to vent their anger over Trump’s hardline policies.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AFGHAN-PAK BORDER CLASHES Rivals meet for talks in Qatar

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan and Afghan officials were due to meet in Qatar yesterday, a day after Islamabad launched air strikes that killed at least 10 people in Afghanistan and broke a ceasefire that had brought two days of calm to the border.

The strikes targeted what Pakistan security sources said was a militant group linked to the Pakistani Taliban in the Afghan border areas, following an attack that killed Pakistani paramilitary troops in North Waziristan, a district in Pakistan’s northwest.

Before the truce, nearly a week long cross-border clashes killed dozens of troops and civilians on both sides.

“The talks will focus on immediate measures to end cross-border terrorism against Pakistan emanating from Afghanistan and restore peace and stability along the Pak-Afghan border,” Pakistan’s foreign ministry said.

The Afghan Taliban’s defence ministry said a team led by minister Mohammad Yaqoob also reached the Qatari capital.

Security issues are at the heart of the tensions, with Pakistan accusing Afghanistan of sheltering militant groups led by the TTP – a claim Kabul denies.

Pakistan’s army chief General Asim Munir said that “proxies have sanctuaries in Afghanistan” and were “using Afghan soil to perpetrate heinous attacks inside Pakistan”.

Defence minister Asif went further, accusing Kabul of acting as “a proxy of India” and “plotting” against Pakistan.

In response, Afghan deputy interior minister Mullah Mohammad Nabi Omari said: “We neither brought the TTP here, nor supported them, nor did they come during our time.”

‘Just a wasteland’

UN aid chief foresees ‘massive job’ ahead on tour of ruined Gaza; strike on bus kills 9; ICC rejects Israeli bid to withdraw arrest warrants against Netanyahu

AFP, Jerusalem

The United Nations’ aid chief took stock of the monumental task of restoring basic necessities in the devastated Gaza Strip yesterday, as Israel and Hamas exchanged more human remains.

In a short convoy of white UN jeeps, relief coordinator Tom Fletcher and his team wound their way through the twisted rubble of shattered homes to inspect a wastewater treatment plant in Sheikh Radwan, north of Gaza City.

“I drove through here seven to eight months ago when most of these buildings were still standing and, to see the devastation, this is a vast part of the city, just a wasteland, and it’s absolutely devastating to see,” he told AFP.

The densely packed cities of the Gaza Strip, home to more than two million Palestinians, have been reduced to ruins by two years of bombardment and intense fighting between Hamas and the Israeli army.

Just over a week since US President Donald Trump helped broker a truce, the main border crossing to Egypt has yet to be reopened, but hundreds of trucks roll in daily via Israeli checkpoints and aid is being distributed.

Hamas has returned the final 20 surviving hostages it was holding and has begun to hand over the remains of another 28 who died.

On Friday night, it turned over a body identified by Israel as Eliyahu Margalit, 75, who died in the October 7, 2023 attack that ignited the war in Gaza.

Yesterday, in line with the terms of the ceasefire deal, Israel returned the bodies of 15 more Palestinians to Gaza, the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory said.

Surveying the damaged pumping equipment and a grim lake of sewage at the Sheikh Radwan wastewater plant, Fletcher said the task ahead for the UN and aid agencies was a “massive, massive job”.

The British diplomat said he had met residents returning to destroyed homes trying to dig latrines in the ruins.

“They’re telling me most of all they want dignity,” he said. “We’ve got to get the power back on so we can start to get the sanitation system back in place.”

“We have a massive 60 day plan now to surge in food, get a million meals out there a day, start to rebuild the health sector, bring in tents for the winter, get hundreds of thousands of kids back to school.”

According to figures supplied to mediators by the Israeli military’s civil affairs agency and

authority, said Saturday that it had recovered the bodies of nine Palestinians from the Shaaban family after Israeli troops opened fire on a bus.

The military said it had fired on a vehicle that approached the so-called “yellow line”, to which its forces withdrew under the terms of the ceasefire.

Under the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, negotiated by Trump and regional mediators, the Palestinian group has



released by the UN humanitarian office, on Thursday some 950 trucks carrying aid and commercial supplies crossed into Gaza from Israel.

Relief agencies have called for the Rafah border crossing from Egypt to be reopened to speed the flow of food, fuel and medicines, and Turkey has a team of rescue specialists waiting at the border to help find bodies in the rubble.

Some violent incidents have taken place despite the ceasefire. Gaza’s civil defence agency, which operates under Hamas

returned all 20 surviving hostages and the remains of 10 out of 28 deceased ones.

Meanwhile, the International Criminal Court Friday rejected Israel’s bid to appeal against arrest warrants for its Israeli PM Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant over the Gaza war.

In a ruling that made headlines around the world, the ICC in November found “reasonable grounds” to believe Netanyahu and Gallant bore “criminal responsibility” for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Zelensky leaves White House empty-handed Gets no missiles; Trump pushes for peace

REUTERS, Washington

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky came to the White House on Friday looking for weapons to keep fighting his country’s war with Russia, but met an American president who appears more intent on brokering a peace deal than upgrading Ukraine’s arsenal.

While US President Donald Trump did not rule out providing the long-range Tomahawk missiles Zelensky seeks, Trump appeared cool to the prospect as he looked ahead to a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Hungary in the coming weeks.

After speaking with Zelenskiy for more than two hours, Trump implored both Ukraine and Russia to “stop the war immediately,” even if it means Ukraine conceding territory.

“You stop at the battle line, and both sides should go home, go to their families,” Trump told reporters on his way to his home in West Palm Beach, Florida. “Stop the killing. And that should be it. Stop right now at the battle line. I told that to President Zelensky. I told it to President Putin.”

Trump’s move to re-engage with Putin, a strategy that has frustrated Zelensky and some European allies in the past, cast a shadow on the US president’s otherwise cordial exchange with his Ukrainian counterpart as they spoke with reporters ahead of a private lunch.

The two leaders then went behind closed doors where they also discussed a call the previous day between the Russian president and Trump, who has portrayed himself as a mediator between the warring forces despite the fact that Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

“I think President Zelensky wants it



done, and I think President Putin wants it done. Now all they have to do is get along a little bit,” Trump told reporters.

Zelensky, however, noted how difficult it has been to try to secure a ceasefire. “We want this. Putin doesn’t want (it),” he said.

The Ukrainian leader was frank, telling Trump that Ukraine has thousands of drones ready for an offensive against Russian targets, but needs American missiles.

“We don’t have Tomahawks, that’s why we need Tomahawks,” he said.

Trump responded: “We’d much rather have them not need Tomahawks.”

Later, Trump reiterated that he wants the United States to hold onto its weaponry. “We want Tomahawks also. We don’t want to be giving away things that we need to protect our country,” he said.

After the meeting, which Zelensky described as productive, he told reporters he did not want to talk about long-range missiles, saying the US did not want escalation, and that he was “realistic” about his chance of getting them.

The Ukrainian president, who spoke by phone with European leaders after the meeting, said he was counting on Trump to pressure Putin “to stop this war.”

Climate debt storm threatens financial stability

FROM PAGE 1

Least Developed Country (LDC) category in November 2026, is navigating a challenging economic phase marked by low revenue collection, liquidity crises in its banking sector, and a depreciating exchange rate.

The paper said over the past 10 years, the ratio of foreign debt-to-exports increased from 59 percent in the fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 to nearly 117 percent in FY23.

“This indicates that the growth of exports has been lower than that of external loans, especially in recent years, which increases the risk of an overwhelming debt burden for the country.”

The primary catalyst for immediate debt distress, the report suggests, is the financial weight of climate change.

Economic losses from climate-induced natural disasters surged nearly tenfold, from roughly Tk 18,425 crore between 2009 and 2014 to a staggering Tk 1,79,200 crore in the 2015 and 2020 period.

The combined losses

and damage from all the disasters between 2009 and 2020 stood at around Tk 2,00,000 crore, said the report, citing an estimate by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Floods accounted for over half of the losses.

This fragile environment has already triggered alarm among global credit agencies: Moody’s, S&P Global, and Fitch Ratings have all downgraded Bangladesh, citing “heightened external vulnerability and liquidity risks”, “deteriorating reserves”, and a growing susceptibility to economic shocks.

The report said that Bangladesh’s external debt surpassed \$100 billion by the end of 2023, nearly double the level recorded a decade earlier.

The government’s fiscal space has narrowed sharply. Public investment remains essential to sustain growth and build climate resilience, it added.

The report warns that a growing share of new borrowing is occurring under less concessional terms, exposing Bangladesh to higher refinancing costs.

At the programme, Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of CPD, said Bangladesh faces two intertwined challenges: the immediate impacts of climate events such as floods and cyclones, and the broader, long-term costs of climate change, including adaptation and mitigation measures.

“It is crucial to understand the marginal cost of debt sustainability (the cost of raising one additional dollar of debt) attributable to climate factors, especially as the financial landscape evolves.”

He said the current allocation for climate-related spending – around 4-5 percent of the development budget – is meagre in relation to the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, he said, “We need to see not only what is allocated but how effectively those funds are being utilised.”

Sobhan called for a clearer breakdown of domestic versus external funding for climate issues and added that grant financing should be prioritised for non-income-generating climate

projects.

He warned that global developments, including shifts in international aid priorities and commercial financing patterns, could influence Bangladesh’s climate finance landscape.

Referring to the so-called “Trump variable”, Sobhan said any change in the US administration’s stance on climate issues could have cascading effects on funding availability worldwide.

He pointed to emerging financing opportunities in Asia, including loans and aid from new sources such as China, suggesting that Bangladesh should explore these avenues to supplement traditional funding mechanisms.

The report emphasised the need for better data on the economic impacts of climate change, incorporating loss and damage considerations into debt sustainability analyses, and seeking support from the Loss and Damage Fund established to support developing countries vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.



Demonstrators hold placards during a march on Oxford Street, against the implementation of digital ID cards, in central London yesterday. UK government last month announced plans for the digital ID in a bid to curb illegal migration, but the move faces strong opposition in a country that has long resisted identity cards. A petition against the move has collected more than 2,889,412 signatures.

PHOTO: AFP

Tripura killings expose accountability gap

India must bring to justice those behind killing of three Bangladeshis

The gruesome killing of three Bangladeshis by a mob in India's Tripura state last week demands a response that goes beyond mere diplomatic formality. The foreign ministry in Dhaka is right to call for an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation into this heinous act. Regardless of the alleged circumstances, an accusation of illegal activity can never justify vigilante justice. The sanctity of life and the rule of law must prevail over frontier vengeance.

The 4,096-kilometre-long India-Bangladesh border is among the most porous and complex boundaries in the world. Stretching across riverine landscapes, dense forests, and farmlands, it cuts through communities that have shared socioeconomic ties for generations. Every day, people cross this frontier—some to visit relatives and others to trade goods. Amid this flux, illicit cross-border activities, especially cattle smuggling and narcotics trafficking, have flourished. These operations are not random but sustained by intricate local networks, often involving people on both sides of the divide.

Against this backdrop, the Tripura killings highlight the precarious state of trust between the two nations. It may be recalled that just weeks before the incident, at a director-general-level conference between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF), both sides pledged to halt cross-border killings, curb illegal intrusions, and repatriate detained nationals through lawful means rather than force. The conference also outlined broader steps: launching joint awareness programmes, advancing socio-economic development in vulnerable regions, and promoting mutual respect for border integrity. The BSF reaffirmed its commitment to adopting additional precautionary measures, including intensified night patrols in high-risk areas. For its part, the BGB voiced concern over recurring shootings of Bangladeshis by both BSF personnel and Indian civilians. Together, these exchanges were intended to mark a new phase of restraint and collaboration.

Yet, the killings in Tripura have rendered India's assurances hollow. India's official response—delivered through its external affairs ministry—appeared to prioritise rhetoric over responsibility. By emphasising Bangladesh's duty to “uphold the sanctity of the international boundary” and “support border fencing,” New Delhi seemed to shift focus from justice to border management. Infrastructure improvements may be legitimate long-term goals, but invoking them in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy diverts attention from the core issue: accountability.

If India is genuinely committed to maintaining neighbourly goodwill, it must demonstrate that commitment through action. A thorough, independent, and transparent investigation must follow, culminating in the prosecution of all perpetrators. Anything less may further deepen mistrust and corrode the credibility of bilateral mechanisms built over the decades. At the same time, the Bangladesh government must continue to defend the right to life of its citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Even those who engage in illicit border trade deserve the protection of law and the dignity of due process.

Chemical warehouses must be made safer

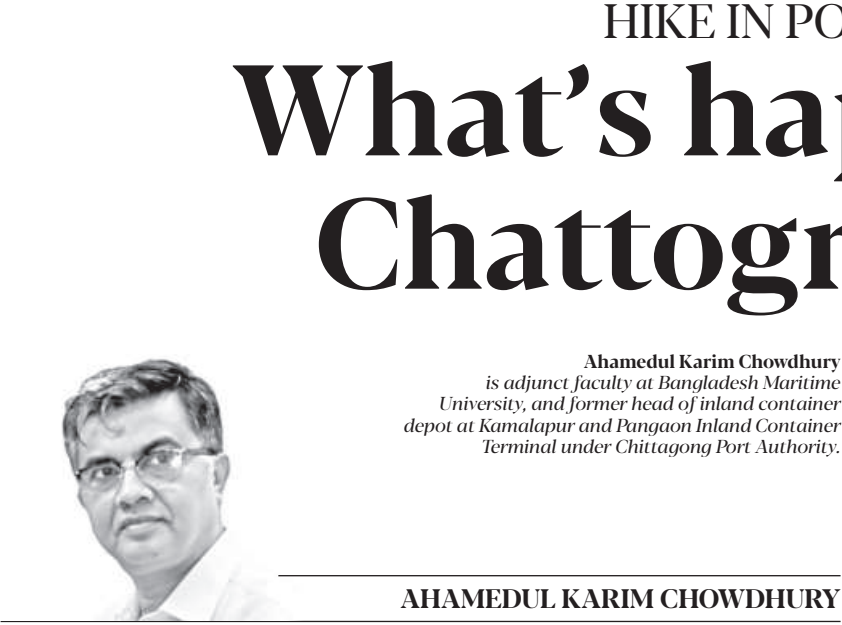
Mirpur at grave risk as illegal chemical businesses mushroom

Last Tuesday's devastating fire in a chemical warehouse in Mirpur's Rupnagar area, which claimed the lives of at least 16 workers—including children—has once again exposed the grave risks faced daily by factory workers and residents across many parts of Dhaka. Reportedly, in densely populated areas like Mirpur, numerous chemical warehouses and small factories have been operating for years right under the authorities' watch, in defiance of laws and basic safety standards. Despite repeated tragedies, the authorities have done little to identify and relocate these hazardous businesses. According to a fire service official, they only learn about such warehouses when a fire breaks out. This speaks volumes about the lack of oversight and accountability on the part of the authorities.

Unfortunately, despite the Fire Prevention and Control Act, 2003, and the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997, which prohibit the storage of hazardous materials in residential zones, such activities continue openly. Reportedly, more than a hundred buildings in the Rupnagar residential area house chemical warehouses, along with small- and medium-sized garment factories and dyeing units. Landowners in this residential zone have been selling plots and buildings to industrial entrepreneurs, who then use them for garment production and chemical storage, according to locals. During a recent visit to Rupnagar's Shialbari area, where the latest tragedy occurred, our reporters found that residential buildings stand barely 14 metres from the site of the deadly fire. East Senpara is another neighbourhood that has become one of the city's most concentrated chemical trading hubs. Locally known as the “chemical colony,” almost every ground floor in the area houses chemical shops or warehouses, while people live upstairs, risking their lives. Many traders conduct these hazardous businesses with nothing more than a trade licence. Such illegal practices cannot be allowed to continue.

Reportedly, after the tragic fire in Nimtoli, Old Dhaka, which killed over a hundred people, many hazardous businesses were relocated to the Mirpur area, while the government projects initiated at that time to relocate hazardous industries from Old Dhaka still remain incomplete or unimplemented even today. This is unacceptable. Moreover, after every such disaster, we see the authorities announcing relocation plans, only for illegal operations to resume once public outrage fades. We hope this time things will be different.

We urge the authorities to identify and shut down all chemical warehouses and hazardous factories operating within the capital's residential areas, including Mirpur. This must be done through coordinated efforts involving the fire service, the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, the Department of Explosives, and city corporations. Clear and enforceable boundaries between residential and industrial zones are also essential to prevent any future tragedies.



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AHAMEDUL KARIM CHOWDHURY

Chattogram port is the beating heart of Bangladesh's seaborne trade, handling over 90 percent of its international trade volume and 98 percent of its container traffic. So, when the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) announced a 41 percent average hike in port service tariffs to be effective from October 14, 2025 onwards—after a one-month deferral—the shockwaves were not surprising.

This is the first comprehensive pricing update in nearly 40 years. Under the revised schedule, fees across 23 service categories—including container handling, pilotage, tug service, storage, and ancillary port operations—saw significant increases. For instance, the handling charge for a 20-foot container jumps from Tk 11,849 to Tk 16,243, a hike of 37 percent. Meanwhile, import containers will cost an additional Tk 5,720, and export containers Tk 3,045. On top of that, a newly imposed “container movement” charge adds around Tk 3,000 per container.

Officials justify the hike on grounds of inflation, rising costs, and the need to modernise infrastructure. If the port struggled financially, a drastic hike like that might have made sense. But the CPA's recent financials tell a different story: in FY2024-25, it reportedly generated Tk 5,228 crore (52.28 billion) in revenue, posting a record net profit of Tk 2,913 crore. So even before the tariff bump, the port was making strong returns. Many critics, therefore, argue that this was not a rescue exercise; it was more of a value-extraction move.

Trade commentators note another factor: many CPA tariffs are denominated in US dollars. Over time, as the taka depreciated (from Tk 27 per dollar in 1986 to around Tk 122 now), the local currency cost of port services has gradually climbed without formal revisions. That means many port users were already paying significantly higher local costs due to currency changes. Hence, some see the current move as an attempt to lock in a higher revenue base ahead of structural changes at the port. Amid this controversy, a major deal is in motion: the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), which alone handles nearly 40 percent of Chattogram's total throughput, is slated for management takeover by DP World under a government-to-government PPP arrangement. In that arrangement, DP World would take over operations, collect terminal handling fees, and pay the CPA a royalty and fixed fees.

A key suspicion among industry stakeholders is that the tariff hike is timed to bolster the financial attractiveness of that and other terminal deals. In other words, the port is being re-priced just ahead of a transfer of operational control, ensuring that the incoming operator steps into a high-yield environment. As one BGMEA leader put it, “the tariff hike may have been designed to make port operations look more profitable for them [foreign operators].”

This could tilt the balance of future gains more heavily towards private



FILE PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

operators if the royalty or revenue-sharing terms are set against higher baseline fees. Some analysts also argue that the International Finance Corporation (IFC), acting as the government's transaction adviser, has influence over the tariff design, supposedly mirroring earlier models for terminal concessions. They also question whether its advisory role might bias it towards foreign operator interests.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association (BSAA) has called the tariff increase commercially unsustainable, and urged that it be scaled down to 10-15 percent at most, to be gradually implemented over six to 12 months. Business groups in Chattogram have demanded postponement of implementation until full stakeholder consultation. Officials from BGMEA and local chambers have also said

that while they accept the idea of port modernisation, imposing a 41 percent hike without demonstrable service improvement is untenable. Importers and manufacturers also warn of escalating cost pressures. Others said the burden of additional surcharges will eventually fall on consumers, especially if industries cannot pass it on to global buyers, thereby increasing inflationary pressure.

Overall, the consensus among critics is that the hike lacks fairness in timing, consideration of user capacity, and consultation with affected trade communities. And its ripple effects are already visible. CMA CGM, a major global shipping line, has announced a surcharge (effective from October 26), ranging from \$45 to \$350 per container, to offset higher operational charges at Chattogram. Some other main line operators are expected to follow suit. These additional costs will burden importers directly, and exporters indirectly, since their supply chains also rely on imported inputs.

Given these realities and the high stakes involved, a course correction is essential. Tariff increases should be rolled back or paused immediately, at least until stakeholder consultations conclude and a more moderate path is agreed upon. Any future adjustments should follow a phased implementation to ease the burden on port users and maintain confidence. Tariff increases must also be linked to

tangible service improvements, such as faster turnaround times, better infrastructure, and reduced delays, so that higher charges are justified. That said, a transparent process and public debate and hearings are also crucial before any major tariff or terminal management decisions are finalised.

Additionally, safeguards in PPP contracts are necessary to protect Bangladesh's interests should DP World or another operator take over, including clear royalty rules, performance benchmarks, audit rights, and limits on unilateral tariff hikes. Finally, the CPA and the higher authorities should consider local alternatives first, exploring ways to strengthen domestic public-private partnerships or upgrade local capacity rather than defaulting to foreign operator models.

The tariff hike at Chattogram port cannot be viewed as a simple price adjustment. It sits at the intersection of economics, governance, and

What Bangladesh's fake news boom says about our information crisis



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ARIFUR RAHAMAN

Something curious is happening on Bangladeshi social media. Pages that look almost identical to our leading newspapers and TV channels are spreading exaggerated or entirely false stories. The logos are copied, the fonts are identical, and even the headlines sound familiar. Many users know these are fakes, yet they follow, share, and debate them daily. Why? The answer goes deeper than gullibility. It tells us something about our fractured media system, our politics of fear, and the psychology of belonging.

When mainstream news loses credibility, counterfeits rush in. Years of state control, legal threats, and corporate dependence have left the professional press cautious and predictable. The Digital Security Act, 2018, was revamped as the Cyber Security Act (CSA), 2023, but it held the same spirit. Journalists have learnt to avoid sensitive topics, while readers have developed the ability to read

between the lines. Over time, silence began to look like complicity. Many ordinary people came to believe that mainstream media could no longer tell the truth. In that vacuum, mirror pages emerged as rebellious alternatives—unverified, emotional, and fast.

Political communication theory helps explain this: when institutions restrict information, informal networks fill the gap. During the quota reform protests and the violent days of July 2024, internet shutdowns and censorship created what scholars call “information voids.” People turned to whoever seemed to know more. Mirror pages, posing as bold truth-tellers, entered that void. They offered speed and certainty when official channels hesitated.

Psychology adds another layer to this. Human beings are not neutral processors of information; we believe what feels right, not necessarily what is true. Theories of cognitive bias show

that people are drawn to information that conforms to their emotions. Mirror pages thrive because they speak to anger, frustration, and hope. They say aloud what people already suspect. Each click and share becomes a small act of defiance—a way to signal belonging in a polarised society.

The social media environment amplifies this bias. Facebook remains the main news source for millions of Bangladeshis. Its algorithm rewards engagement, rather than accuracy. A sensational headline gets more visibility than a balanced report. Mirror pages have a structural advantage: they can shout louder, post faster, and never correct themselves.

However, blaming technology alone misses the point. The deeper crisis is moral and institutional. When political competition collapses into propaganda, citizens start trusting whatever sounds most convincing. What we are witnessing is not just a digital problem—it is a democratic one.

To fix it, we must rebuild credibility from the ground up. The first step is legal reform. Criminalising errors and opinions has only driven journalism underground. The newly approved Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025, must deliver clear protections for free expression. Without that, every journalist will continue to self-censor, and mirror pages will continue to fill

the vacuum created by silence.

Second, newsrooms must change how they communicate. Too many outlets still write for officials, not audiences. Transparency and plain language matter. Explain how stories are verified. Admit uncertainty when facts are unclear. Publish corrections promptly and visibly. Honesty about the process builds more trust than polished evasions.

Third, platforms must share responsibility. They know which pages impersonate legitimate outlets. They can verify original logos, restrict deceptive lookalikes, and promote fact-checked content in moments of crisis. Finally, we need civic education that treats media literacy as part of citizenship. Schools and universities should teach students how to verify claims, cross-check sources, and resist emotional baiting. Doubt should not be seen as disloyalty—it is the foundation of democracy.

Mirror pages are not merely parasites living off mainstream media. They are symptoms of a society struggling with trust. They thrive because truth has become uncertain and silence has become normal. The way to defeat them is not through censorship but by restoring confidence in real journalism and real accountability. Only then will people stop following the mirror and start looking for the light beyond it.

ECHOES OF A LOST ROAR

RAMIN TALUKDER

As the sunlight dimmed and a thin mist drifted beneath the floodlights, the Mirpur evening yesterday felt strangely hollow. It was Bangladesh's first of three ODIs against the West Indies, yet the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on a weekend stood like a forgotten relic.

Rows of empty seats glowed under the lights, as if waiting for voices that never came. The ground, where once thousands roared at every wicket and every run, now echoed only with the wind.

Outside, the old vibrancy had faded too. Flag sellers sat hunched on dusty pavements. Delwar, who has sold flags here for twelve years, smiled faintly. "Brother, before ten in the morning everything used to be sold out. Now it's evening, and I've thirty left. People don't come anymore, and neither does that excitement. What's the point of waving a flag when no one believes the team can win?"

A few feet away, a young ticket scalper tried selling 300-taka tickets for 500. No one even looked. He dropped his price to 350, pleading for a little profit. Still, no takers. Even the tea stalls around the ground, once alive with heated debates over dropped catches or missed yorkers, now stand in dull silence.

Not too long ago, this gallery was once the heartbeat of the nation's cricketing dream. When the ICC granted Test status in 2000, it was said to be the passion of the fans that swayed them. Those fans have seemingly drifted away, along with their drums and whistles.

Jubair Rashid, a corporate employee from Dhaka, sat quietly in the stands. "A friend gave me free tickets," he said. "I called a few old cricket-loving friends, but no one wanted to come. They said, 'What's the point? To watch us lose again?' That's when I realised -- cricket's no longer a festival. Even the habit's gone." His eyes carried a faint sadness, like the last flicker of a once

bright flame.

Inside the ground, the Bangladesh team looked drained of spark, and the crowd, thin as it was, watched without hope. The sting of the recent whitewash against Afghanistan still lingered.

"The team feels like the night sky," a spectator murmured. "The stars have gone out, and only darkness remains."

Yet, amid the gloom, a few voices still carried light-heartedness. Saiful from Dhanmondi sat beside his wife, smiling. "We thought about going to Diya Bari," he said, "but decided to come here instead. Earlier, when someone got out, everyone went silent. Now people laugh instead."

In another corner, a fifth-grader named Nasif from Mirpur Cantonment School watched intently. "Bangladesh are playing, that's why I came," he said, holding a flag nearly his size. His father, Shafiq, added, "We came out of love for the country. If we don't show up, how will they feel encouraged? This money could go elsewhere --

but you can't buy this feeling."

As Bangladesh struggled with the bat, the mood sank again. Boundaries were rare; silence hung heavy. "Never thought I'd see Bangladesh cricket like this," sighed one fan.

With the team lacking the flair that once entertained regardless of results, and the Mirpur wicket producing low-scoring games, fans are drifting away, leaving the stadium eerily quiet.

When the floodlights took over from the fading sun, a few latecomers trickled in, perhaps chasing a memory more than a match. Beneath the stands, a tea seller sighed, "When the team plays badly, even tea doesn't sell," while his little brother sat nearby, waving a small flag absentmindedly.

Perhaps this silence is only a breath before renewal. Under the lights, a lone flag swayed gently in the breeze, as if whispering to the night, "It's the darkest before dawn."



KOHLI, ROHIT take spotlight in Perth

AGENCIES

All eyes in Perth are on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as India prepare to face Australia in the opening one-day international on Sunday, marking the duo's first national outing since lifting the Champions Trophy in March.

For India, the three-match series is not just about a new beginning under captain Shubman Gill -- it's also a poignant chapter in the careers of two modern greats who may be playing their final ODI series in Australia.



Gill, 26, admitted the moment carried special weight as he steps into the leadership role once held by his childhood heroes. "Definitely very exciting -- big shoes for me to fill carrying over the legacy Virat and Rohit left for us," he said.

"When I was a kid, I used to idolise them. The hunger and consistency they showed inspired me. It's a big honour to lead such legends."

Gill, who already captains in T20s and Tests, will lead India in ODIs for the first time. Averaging close to 60 with the bat, he believes open communication is key to his leadership style. "I wouldn't shy away from seeking their advice," he said. "I want every player to feel secure in their role."

Australian skipper Mitch Marsh acknowledged the emotional pull surrounding the Indian stars. "A lot of people are going to come and watch them. If it's their last time on Australian soil, I hope they enjoy it," he said, before adding with a grin, "just not too much good cricket from them."

With the 60,000-seat Perth Stadium nearing a sell-out despite rain in the forecast, the match promises both nostalgia and the start of a new era in Indian cricket.



Debutant Mahidul Islam Ankon endured a tough introduction to ODIs on a gloomy day in Mirpur in the series opener against the West Indies yesterday. The right-hander walked in after Bangladesh lost their top three on a wicket that lived up to its ominous look -- unusually dark and treacherous, unforgiving for batters. Ankon battled hard for a 75-ball 46, striking three boundaries, before falling to Roston Chase in the 46th over while attempting an ambitious slog sweep.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Another series of PYRRHIC FORMULAS?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

"We have to target playing 50 overs," Bangladesh skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz made an urgent call after a series of batting debacles in the Afghanistan series. Coming to Mirpur in the West Indies ODIs just a few days later, the batting approach and the pitch on offer have, however, proven to be a suicidal attempt that kills future prospects of batting in a format which underwent significant changes, leaving the Tigers unaware.

The shift in batting modus operandi was evident from the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, where teams targeted scores of 400. It became sort of a norm. Batting debacles aside, Bangladesh had found a template of success in their ODI schemes this decade, targeting a score of 250, a defendable one in Mirpur surface. But the catalyst for upping the batting tempo had never come along, even after subpar results in major multinational events.

When it comes to being ready for the new batting realities in preparation for the 2027 ODI World Cup, Bangladesh are once again falling for short-term results, immediate needs to get the monkey off the back in the West Indies series.

The wicket served at Mirpur wore a dark foreboding. The black soil used helped with bounce, but the scores that could be attained in such spinning surfaces do not match modern ODI expectations. In terms of results, the monkey may be off the

back in such surfaces, but it will do nothing to help boost ODI mentality needed for the 2027 World Cup.

Miraz's statement regarding batting 50 overs seems fathomable. After all, Tigers have managed to bat out fifty overs only once this year in nine ODIs. In the last three-match series against Afghanistan, twice they were bowled out in less than 30 overs. If batters' confidence was

reached a fifty but took 90 deliveries for his 51. When both batters departed, the middle-order crisis was once again pronounced.

Mahidul Ankon's debut ODI innings of 46 certainly helped keep the innings together, but at the other end, no acceleration came. Miraz himself contributed 17 off 27 deliveries. His batting remains an important factor when taking on Afghanistan mystery spinners, but when the likes of Rashid Khan or Mujeeb Ur Rahman are not in the opponent dugout, the batting template being used in the middle-order remains archaic.

In the 40th over, Bangladesh reached 140 for four with Miraz and Ankon still at the crease. Yet, Tigers managed to fall into the same trap of trying to survive in the death overs with wickets in hand. No impetus or intent was shown, and only 67 were added to the score after the 40-over mark. On top of that, they were bowled out without playing the full quota of fifty overs, an approach neither here nor there.

Rishad Hossain's 13-ball 26 was like water in the desert, but having reached 207 all out, in a format which itself needs to be modernized, Bangladesh's batting template was archaic. It would follow a trend of pyrrhic victories from the past if West Indies struggled on this Mirpur track, but in Bangladesh cricket's context, a series on such a wicket and with such an approach adds very little to a dismal batting template.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH 207 all out in 49.4 overs (Shanto 32, Hridoy 51, Ankon 46; Seales 3-48)
WEST INDIES 133 all out in 39 overs (King 44; Rishad 6-35, Mustafiz 2-16)
RESULT Bangladesh won by 74 runs.
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH Rishad Hossain.

an issue, it is not likely that it would improve on such Mirpur tracks.

Yet, the batting effort was once again disastrous. The wicket being of somewhat quizzical nature, the two openers, Saif Hassan and Soumya Sarkar, departed even before getting a feel of the wicket.

Struggling batter Najmul Hossain Shanto and Towhid Hridoy stitched together a 71-run stand but took 120 deliveries to get there. Hridoy

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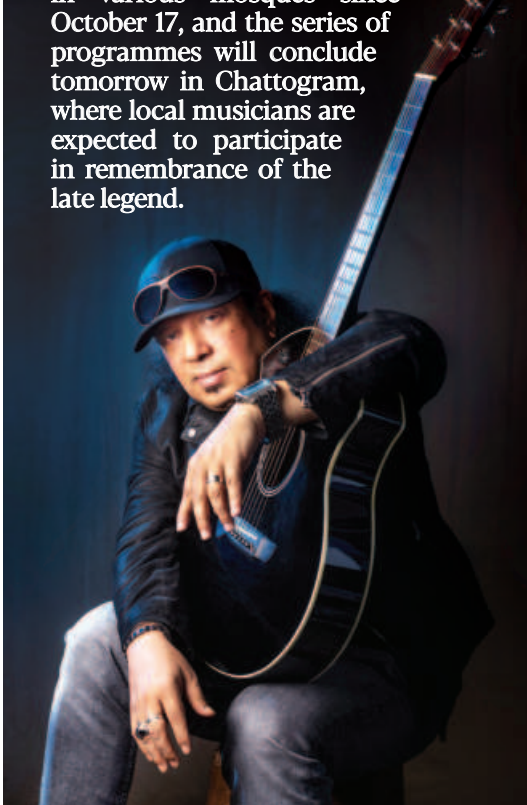
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Three-day event begins to commemorate Ayub Bachchu

Yesterday, marked the seventh death anniversary of rock icon Ayub Bachchu, who passed away on this day in 2018, leaving millions of fans in tears. His songs and memories continue to live on vividly in the hearts of listeners.

To commemorate the day, a memorial event, milad, and doa mahfil have been organised this evening at Celebration Community Point in Moghbazar, Dhaka. The programme is being jointly arranged by Chattogram Musicians Club, Dhaka; the Ayub Bachchu Foundation and Bandhumahal.

According to Abdullah Al Masud, General Secretary of the Ayub Bachchu Foundation, prayer gatherings took place in various mosques since October 17, and the series of programmes will conclude tomorrow in Chattogram, where local musicians are expected to participate in remembrance of the late legend.





PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR

Jalali Set, Young Stunners and Hasan Raheem headline memorable evening

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

On Friday, Dhaka witnessed an unforgettable night as Dhaka hosted a border-blurring musical spectacle that fused R&B, hip-hop, and indie energy in front of a roaring crowd hungry for something new. Jalali Set, Hasan Raheem, and Young Stunners lit up the stage, delivering one of the city's most explosive live performances in recent memory.

Organised by Rishka Connects and Dhaka Broadcast, Carpe Diem: The Takeover opened its gates at 3:30pm to an already teeming venue. Fans queued eagerly in the humid air, buzzing with anticipation for what promised to be a night of cross-border rhythm and rebellion. Though the show didn't begin until six, no one seemed to mind – every minute built more anticipation.

Jalali Set, one of Dhaka's finest hip-hop crews, kicked off the evening with a thunderous start. Very few opening acts manage to energise a crowd the way they did. By the time they exited, the atmosphere had transformed – the air thick with energy, the crowd ready to erupt.

Then, as lights dimmed, came the

magnetic Hasan Raheem. For the next ninety minutes, the crowd danced to his rhythm. His electrifying stage presence and charisma turned the venue into a sea of voices singing along to *Wishes*, *Joona*, *Memories*, *Maand*, *Radha*, *Zalima*, *Roop*, and more. At one point, Raheem paused



mid-set, smiled, and said, "My god, what beautiful voice you have, Dhaka!" – sending the audience into a frenzy.

The storm arrived – Young Stunners, The Pakistani rap duo Talha Anjum and Talha Yunus, credited with bringing Urdu rap into the mainstream, have turned personal narratives, social commentary,

heartbreak, and defiance into anthem-worthy lines.

Young Stunners headlined the night with an unrelenting surge of energy. Their setlist was a meticulously curated high-voltage ride. Hits like *Heartbreak Kid*, *Haseen*, *Departure Lane*, *Kaun Talha*, *Downers at Dusk*, and *4AM in Karachi* sent waves through the packed crowd. Every beat drop was met with roars, every lyric echoed back in unison. The synergy between the duo and their fanbase felt electric.

The concert was not about nostalgia or tribute. This was fresh – it spoke to the youth and their shared rebellious feelings. It was expressive and forward-looking – even some older attendees could see the newness of it all. Not only did the concert represent the passion of today's generation, it also erased the borders proving once again that music will always be universal.

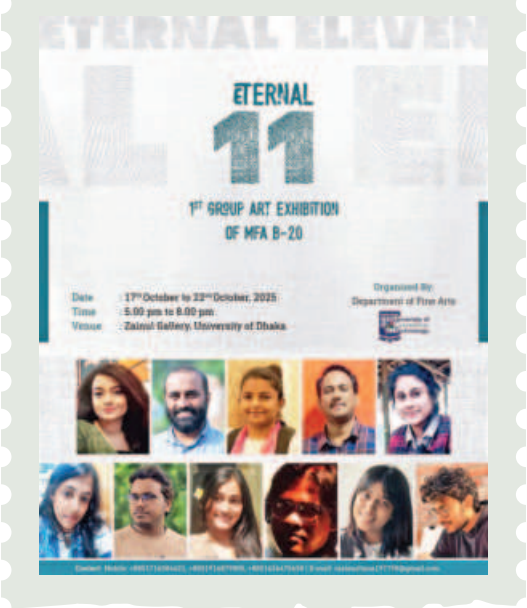
The lighting, stage design, and visuals turned Carpe Diem into a sensory spectacle, capturing the spirit of a generation that lives and breathes the rhythm of rebellion. By the end, the crowd was delirious. Sweat, adrenaline, unified pulses – Dhaka had been taken.


WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Eternal Eleven'

An exhibition titled *Eternal Eleven*, featuring the works of eleven emerging artists from the MFA Batch-20 at Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, is now open. The showcase brings together a range of creative expressions that explore personal visions, emotions, and dreams, highlighting the artists' evolving mastery and passion for visual storytelling.

DATE: OCT 17- OCT 22, 2025
TIME: 5 PM-8 PM
VENUE: ZAINUL GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA





'ALI' heading for Japan

Bangladeshi filmmaker Adnan Al Rajeev's acclaimed short film *Ali* is set for a two-week limited theatrical release across cinemas in Japan. Part of the Mirrorliar Films season 8 anthology, *Ali* follows a teenage boy (played by Al Amin), from a coastal town where women are forbidden to sing, challenging deep-rooted traditions.

NEWS

Govt drafts 2 laws

FROM PAGE 12

contained several inconsistencies.

The commission wrote to the government, advising it not to proceed with the previous draft and instead to enact a new law that properly addresses all necessary issues, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Following the expert recommendations, the interim health administration decided to prepare two separate laws, a health ministry official said.

The ministry has called a stakeholders' meeting today to review the drafts. Representatives from relevant government agencies and professional bodies will join the discussion, the official, preferring anonymity, said.

HEALTH WORKERS PROTECTION ORDINANCE

In the preamble, the draft cites the rising number of attacks, threats, and vandalism targeting doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers, and healthcare institutions.

All such incidents are disrupting healthcare delivery, endangering public health, and violating healthcare workers' right to a safe workplace. Therefore, the ordinance aims to safeguard healthcare services by ensuring protection for medical professionals, it reads.

Under its graded penalties, anyone who assaults, injures, or attempts to cause physical or mental harm to a healthcare worker faces five years in jail, or a Tk 5 lakh fine, or both.

If the attack causes serious injury, the punishment increases to seven years in jail or a Tk 10 lakh fine, or both. Intentional or malicious damage to healthcare institutions or property, including equipment, machinery, or furniture, may invite up to seven years in jail or a Tk 10 lakh fine.

Obstructing emergency or routine medical services will be punishable by three years in jail or a Tk 3 lakh fine. Filing false complaints or harassing healthcare workers may result in two years in jail or a Tk 2 lakh fine.

All offences under this ordinance must be investigated within a fixed timeframe, and charge sheets submitted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, the draft adds.

PATIENT PROTECTION ORDINANCE

The draft's preamble states that the ordinance is necessary to prevent avoidable harm in healthcare, protect patients' rights, and establish a fair and timely redress mechanism for those harmed due to medical negligence.

It requires every healthcare institution to promptly review and document any "serious adverse event" or unexpected death related to treatment.

Serious adverse events include surgery on the wrong patient or organ, retention of "foreign material" in the body after surgery, and serious medication errors resulting in death or permanent harm, the draft explains.

However, these reviews shall not automatically trigger legal proceedings in cases of alleged misconduct or

negligence.

Before approaching court, parties may voluntarily resolve disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution, which may include compensation, corrective measures, or apology.

Criminal liability for medical negligence will apply only when the conduct of a healthcare worker amounts to intentional harm, fraud, or criminal negligence under the Penal Code.

If any person without proper authorisation provides healthcare services or performs duties beyond their remit, it shall be treated as wilful negligence punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment, or a fine of Tk 10 lakh, or both.

To ensure prompt case disposal, the government will establish Medical Negligence and Patient Rights Tribunals. Each tribunal will be chaired by a district and sessions judge or additional district and sessions judge, and will include two impartial medical experts and one patient rights representative as members.

A complainant may file a case within one year of discovering injury or harm, and each tribunal must dispose of cases within a specified timeframe.

However, this ordinance shall in no way prevent the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council from taking punitive action for professional misconduct within its jurisdiction, the draft added.

Transport owners' indefinite strike

FROM PAGE 12

Covered Van Owners' Association enforced the strike since 6:00am yesterday, with the Chattogram Port Truck Owners' Association joining in later.

Only a handful of vehicles entered the port to take imports, said CPA Secretary Md Omar Faruk.

Earlier on Wednesday noon, Chattogram Prime Mover Owners Association stopped transporting containers to and from the port in protest of the entry fee hike.

At least seven vessels are scheduled to leave the port this morning.

If the ships leave on schedule, a good number of export containers would face shutdown if they cannot be sent from the inland container depots overnight.

Colombo-bound vessel Sol Resilience will mandatorily leave tomorrow since it is been at the jetty for two and a half days.

Muntasir Rubayat, head of operations of the ship's local agent GBX Logistics, said that they had a booking for a total of 650 twenty-foot equivalent

units (TEUs) export containers but they were still waiting for 266TEUs as of yesterday evening.

AKM Abdul Hadi, operation manager of ICD named Nemson Container located at Kumira upazila in Sitakunda, said they were supposed to transfer 160 containers to the port for shipment through these seven ships.

Informing that fourteen of their trailers that left the depot yesterday morning with 14 export containers were sent back by the protesters from the Port Toll Road area, Hadi feared that all these 160 export containers would miss the shipment if the ships leave on time.

CPA Secretary Faruk said the CPA called a meeting with the striking transport owners this noon to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, business leaders from a number of associations opposed the port tariff hike yesterday at a protest meeting organised by Chattogram Port User Forum.

On October 14, the Forum sent a letter to the Chief Adviser urging for postponement of the tariff hike and to

sit with the stakeholders for a review.

"We understand that the government was busy with the July Charter signing. Now, we are giving seven days for dialogue and review," said Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, president of the Chattogram Port User Forum.

If the government does not take any step, the Forum would announce programmes like paralysing port operations, he said.

Asian Group Chairman MA Salam, former BGMEA leader Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh Mohammed Amirul Haque, Chattogram Customs Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents Association President Saiful Alam and General secretary Showkat Ali, Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association leader Shahed Sarwar, Prime Mover Owners Association General Secretary Mohammad Hossain, Port Truck Owners Association Humayun Kabir Soheli addressed the rally and expressed solidarity to the protest.

US cities brace

FROM PAGE 12

little sign they are ready to break the impasse.

"This president is a disgrace and I hope there will be millions in the street today," Stephanie, a 36-year-old hospital worker who did not give her last name, told AFP in the Queens borough of New York, where hundreds had already gathered in the morning.

Demonstrators carried colourful signs that read "Queens Say No Kings," and "We protest because we love America and want it back!"

Some chanted, "We love our country, we can't stand Trump!"

In Los Angeles, organizers plan to float a giant balloon of Trump in a diaper. They said they expect 100,000 people to attend.

So far, the Republican billionaire president's response to the event has

been muted.

"They're saying they're referring to me as a king. I'm not a king," he told Fox News show "Sunday Morning Futures."

But his top surrogates were in more fighting form, with House Speaker Mike Johnson calling the day of protest the "Hate America rally."

"You're going to bring together the Marxists, the Socialists, the Antifa advocates, the anarchists and the pro-Hamas wing of the far-left Democrat Party," he told reporters.

Republican lawmaker Tom Emmer also used the "Hate America" phrase and referred to participants as the "terrorist wing" of the Democratic Party.

Beyond New York and San Francisco, protests are scheduled in major cities such as Washington, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta and New Orleans, but also in small towns across all 50 states.

Rishad stars in big win over WI

FROM PAGE 12

while skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Tanvir Islam took one each.

The much-debated Mirpur surface once again played a defining role. Its unusually dark and abrasive appearance produced a low, slow pitch with sharp turn. It was unforgiving for the batters, and the home side also struggled to score after being put in, with Najmul Hossain Shanto making 32 off 63, Towhid Hridoy a sluggish 51 off 90, and debutant Mahidul Islam Ankon 46 off 76 before Rishad's late cameo.

Fast bowler Jayden Seals to three wickets, while Justin Greaves and spinner Roston Chase scalped two apiece.

Faridpur, Rajbari fishers defy hilsa ban over aid delay

UNB, Faridpur

Defying the government ban on catching hilsa during the breeding season, many fishermen in Faridpur and Rajbari have continued fishing in the Padma River, citing delays in receiving government assistance and pressure to repay loans.

A visit to the riverbanks revealed a scene that hardly reflected a fishing ban; rather, it looked like a hilsa harvest festival.

Hundreds of fishermen were seen casting nets at more than 50 points along the Padma in both districts.



PHOTO: UNB

"Even though I hold a fisher's card, I haven't received any rice from the government this season," said Saifulah, a fisherman from Uttarchannel union in Faridpur. "We were promised 25 kilo rice, but those who got aid received no more than 20."

According to the Fisheries Department, a total of 8,012 registered fishermen in Faridpur and Rajbari depend directly on hilsa fishing, while at least another 5,000 rely on the trade for their livelihood.

Faridpur Senior Fisheries Officer Prashanta Kumar Sardar said, "We are conducting regular mobile court drives to ensure compliance with the government's ban on hilsa fishing. Legal action, including fines and imprisonment, is being taken against violators."

He also said efforts are underway to distribute the government's aid to all registered fishermen during the restriction period.

Low pressure likely to form over Bay on October 24

UNB, Dhaka

A low-pressure area is likely to form over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining area around October 24, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

The Met office also predicted rain or thunder showers at one or two places over Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions.

The weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

A seasonal low lies over South Bay, extending its trough to North Bay.



Fishermen cast their nets in Dekar Haor of Sunamganj, but catches remain scarce. Once a haven for native fish, the haor has lost much of its abundance due to insufficient rain, unplanned dams, and plastic pollution that have disrupted fish breeding. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Floating fields of hope in Pirojpur marshlands

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

The sun rises over the marshlands of Pirojpur's Nazirpur, casting golden ripples across the still waters. Small boats loaded with vegetable saplings and fresh greens glide toward Boithakata's weekly floating market. Farmers, their boats tied side by side, bargain and laugh as the rhythmic sound of oars turns the quiet river into a bustling marketplace.

Among them, around 50-year-old Mizanur Rahman arrives at Boithakata market by an engine-run boat. He buys each couple of saplings at Tk 5-7 from farmers and sells them in local markets for Tk 10-15, depending on variety.

Collecting seasonal saplings from marshland farmers, he travels from market to market for several days until everything is sold.

"After collecting saplings, we move to different markets, and it takes four or five days to sell them," said Mizanur, resting in his boat between customers.

He also buys different varieties of vegetables produced

in the marshlands.

Like him, many traders buy saplings and vegetables from floating markets and distribute them across nearby upazilas.

Every week, farmers from different marshland villages come to wholesale floating markets by small boats filled

buyer busy loading his boat at Boithakata.

The marshy landscape stretches across parts of Nazirpur, Nesarabad, and Banaripara upazilas, where low-lying villages under Daulbari Dobra, Kolardoania, Malikhali, Boldia, Bisharkandi, and Iluhar

made of water hyacinth," he said, adding that the practice continues for six months from June. Heavy rains, like this year, reduce sapling demand and delay cultivation.

Alongside floating beds, farmers grow saplings and vegetables on slightly raised highlands inside the marshland, locally known as kandi.

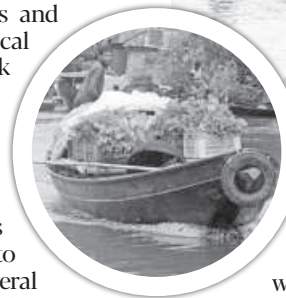
"From September, when the water starts to fall, we begin cultivating winter vegetables on these kandis and get production in two to three months," said Chandu Mia from Umererpar village in Banaripara.

On the 120 to 250-yard-long kandi, they grow seasonal gourd, bitter gourd, cucumber, pumpkin, sweet gourd, leafy vegetables, and saplings.

Women also play a vital role. They help nurse saplings and harvest vegetables.

"During the sapling season, we help the men with the primary process," said Minara Begum. "And later care for the plants on the kandi."

Thousands of families across Pirojpur and Barishal depend on this centuries-old practice for their livelihoods. Amid waterlogged adversity, they have turned floating beds and kandis into fertile fields of hope.



with vegetables and saplings.

Boithakata, which sits on Saturday and Tuesday, and Manoharpur, on Friday and Monday, are the largest.

"For a long time, I've been collecting vegetable saplings from this market and transporting them to different parts of the country," said Sakhawat Hossain, a wholesale

unions remain submerged nearly eight months a year.

Traditional cultivation is nearly impossible there.

"As the area stays underwater most of the year, we cannot grow anything on the ground," said Al Amin, a farmer from Mugarjhor village.

"But for more than a century, we have been producing vegetable saplings and vegetables on floating beds

NCP to be in talks, on streets too

FROM PAGE 1

The Jamaat-e-Islami also signed but announced protest programmes to press its demands for a legal basis for the charter and a referendum by November.

"To formalise its legitimacy, a referendum is the appropriate mechanism. And it should be held by November," said Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair, assistant secretary general of Jamaat. "We will announce necessary programmes following discussions with parties staging simultaneous protests with us."

The consensus commission held a meeting yesterday to discuss its recommendations for the government on the implementation process and will meet again today, said a source at the commission.

The commission's Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz earlier said parties still have the opportunity to sign the charter later. The commission's tenure has been extended to October 31.

In addition to a legal foundation and a formal Constitutional Order, the NCP wants clarity on how dissent notes on key issues will be addressed and what question will be placed in the proposed referendum.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said, "If the consensus commission calls for discussions, we'll attend. We'll also reach out to the people, since what

happened yesterday [July charter signing ceremony] was against the people. We will announce protest programmes soon."

"If the July charter has no legal foundation, it will have no value or significance."

"Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus came to power at the call of the students and people during the uprising, and all the responsibility was handed to him. Therefore, the only way to give the July charter a legal standing is through an order by Prof Yunus as the head of government, followed by a referendum and subsequent actions," he said.

He said the NCP does not want a repeat of 1990, when national leaders and political parties "pocketed the people's aspirations."

Nahid added that by not signing the charter, the NCP had not been politically sidelined. Rather, those who attended Friday's event "have been distanced from the mass uprising and the people."

Termining the "attacks" on protesting July warriors on Friday "humiliating," he said Friday's event did not reflect people's aspirations.

On the party's election symbol, he reiterated that it is confident it will participate with the Shapla symbol.

NCP Senior Joint Convener Samantha Sharmin told this newspaper, "The [protest] programmes will be announced step by

step."

Government sources and two NCP leaders said several advisers, including Mahfuj Alam and Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, are in contact with the NCP to persuade it to endorse the charter. A key member of the consensus commission is also maintaining communication.

Asked about the progress, one NCP leader said, "It is too early to make any comments." The NCP held an informal meeting with the commission last Tuesday, where it said it would not sign the charter unless the reform process advances through a Constitutional Order.

A day later, Prof Yunus met Nahid. Two advisers and a member of the commission also met the NCP leader on Thursday.

Yesterday, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the NCP and the four leftist parties still have the opportunity to sign the charter. "I wouldn't say they refused to sign. The opportunity to sign remains, and I hope they will do so in due course. It won't have a major impact on the next election," he told reporters.

According to commission sources, a draft proposal on implementation has been prepared based on talks with political parties and experts. The draft is being finalised, with some sections requiring further

clarification. A meeting with legal experts is scheduled for Sunday, while informal discussions with parties will continue.

Commission sources said a formal order must precede any referendum, but the contents of the order and the referendum question are yet to be decided. Whether the referendum will be held alongside the national election or earlier will be left

Condemned cells

FROM PAGE 3

condemned prisoners. "We should ensure regular mental health check-ups for them," he said.

Shireen Huq, head of Naripokkho, condemned capital punishment altogether, calling it a form of judicial killing.

"People think that the inhumane conditions that convicts are kept in are a part of punishment. That is not a part of punishment -- the punishment is the sentence given -- the rest is torture," she said.

Mosliur Rahman Johan, human rights affairs secretary of the National Citizen Party and the photographer behind the exhibition, said the death penalty and human rights issues are often viewed through a politicised lens.

Barrister Sara Hossain said the country ranks among the top ten globally in issuing death

sentences. "Way too many laws prescribe the death sentence," she said.

Sara pointed out that those awaiting execution face extreme isolation and limited human contact. "Death row convicts are allowed to meet their families only once every six months," she said. She also highlighted the inequity in legal representation faced by those on death row. "Counsels appointed by the state to represent the defence of death row convicts are given only Tk 3,000 per case," she said.

"Beyond this, they are not provided any form of support. Those who can afford to appoint private lawyers often get away."

"While we must change the laws and abolish the death penalty, we must also raise awareness about the conditions of those on death row," she said.

MPO teachers

FROM PAGE 3

He said Gono Odhikar Parishad would stand with the teachers until their demands were met.

Meanwhile, Principal Delawar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the MPO bhukto Shikkha Jatiyokoron Protash Jote (alliance seeking nationalisation of MPO education), demanded the removal of the education adviser.

"We suspect he is trying to create unrest by pushing teachers into a standoff with the government, with the intention of delaying the election and clinging to power," Azizi told The Daily Star.

He claimed that teachers are responsible for 80 percent of the duties during a national election. Calling on other political parties to show solidarity, he said, "Help us realise our demands, and we will stand with you in holding a fair election."

The teachers launched their indefinite protest in front of the Jatiya Press Club on October 12. However, after being stopped by police, they relocated to the Central Shaheed Minar that afternoon.

Several of the demonstrators have been on a hunger strike until death.



A festival of light, livelihood

Potters in the north passing busy days as Diwali nears

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

With Diwali approaching, potters in the northern parts of the country are abuzz with activity as they race to meet soaring demand for earthen lamps, locally known as diya.

Across Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, and Kurigram, around 3,000 potter families are working day and night, hoping the festive season will bring much-needed income.

Each household is preparing 20,000 to 80,000 lamps, with potters estimating that about 12 crore will be needed in the Rangpur region alone. In local markets, 100 lamps are selling for Tk 150-160 (standard), Tk 220-250 (medium), and Tk 300-350 (fine finish).

However, rising costs of clay and firewood have made production more expensive than previous years.

"I've prepared around 80,000 lamps this year," said Mohan Chandra Pal, 55, from Rangpur's Kaunia upazila. "Wholesalers are coming from different areas to buy these lamps. We're

hopeful this year will be profitable."

In Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, Bishnu Chandra Pal, 45, said, "We make small, medium, and large lamps. First, we mould and sun-dry them, then bake them in kilns. It now costs Tk 30-70 to produce 100 pieces. Prices have gone up everywhere -- clay, wood, everything."

Some, like Nityananda Pal of Phulbari upazila, have shifted to trading. "I buy directly from potters and sell in markets. My target is to sell three lakh lamps this year."

For many, Diwali brings an economic lifeline. "On Diwali alone, a family can earn Tk 60,000 to Tk 2 lakh," said Jogen Chandra Pal, 60, from Lalmonirhat sadar.

"The diya is the heart of Diwali," said Pradip Roy, secretary of Lalmonirhat Puja Udjapan Parishad. "Lighting the lamp is not just celebration, it is prayer -- a remembrance and a hope."

One repatriation

FROM PAGE 3

"The European countries need workforce, but they want to hire through legal channels and stop illegal migration," a foreign ministry official told this correspondent.

Italy is one of the frontline countries where migrants arrive first and then move to other European nations.

For Bangladesh, Italy is the number one destination for its workers, the official said, adding, "We would definitely promote regular and safe migration."

In May this year, Bangladesh and Italy also signed an MoU to combat transnational organised crime, such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as

terrorism and cybercrime, while promoting regular migration.

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi visited Bangladesh on May 5-6, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was scheduled to visit Bangladesh on August 30 but cancelled it due to other priorities. Meloni is now planning to visit Bangladesh in December.

According to foreign ministry officials, there were about 40,000 visa applications pending until last year, as it was taking time for the Italian authorities to verify applicants' personal data.

This year, the number of pending visa applications has drastically come down, they said.

A lighthouse for all

FROM PAGE 3

elevated the country's art scene to a higher level. He had a unique imaginative style and expressed complex ideas with simplicity and clarity. This soft-spoken man was always ready to extend a helping hand."

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Prof Imran Rahman said, "I first met him in the late 1970s, and our bond deepened through the Bengal Foundation. He was truly a man of arts, letters, and humanity. Beyond teaching, he was involved in many initiatives. His liberal and secular values were remarkable. The legacy he left behind must be shared with the younger generation."

Writer Mashrur Arefin said, "Syed Manzoorul Islam was my direct teacher. I completed my Master's degree with his blessings. We never lost touch with him. Sir loved

books deeply. He believed that one must also work for a living."

"He was a genuine human being -- a lighthouse for all of us," said Arefin, also managing director of City Bank.

Poet and Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif said, "I am quite emotional because the last time I saw Sir was in this very room, during a workshop. I have always been his student. He never spoke ill of anyone or appeared dejected. Instead, he was tolerant of our impulsive behaviour. His students often became his friends."

"Bangladesh has come a long way, but it's also true that we have witnessed the death of many possibilities. The country has become a graveyard of unfulfilled potential. Manzoorul bhai's passing is part of that loss. Everyone whose lives he touched will remember him," he said.

New global guidelines target postpartum bleeding to save mothers’ lives

Leading global health organisations have issued new guidelines to prevent and manage postpartum haemorrhage (PPH)—the world’s leading cause of maternal death. Launched by WHO, FIGO, and ICM, the recommendations aim to improve early detection, accelerate treatment, and reduce the risk of fatal outcomes.

PPH, or excessive bleeding after childbirth, affects millions of women each year and causes around 45,000 deaths. It can also result in severe long-term health impacts, including organ damage, hysterectomy, and trauma. The new guidelines call for prompt action when blood loss reaches 300 mL combined with abnormal vital signs, replacing the previous 500 mL threshold. Health workers are urged to use calibrated drapes to accurately measure blood loss and respond quickly.

The guidelines introduce the “MOTIVE” bundle of care: massage of the uterus, oxytocic drugs, tranexamic acid, intravenous fluids, vaginal/genital tract examination, and escalation of care. In severe cases, surgery or transfusion may be required.

Prevention is also prioritised, particularly for women with anaemia. Daily iron and folate supplements during pregnancy and intravenous iron in urgent cases are recommended. The guidance discourages routine episiotomies and supports perineal massages to minimise trauma.

Midwives and frontline workers are central to these efforts, with new training tools and practical resources developed to support real-world implementation. The guidelines, launched at the 2025 FIGO World Congress in Cape Town, are part of a broader global strategy to eliminate preventable maternal deaths from PPH by 2030.

SOURCE:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION



WORLD ANAESTHESIA DAY 2025

Regional anaesthesia: A safer future for postoperative pain control

DR RASHED ASHRAF

Surgery is a life-saving intervention, but the period that follows can be challenging. Severe pain after an operation is not just a source of suffering; it can lead to delayed recovery, increased hospital stays, higher risk of complications such as blood clots, and even long-term chronic pain. Poor pain control also prevents patients from moving freely, coughing effectively, or eating properly—all of which are critical for a smooth recovery.

Traditionally, opioid-based medications (like pethidine, morphine, etc.) were the mainstay of postoperative pain relief. While effective, opioids bring their own risks: nausea, vomiting, constipation, sedation, and in some cases, dependency. These limitations have driven anaesthesiologists worldwide to seek safer, more targeted solutions.

REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA: A TARGETED SOLUTION

Regional anaesthesia involves numbing specific nerves or regions of the body to block pain sensation. Instead of dulling the entire nervous system with strong systemic drugs, regional techniques provide site-specific pain relief with fewer side effects.

Some commonly used regional

anaesthesia techniques include: Epidural and spinal blocks – often used for lower abdominal, pelvic, or lower limb surgeries. Peripheral nerve blocks – targeting individual nerves, such as for knee replacement, shoulder surgery, or arm operations. Truncal blocks – such as the Transversus Abdominis Plane (TAP) block, widely used for abdominal and gynaecological surgeries, including Caesarean sections.

These methods have transformed the way pain is managed after surgery. Patients receiving regional anaesthesia not only report better pain control but also require fewer opioids, recover faster, and return to daily activities sooner.

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS MULTIMODAL ANALGESIA

Modern surgical care embraces the principle of multimodal analgesia—the combination of different pain relief strategies to maximise benefit while minimising risks. Regional anaesthesia has become a cornerstone of this approach. By pairing nerve blocks with non-opioid medications, anaesthesiologists can create individualised plans that ensure patients remain comfortable without heavy reliance on opioids.

This philosophy has been widely adopted in Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, which are

now standard in many hospitals worldwide. The results speak for themselves: shorter hospital stays, fewer readmissions, and happier patients.

CONTEXT IN BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, regional anaesthesia holds great promise for improving surgical care and reducing the suffering of patients after operations. However, challenges remain. Many district and sub-district hospitals lack ultrasound machines, which are vital for safely performing advanced nerve blocks. At the same time, awareness among patients is still limited—many accept postoperative pain as an unavoidable part of surgery rather than a problem that can and should be solved.

Bridging these gaps requires investment in equipment, training for anaesthesiologists, and community education so patients know to ask about modern pain management options. By doing so, Bangladesh can ensure that more patients benefit from regional anaesthesia, moving closer to the global standard of safe, comfortable, and dignified surgical recovery.

The writer is a Junior Consultant at the Department of General Anaesthesia at United Hospital Limited. Email: rashraf@gmail.com

FOOD UPCYCLING

The missing link in our fight against food insecurity

ABEDA SULTANA

Household food insecurity remains a significant challenge in Bangladesh, particularly for low-income households, driven by high food prices and climate shocks. World Food Day 2025, observed on 16th October, draws critical attention to the global fight against food insecurity.

Food upcycling is the process of turning food that would otherwise be wasted into products that can be eaten. For example, fruit peels can be turned into fibre-rich flour, and leftover rice into snacks. The goal is simple – turning potential waste into nourishment, while supporting livelihoods and protecting the environment.

Bangladesh’s long culinary tradition already includes forms of upcycling – from using fish heads for curry, drying leftover rice into pitha, or making chutneys from fruit skins. These are time-tested examples of resourceful cooking, deeply rooted in culture. However, what is missing today is a structured approach that can scale up these practices into a modern food security strategy.

If Bangladesh were to adopt food upcycling on a larger scale, the benefits could be far-reaching. Small-scale processing centres could collect unsold or imperfect produce and turn them into dried foods, sauces, or powders. Urban households could be encouraged to repurpose leftovers creatively through awareness campaigns and community programmes.

However, scaling up food upcycling in Bangladesh requires policy support, training, and innovation. Food safety standards, labelling guidelines for upcycled products, and small grants for entrepreneurs could build consumer confidence and market trust. Educational campaigns – especially those connecting youth and older generations – can promote food wisdom rooted in both tradition and sustainability.

The writer is a dietician. Email: abeda.mishu@gmail.com



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Post Chikungunya joints and muscle pain management

DR MD FARUQU L ISLAM

Mr Rahman, 56 years old, came to the hospital with a complaint of severe pain in several joints, causing difficulties in walking and other daily activities. The patient said he had experienced a fever that lasted 2 to 3 days. After examination it was diagnosed as a case of post-chikungunya. Like Mr Rahman, many people are suffering from severe pain in different joints and muscles, especially after Chikungunya fever. Every day many of them are seeking relief from this obnoxious pain and discomfort in their lives.

HOW WILL YOU UNDERSTAND?

- Joint pain is a common and very often longer symptom after chikungunya fever, lasting for months or years.
- Pain due to inflammation (tenderness, swelling and will feel hot in the area), which can affect joints like hands, wrists, ankles, and feet.
- Joints may be swollen, stiff, and sometimes restricted in movement.
- Occasional fatigue, headache, nausea, muscle pain and rash.

Management

A physiotherapist will assess as per the protocol and will ensure both physical and functional limitations as you gripe.

- Ice packs: you can apply a cold pack wrapped in a cloth to the affected areas; that will relieve your pain and swelling.
- Warm baths: sometimes (especially when not swelling) warm bathwater can also help soothe inflamed and sore joints.
- Sufficient water intake: Water intake and sufficient hydration because dehydration can worsen joint aches.
- Therapeutic exercise – there are several types of exercise which can be planned and designed by a physiotherapist for you and can be practised based on complaints, like mild exercises, joint mobilisation, muscle stretching and strengthening exercises around the joints, which help dramatically reduce pain and joint swelling. Moreover, they improve your daily movements and other functions quickly.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT BEING INFECTED?

- Chikungunya virus is transmitted by infected female mosquitoes, especially in daylight hours.
 - Standing unused storage water around the home and environment can cause growth.
 - Patients suspected of having CHIKV infection should avoid getting mosquito bites during the first
- Proper awareness and accurate management of chikungunya outbreaks can be formulated; a multidisciplinary intervention approach ought to be introduced from the beginning of the disease. Specific exercises and physiotherapy could be a very important treatment strategy to relieve pain and other joint and muscle discomfort.

The writer is Vice Principal at Dhaka College of Physiotherapy (DCPT), Dhaka. Email: faruqch6@gmail.com



Vitiligo in children may signal hidden risks of hearing loss

Emerging research highlights a surprising link between vitiligo in children and an increased risk of hearing loss. Though vitiligo is widely recognised for its impact on skin pigmentation, this new evidence suggests its effects may reach deeper—extending to the auditory system.

The findings indicate that children with vitiligo may be more vulnerable to certain types of hearing impairment, particularly those affecting the inner ear. While these children often show no outward signs of ear problems, subtle damage within the auditory pathways could lead to gradual or unnoticed hearing loss over time.

Experts believe that the same cells affected by vitiligo in the skin—melanocytes—also play a role in the inner ear. When these cells are compromised, it may interfere with normal hearing function. Although this connection has been suspected in adults, it is the first time such a strong association has been observed in children.

Importantly, the research does not suggest that every child with vitiligo will experience hearing problems. However, it does raise awareness of the need for early screening and monitoring. Hearing loss in childhood can have lasting consequences, especially in language development, learning, and social engagement.

Clinicians are now encouraged to take a more holistic view of vitiligo, not just as a cosmetic or dermatological issue but as a condition that may require broader medical attention. Regular hearing checks could make a significant difference, ensuring children with vitiligo receive timely support to thrive both in and outside the classroom.

SOURCE: JAMA NETWORK OPEN



Harnessing markets for rural resilience in Bangladesh

The Daily Star (TDS): How is iDE Bangladesh’s private sector engagement strategy addressing key development challenges, and what could deeper public-private partnerships bring?

Sameer Karki (SK): At iDE Bangladesh, we see the private sector as a primary engine of inclusive development that can address today’s toughest challenges. Our market systems approach aligns commercial incentives with social outcomes by building business models that serve low-income consumers by powering entrepreneurs. We focus on making the benefits clear for each community instead of using one-size-fits-all approaches. Every area has its own needs, so we design solutions that make sense locally and create real, lasting impact.

Through agriculture, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), clean energy, and nutrition initiatives, we help local enterprises reach rural customers with affordable products that stimulate local economies. Deeper partnerships with the government would bridge regulatory and financing gaps, give private sector confidence to invest in underserved areas, and accelerate rural focused enterprises.

TDS: What are the main difficulties in working with the private sector in remote or underserved markets, and how is iDE addressing scale, sustainability, and inclusion?

SK: The biggest challenges are thin markets, weak infrastructure, and high-risk aversion among businesses. Many private sectors still view rural Bangladesh as commercially unviable due to low purchasing power and costly distribution networks. iDE tackles these barriers by demonstrating that inclusive business can also be profitable. We co-design market solutions with local entrepreneurs—helping them understand customer demand, reduce business risks, and access finance. We link them with manufacturers, financial institutions, and digital platforms to strengthen their value chains and expand market reach.

Our experience shows that real change comes from building durable market systems, not temporary project structures. By supporting local enterprises to grow, connect, and compete, we foster scale and sustainability while ensuring that

women and marginalized groups are integral to economic participation—not an afterthought.

TDS: Could you describe a recent example where collaboration with businesses delivered measurable improvements for rural households?

SK: In the past three years, iDE has partnered with and supported more than 8,000 rural enterprises across sectors, including sanitation, agriculture, nutrition and clean energy.

Through these partnerships, over 250,000 farmers have gained access to affordable, labour-saving

Our focus is on solutions that fit local realities, helping households manage risk and protect income. By embedding resilience within private-sector business models and prioritizing those most affected by shocks—particularly women and small producers—our aim is to keep markets adaptive, inclusive, and low-carbon, positioning rural enterprises as key drivers of Bangladesh’s green transition.

TDS: What role should NGOs play in shaping Bangladesh’s development priorities and building effective cooperation with government and the private sector?

SK: The development sector should act as a facilitator—linking innovation to policy and markets to



Sameer Karki
Country Director,
iDE Bangladesh

inclusion. Our role is to create trusted spaces where government, business, and communities co-design practical solutions that work on the ground. The goal is not to replace system actors but to demonstrate scalable models that public and private partners can adopt and sustain. As Bangladesh moves toward middle-income status, the development sector must transition from direct delivery to enabling systemic change, mobilizing private investment, and upholding accountability. Sustained progress will depend on collaborative ecosystems where each actor plays to its strengths, communicates openly, and leverages all available resources, including those from markets, to tackle the complex challenges of today.

iDE, a global nonprofit organisation in 12 countries since 1984, drives poverty reduction through market-driven solutions in Bangladesh, scaling agriculture, WASH, climate resilience, clean energy, and women’s empowerment.

This content has been published under ‘Catalyzing Markets’ - a media campaign jointly initiated by iDE Bangladesh and The Daily Star. This interview is conducted by Shams Rashid Tonmoy.

ECHOES OF A LOST ROAR

RAMIN TALUKDER

As the sunlight dimmed and a thin mist drifted beneath the floodlights, the Mirpur evening yesterday felt strangely hollow. It was Bangladesh's first of three ODIs against the West Indies, yet the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on a weekend stood like a forgotten relic.

Rows of empty seats glowed under the lights, as if waiting for voices that never came. The ground, where once thousands roared at every wicket and every run, now echoed only with the wind.

Outside, the old vibrancy had faded too. Flag sellers sat hunched on dusty pavements. Delwar, who has sold flags here for twelve years, smiled faintly. "Brother, before ten in the morning everything used to be sold out. Now it's evening, and I've thirty left. People don't come anymore, and neither does that excitement. What's the point of waving a flag when no one believes the team can win?"

A few feet away, a young ticket scalper tried selling 300-taka tickets for 500. No one even looked. He dropped his price to 350, pleading for a little profit. Still, no takers. Even the tea stalls around the ground, once alive with heated debates over dropped catches or missed yorkers, now stand in dull silence.

Not too long ago, this gallery was once the heartbeat of the nation's cricketing dream. When the ICC granted Test status in 2000, it was said to be the passion of the fans that swayed them. Those fans have seemingly drifted away, along with their drums and whistles.

Jubair Rashid, a corporate employee from Dhaka, sat quietly in the stands. "A friend gave me free tickets," he said. "I called a few old cricket-loving friends, but no one wanted to come. They said, 'What's the point? To watch us lose again?' That's when I realised -- cricket's no longer a festival. Even the habit's gone." His eyes carried a faint sadness, like the last flicker of a once

bright flame.

Inside the ground, the Bangladesh team looked drained of spark, and the crowd, thin as it was, watched without hope. The sting of the recent whitewash against Afghanistan still lingered.

"The team feels like the night sky," a spectator murmured. "The stars have gone out, and only darkness remains."

Yet, amid the gloom, a few voices still carried light-heartedness. Saiful from Dhanmondi sat beside his wife, smiling. "We thought about going to Diya Bari," he said, "but decided to come here instead. Earlier, when someone got out, everyone went silent. Now people laugh instead."

In another corner, a fifth-grader named Nasif from Mirpur Cantonment School watched intently. "Bangladesh are playing, that's why I came," he said, holding a flag nearly his size. His father, Shafiq, added, "We came out of love for the country. If we don't show up, how will they feel encouraged? This money could go elsewhere --

but you can't buy this feeling."

As Bangladesh struggled with the bat, the mood sank again. Boundaries were rare; silence hung heavy. "Never thought I'd see Bangladesh cricket like this," sighed one fan.

With the team lacking the flair that once entertained regardless of results, and the Mirpur wicket producing low-scoring games, fans are drifting away, leaving the stadium eerily quiet.

When the floodlights took over from the fading sun, a few latecomers trickled in, perhaps chasing a memory more than a match. Beneath the stands, a tea seller sighed, "When the team plays badly, even tea doesn't sell," while his little brother sat nearby, waving a small flag absentmindedly.

Perhaps this silence is only a breath before renewal. Under the lights, a lone flag swayed gently in the breeze, as if whispering to the night, "It's the darkest before dawn."



KOHLI, ROHIT take spotlight in Perth

AGENCIES

All eyes in Perth are on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as India prepare to face Australia in the opening one-day international on Sunday, marking the duo's first national outing since lifting the Champions Trophy in March.

For India, the three-match series is not just about a new beginning under captain Shubman Gill -- it's also a poignant chapter in the careers of two modern greats who may be playing their final ODI series in Australia.



Gill, 26, admitted the moment carried special weight as he steps into the leadership role once held by his childhood heroes. "Definitely very exciting -- big shoes for me to fill carrying over the legacy Virat and Rohit left for us," he said.

"When I was a kid, I used to idolise them. The hunger and consistency they showed inspired me. It's a big honour to lead such legends."

Gill, who already captains in T20s and Tests, will lead India in ODIs for the first time. Averaging close to 60 with the bat, he believes open communication is key to his leadership style. "I wouldn't shy away from seeking their advice," he said. "I want every player to feel secure in their role."

Australian skipper Mitch Marsh acknowledged the emotional pull surrounding the Indian stars. "A lot of people are going to come and watch them. If it's their last time on Australian soil, I hope they enjoy it," he said, before adding with a grin, "just not too much good cricket from them."

With the 60,000-seat Perth Stadium nearing a sell-out despite rain in the forecast, the match promises both nostalgia and the start of a new era in Indian cricket.



Debutant Mahidul Islam Ankon endured a tough introduction to ODIs on a gloomy day in Mirpur in the series opener against the West Indies yesterday. The right-hander walked in after Bangladesh lost their top three on a wicket that lived up to its ominous look -- unusually dark and treacherous, unforgiving for batters. Ankon battled hard for a 75-ball 46, striking three boundaries, before falling to Roston Chase in the 46th over while attempting an ambitious slog sweep.

Another series of PYRRHIC FORMULAS?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

"We have to target playing 50 overs," Bangladesh skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz made an urgent call after a series of batting debacles in the Afghanistan series. Coming to Mirpur in the West Indies ODIs just a few days later, the batting approach and the pitch on offer have, however, proven to be a suicidal attempt that kills future prospects of batting in a format which underwent significant changes, leaving the Tigers unaware.

The shift in batting modus operandi was evident from the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, where teams targeted scores of 400. It became sort of a norm. Batting debacles aside, Bangladesh had found a template of success in their ODI schemes this decade, targeting a score of 250, a defendable one in Mirpur surface. But the catalyst for upping the batting tempo had never come along, even after subpar results in major multinational events.

When it comes to being ready for the new batting realities in preparation for the 2027 ODI World Cup, Bangladesh are once again falling for short-term results, immediate needs to get the monkey off the back in the West Indies series.

The wicket served at Mirpur were a dark foreboding. The black soil used helped with bounce, but the scores that could be attained in such spinning surfaces do not match modern ODI expectations. In terms of results, the monkey may be off the

back in such surfaces, but it will do nothing to help boost ODI mentality needed for the 2027 World Cup.

Miraz's statement regarding batting 50 overs seems fathomable. After all, Tigers have managed to bat out fifty overs only once this year in nine ODIs. In the last three-match series against Afghanistan, twice they were bowled out in less than 30 overs. If batters' confidence was

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH
207 all out in 49.4 overs (Shanto 32, Hridoy 51, Ankon 46; Seales 3-48)

WEST INDIES
133 all out in 39 overs (King 44; Rishad 6-35, Mustafizur 2-16)

RESULT
Bangladesh won by 74 runs

PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Rishad Hossain

an issue, it is not likely that it would improve on such Mirpur tracks.

Yet, the batting effort was once again disastrous. The wicket being of somewhat quizzical nature, the two openers, Saif Hassan and Soumya Sarkar, departed even before getting a feel of the wicket.

Struggling batter Najmul Hossain Shanto and Towhid Hridoy stitched together a 71-run stand but took 120 deliveries to get there. Hridoy

reached a fifty but took 90 deliveries for his 51. When both batters departed, the middle-order crisis was once again pronounced.

Mahidul Ankon's debut ODI innings of 46 certainly helped keep the innings together, but at the other end, no acceleration came. Miraz himself contributed 17 off 27 deliveries. His batting remains an important factor when taking on Afghanistan mystery spinners, but when the likes of Rashid Khan or Mujeeb Ur Rahman are not in the opponent dugout, the batting template being used in the middle-order remains archaic.

In the 40th over, Bangladesh reached 140 for four with Miraz and Ankon still at the crease. Yet, Tigers managed to fall into the same trap of trying to survive in the death overs with wickets in hand. No impetus or intent was shown, and only 67 were added to the score after the 40-over mark. On top of that, they were bowled out without playing the full quota of fifty overs, an approach neither here nor there.

Rishad Hossain's 13-ball 26 was like water in the desert, but having reached 207 all out, in a format which itself needs to be modernized, Bangladesh's batting template was archaic. It would follow a trend of pyrrhic victories from the past if West Indies struggled on this Mirpur track, but in Bangladesh cricket's context, a series on such a wicket and with such an approach adds very little to a dismal batting template.

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US NEWS

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US cities brace for ‘No Kings’ rallies

AFP, Washington

Huge crowds were expected to hit the streets yesterday from New York to San Francisco to vent their anger over President Donald Trump's hardline policies at nationwide “No Kings” protests slammed by Republicans as “Hate America” rallies.

More than 2,700 demonstrations are planned coast to coast, from big cities to small towns, and even near Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida, where he is spending the weekend. Organizers say they are expecting millions to attend.

Those numbers would match the massive turnout at similar events on June 14, Trump's birthday and the day of a giant military parade in the US capital, in outrage over the Trump administration's crackdown on undocumented migrants and its deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles.

Since then, Trump -- who returned to the White House in January -- has ordered National Guard troops into Washington and Memphis. Planned deployments to Chicago and Portland, Oregon have so far been blocked in the courts.

Demonstrators are also up in arms over Trump's attacks on the media, prosecutions of his political opponents and a host of other actions they see as authoritarian.

“The president thinks his rule is absolute. But in America, we don't have kings and we won't back down against chaos, corruption, and cruelty,” the “No Kings” movement -- which brings together some 300 organizations -- says on its website.

A government shutdown is now in its third week, with the Trump administration firing thousands of federal workers and lawmakers showing

PHOTO ON PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Cargo vehicles remain parked in the Port Colony area yesterday amid the ongoing strike called by transport owners protesting the authority's decision to quadruple vehicle entry fees at Chattogram Port.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CTG PORT FEE HIKE Transport owners' indefinite strike halts cargo

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Transport of import and export cargo as well as containers to and from Chattogram port came to a standstill since yesterday morning as transport owners enforced a wildcat strike for an indefinite period protesting a fourfold hike in vehicle entry fee by the authority.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) increased all types of

vehicle and individual entry fees as per the revised tariff schedule that came into effect at 12:01am yesterday.

The entry fee for heavy vehicles like trucks, covered vans and prime mover trailers has been raised to Tk 230 per vehicle from the previous rate of Tk 57.50, a 300 percent increase.

Subsequently, the Inter-District Goods Transport, Truck,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Govt drafts 2 laws to protect patients, healthcare workers

Stakeholders to review both ordinances today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

If any person leads, participates in, or incites any organised group or riot that results in an attack or assault on a healthcare worker or healthcare institution, they may face up to 10 years in jail, or a fine of up to Tk 15 lakh, or both.

It added that if such a riot or organised attack results in the death of a healthcare worker, the offender will face the maximum punishment for murder or life imprisonment under the Penal Code-1860.

On the other hand, if any healthcare worker or healthcare provider intentionally or through gross negligence commits an act that results in serious harm to or the death of a patient, it shall be considered a criminal offence punishable by up to seven years in jail or a fine of up to Tk 7 lakh, or both.

However, damage caused by ordinary negligence shall not be

considered a criminal offence and shall generally be resolved through civil remedies or professional disciplinary measures.

These are some of the sections of two draft laws -- the Health Service Workers and Institutions Protection Ordinance-2025 and the Patient Protection and Remedy Ordinance-2025 -- prepared by the health ministry.

The draft laws were prepared in line with the recommendations of the Health Sector Reform Commission at a time when allegations of medical negligence are mounting, while reports of attacks on healthcare workers and institutions are also increasing.

Prof Liaquat Ali, a member of the commission, said the draft of the National Health Protection Act prepared under the previous government was inadequate and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

HEALTH WORKERS PROTECTION ORDINANCE

- Up to 10yrs' jail for organised attacks on healthcare workers, institutions
- Fines up to Tk 10 lakh for vandalism or obstruction of services
- All cases to be tried under the Speedy Trial Tribunal

PATIENT PROTECTION ORDINANCE

- Gross medical negligence punishable by up to 7yrs' jail or Tk 7 lakh fine
- ADR allowed for resolving disputes before court filing
- Dedicated tribunals to handle negligence and patient rights cases

Rishad stars in big win over WI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rishad Hossain produced a brilliant all-round display to power Bangladesh to a commanding 74-run victory over the West Indies in the first ODI in Mirpur yesterday, marking their first ODI win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium since December 2022.

After hammering a 13-ball 26 to lift Bangladesh to 207 all out, the 23-year-old leg-spinner turned the game decisively, claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs to bundle out the visitors for 133 in 39 overs.

Rishad finished with 6-35 -- the best bowling performance by a Bangladesh spinner in the format -- becoming the fourth Bangladesh player after Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Rubel Hossain, and Mustafizur Rahman to take six wickets in an ODI.

Earlier, West Indies openers Brandon King (44 off 60) and Alick Athanaze (27 off 36) gave their side a solid start with a 51-run stand. Once Rishad trapped Athanaze lbw in the 12th over, he took full control, removing five of the top six batters and sealing the innings in the 39th over. Mustafizur Rahman claimed two wickets,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

30TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJJ JAHURUL ISLAM



The 30th death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group Al-Hajj Jahurul Islam is being observed today.

A Doa Mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11 a.m. October 19, 2025 in the mosque of Jahurul Islam Medical College & Hospital. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group
Begum Suraiya Islam
Manzurul Islam
Syeda Islam
Mafida Islam
Kaneta Islam
and Members of the Family

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