



Why Bangladesh's furniture fair is TURNING HEADS

RRB

A furniture fair is not exactly my idea of an afternoon outing. However, when my expat friend, who is returning to Dhaka to finally settle down, decided to explore the local furniture market, the ongoing five-day National Furniture Fair at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) seemed like the right choice.

I was genuinely surprised to see how lively and crowded the fair was. The ICCB's four halls were packed with visitors, and that too on a weekday afternoon. A guard told me that tents outside would also open for the weekend rush. It felt as festive as any wedding or trade fair, with people browsing, negotiating, and taking photos.

The fair's success was visible from the crowd's enthusiasm over offers and discounts. Many stalls were offering a flat 10 percent off, and customers were making quick purchases. "The market was shaky after the July uprising, which made the middle and upper middle classes cautious about spending. But this year, our daily sales targets are being easily met," said Mohammad Anwar Parvez, Manager, Retail Sales for Hatif Furniture.

Leading brands like Akhtar, Hatif, Brothers, Nadia, Ayoto, Omega, JMG, Navana, Athena's, Partex, Regal, and Legacy are participating across 278 stalls, where 48 exhibitors are showcasing their latest designs and innovative products. The variety in materials, colours, and finishes was remarkable and highly competitive.

Among all, Ayoto Furniture stood out for its craftsmanship



and unique approach. The brand began its journey through exports, aiming to represent Bangladesh as a complete manufacturing solution for contemporary furniture. "Our designs blend European elegance with local sensibility, which gives our creations both beauty and function," said Nipa Arif, Marketing Director of Ayoto Furniture.

I was fascinated by their artistic precision – a chair with a whale-tail-shaped backrest instantly caught my eye for its elegance and minimalism. Their animal-inspired collection, featuring designs influenced by cheetahs and stingrays, reflected creativity and boldness rarely seen in local brands.

Visitors came from all walks of life –

young couples furnishing their first apartments, middle-aged families looking to replace old furniture, and elderly couples preparing for their children's weddings. My friend, meanwhile, was searching for terrace furniture that would suit Dhaka's weather.

The swing sets and garden seats of Chattogram-based dell'Arte were selling fast. "We focus on reasonable pricing and what truly benefits our customers," said Md Hasan Ali, Manager of Business Development.

Another crowd favourite, ISHO, showcased sleek and multifunctional pieces such as sofa-cum-beds, dining

tables, and dressing units. Their stall in Hall 2 was buzzing, thanks to clever advertising that promised to bridge the gap between modern aspirations and market availability.

Almost every stall manager – from major names to emerging brands – was thrilled by the strong footfall and overwhelming response. Shoppers were trying out chairs, lounging on daybeds, and testing the comfort of sofas. Neutral-toned furniture in beige and cream, along with rich green faux leather rocking chairs, caught particular attention.

What impressed me most was the customer service.

Despite the heavy crowd, sales staff remained polite, attentive, and eager to explain product details with genuine warmth.

Dhaka's sales executives, as my friend observed, "are surprisingly professional and courteous." She managed to find a few pieces she loved.

"Having lived abroad in furnished apartments, my taste in interiors has changed. Now, I want locally made furniture that reflects both comfort and the city's climate," she said.

The fair reflects a growing confidence in Bangladesh's furniture industry – an evolving sector that combines creativity with craftsmanship. With more people embracing local brands, this industry holds strong potential for export diversification and economic growth.

Blaze guts cargo village at Dhaka airport

FROM PAGE 1

A press release by Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party said 25 Ansar members were hurt in the incident.

No other casualties were reported.

Our correspondent saw some rooms in the complex still burning around 11:00pm. Asked about it around that time, Brigadier Jahed said, "It will not spread further."

Cargo parking in-charge and witness Momin Majumder said he first saw the fire near the Skyview Airline office at Gate No 8. "At that time, the intensity was not high, but it quickly spread to a nearby courier service office and eventually reached Godown No-3, where imported mobile phones and electronics were stored.

The airport's own firefighters tried to douse it, but it soon reached the DGR [dangerous goods] section, where chemicals were kept. Shortly afterwards, explosions occurred, and the blaze spread rapidly."

He added, "The flames then reached Godown No 1, where passengers' belongings were stored, and then spread to the area where valuable items such as gold were kept."

The extent of the damage is yet to be known, but C&F agents fear massive losses, with many valuable imports reduced to ashes.

Khairul Alam Bhuiyan, vice-president of the Dhaka Customs Agents Association, said, "We saw fires in the imported cargo section in 2013 and 2017, but they weren't as severe. This time, the entire section has been burnt."

The civil aviation ministry, the Internal Resources Division of the finance ministry, and Biman Bangladesh Airlines have formed separate committees to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus assured the public that the interim government was aware of

the growing concern over the recent spate of major fires across the country.

In a statement issued by the chief adviser's press wing, he said, "We wish to assure all citizens that the security services are investigating each incident thoroughly and protecting lives and property with utmost vigilance. Any credible evidence of sabotage or arson will be met with a swift and resolute response.... Let us be clear: if these fires prove to be acts of sabotage meant to sow panic and division, they will succeed only if we allow fear to overtake reason and resolve."

Besides yesterday's incident, two more fires – one at a garment factory and chemical warehouse in Dhaka's Mirpur, and another at a factory building in the Chattogram EPZ – occurred within the past five days.

FLIGHT DISRUPTIONS
At least eight domestic and international flights were diverted to Chattogram and Sylhet, while hundreds of outbound passengers were stranded at HSIA for hours.

Four international and four domestic flights carrying 1,264 passengers and crew were diverted to Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram, our correspondent reported.

The international flights included two US-Bangla Airlines flights from Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, one Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight from Singapore, and an Air Arabia flight from the Middle East. As of 11:30pm, all diverted flights had returned to Dhaka after operations at HSIA resumed.

Three international flights were diverted to Sylhet's Osmani International Airport, our Sylhet correspondent reported, while three domestic departures from there were delayed.

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight from Riyadh carrying 396 passengers landed in Sylhet at 3:30pm,

and the passengers were moved to a lounge after about four hours. Two US-Bangla Airlines flights from Singapore and the Maldives landed there at 6:05pm and 6:15pm.

From Dhaka, at least over a dozen domestic flights were disrupted.

POOR PROTOCOL AT HSIA

Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam told The Daily Star that the standard protocol required for import and export cargo villages at HSIA was not maintained.

"The airport authorities should ensure international standard protocols, especially regarding firefighting capacity at the cargo village."

He expressed concern over how long it took to bring the fire under control, adding that it was alarming that goods at the cargo village were not stored in a classified manner, with different types of items – including chemicals and garments – kept together.

Another expert, ATM Nazrul Islam, said HSIA authorities, in coordination with the fire service, should assess whether they have the necessary equipment to efficiently handle such large scale fires.

DAMAGES BEYOND BURNING

Faruque Alam, general secretary of the Dhaka Customs Agents Association, said, "Hundreds of tonnes of goods were stored there, including imported materials from countries like China and the USA, readymade garments, industrial raw materials, pharmaceutical ingredients, essential vaccines, and electronic equipment."

"There were thousands of different items – from urgent documents and books to costly industrial goods. Judging by the scale of the flames, it's clear that nothing remains there... We believe the losses have already crossed Tk 1,000 crore, though a full assessment is still not possible."

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Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, told The Daily Star, "The losses cannot be measured only by the value of the burnt products."

"For instance, we imported 500 pieces of lace to produce 15,000 dresses. The fire may have destroyed those 500 pieces, but the production of all the dresses will be halted."

Md Zahir Hossain, managing director of Delta Pharma Ltd, said his company was unsure about the condition of two consignments following the fire.

"One consignment landed yesterday [Friday] and another was scheduled to arrive today [yesterday] at 2:40pm. Even if the materials weren't burned, exposure to water could render them useless," he said, adding they could not assess the situation due to restricted access.

Inamul Haq Khan, senior vice-president of the BGMEA, said the fire at the airport's cargo village is an ominous sign for the country's export and import business, as international clothing brands may now worry about timely shipments.

Adding that many garment samples stored there were reportedly burnt, he said, "A massive fire in such a secured area of the country's premier airport is not a normal incident."

A nowarul Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said, "These aren't just any goods – they include urgent and valuable items. Many haven't even been cleared yet. This affects production timelines, delivery schedules, and severely hampers buyer confidence."

Notably, the same cargo complex had earned a perfect score in a UK Department for Transport audit for its additional cargo security measures a week ago.

FROM PAGE 1

under government to government (G2G) arrangements.

Approved in November 2015, the SPM Project was implemented with funding from China.

China Petroleum Pipeline

Engineering Company Limited (CPP) laid the 220-km dual pipeline – 146km offshore and 74km onshore – to transport fuel oil to Patenga from a floating buoy, 16km off the coast of Maheshkhali.

Two 36-inch diameter pipelines will carry fuel directly to Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) in Patenga via a storage tanker in Maheshkhali.

Upon completion,

CPP expressed interest in running the pipeline for three years, and the then Awami League government showed willingness to give the Chinese company the job without a tender.

However, upon assuming office, the interim government opted to float an international tender.

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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.

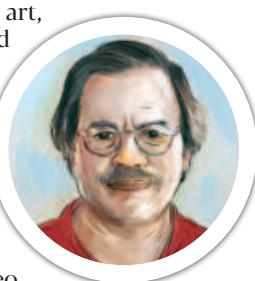
They also described him as a beacon of intellect and humanity.

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 Dhamondi, 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



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'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.

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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 Kadamtola 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.

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'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 Mosfigur Rahman 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

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SONGS OF THE SOUL
Grand tribute marks Lalon's 135th death anniversary at Suhrawardy Udyana



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 Udyana yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As dusk fell over Suhrawardy Udyana, the air was filled with the rhythmic sound of ektaars 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 Sajid's Mazar, Lalon Academy, in Kuakata.

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.

INTERNATIONAL

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The Daily Star

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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

'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.



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

authority, said Saturday that it had recovered the bodies of nine Palestinians from the Shabab 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

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.

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", 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, 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 2,899,412 signatures.

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 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."

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

REUTERS, Washington



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.

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.

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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."

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.

HIKE IN PORT TARIFFS

What's happening at Chattogram port?



Ahamedul Karim Chowdhury
is adjunct faculty at Bangladesh Maritime University, and former head of inland container depot at Kamalapur and Pangaon Inland Container Terminal under Chittagong Port Authority.

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 1980 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.

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

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

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.

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



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.

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For garment exporters, the impact would be double because raw materials and finished goods both pass through the port.

Another risk is that shipping lines could divert vessels. If cost per-container rates become excessive, Chattogram port could lose relative competitiveness, resulting in some shipping principals favouring ports in neighbouring countries, thus marginalising Bangladesh's trade corridors.

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

geopolitics. Yes, Bangladesh's ports need modernisation and better capacity, and sometimes tariff reform is part of that. But the how and when matter just as much as the how much.

When you combine a 41 percent overnight jump with a pending foreign operator deal, without the much-needed transparency or stakeholder inclusion, the optics look like value extraction more than necessary reform. The trade sector, ordinary consumers, and our national interests deserve better than being swept aside in a rush to ink deals.

As Bangladesh moves beyond LDC status and seeks to boost its international trade footprint, strategic decisions in port infrastructure should be made with sufficient deliberation, consensus, and accountability. The port is a gateway not only for goods but also for trust. Let's not sacrifice one for the other.

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



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ARIFUR RAHMAN

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?"



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 over 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 it 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

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

ICC Women's World Cup
India vs England
Live from 3:30 pm
STAR SPORTS 1
Australia vs India
1st ODI

Live from 9:30 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
Premier League
Tottenham vs Aston Villa
Live from 7:00 pm
Liverpool vs Man Utd
Live from 9:30 pm

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 T20Is 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.



but you can't buy this feeling."

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."

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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?

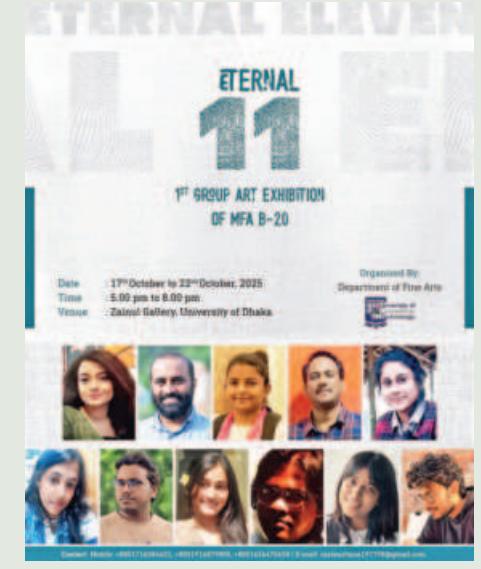
'Eternal Eleven'

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 Mirrorlari 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.

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

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 willful 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.

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.

These are ambitious goals, signalling a bold attempt to reshape the foundations of governance.

But therein lies the danger.

Without a clear implementation timeline, the charter risks becoming yet another addition to the archive of forgotten reports and unfulfilled promises.

Bangladesh has seen this pattern before — commissions formed, plans drafted — only to be shelved, invoked in speeches, and ultimately ignored.

In fact, history offers sobering reminders of missed opportunities.

On November 21, 1990, at the final stage of the anti HM Ershad movement, three major alliances — the Awami

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 beaten 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 Sohel addressed the rally and expressed solidarity to the protest.

Will this one stick?

FROM PAGE 12

Commission, and public administration. It convened two rounds of dialogue with political parties and alliances to draft a reform charter, followed by a third round focused on its implementation.

The parties reached a consensus on at least 84 issues, culminating in the July charter — half of which pertain directly to constitutional reform.

At its heart, the charter proposes sweeping changes: constitutional amendments, rebalancing executive authority between the president and the prime minister, reinstatement of the caretaker government, guarantee of electoral neutrality, judicial independence, and decentralisation, among others.

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Bangladesh has seen this pattern before — commissions formed, plans drafted — only to be shelved, invoked in speeches, and ultimately ignored.

In fact, history offers sobering reminders of missed opportunities.

On November 21, 1990, at the final stage of the anti HM Ershad movement, three major alliances — the Awami

League-led eight party alliance, the BNP-led seven party group, and a five-party leftist coalition — declared the Tin Joter Ruprekha (which roughly translates to "the tripartite roadmap") from separate rallies.

That declaration called for the removal of the Ershad regime and the establishment of a democratic order rooted in the spirit of the Liberation War. It pledged to uphold fundamental rights, judicial independence, and the rule of law. It even proposed reforms to restore voter confidence and transform state run media into autonomous platforms for fair political campaigning.

Yet, after Ershad's fall and the restoration of democracy, most of these promises faded away.

It was a year later in 1991, when Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's interim government set up 29 task forces under the leadership of planning adviser Rehman Sobhan. Over 250 of the brightest minds in Bangladesh worked together to provide detailed recommendations for policy reforms that could guide the newly elected government.

The task force reports were widely praised for their depth and practicality. Yet the effort was largely ignored by the next government.

Fast forward to 2007, when the caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed sought to

break that cycle. It established the Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) to modernise the country's outdated governance, administrative, and economic frameworks. Chaired by Akbar Ali Khan, the commission submitted 153 recommendations.

But by October 2009, Khan had resigned, citing the Awami League government's non-cooperation and withdrawal of staff. Only about a third of the proposals were ever implemented. At the time, the ruling party acted on just two.

The RRC's 131-page report, published in 2009, still stands as testament to unrealised reform — a carefully drafted roadmap that went largely unused.

This time, following a mass uprising, hard-won agreements emerged against the backdrop of Bangladesh's long and troubled history of failed political dialogue.

What makes the July charter different from earlier documents is that it emerged after extensive consultations with political parties across the spectrum. Through these discussions, the parties agreed on some of the most contentious reform issues that have plagued Bangladesh for decades.

Bangladesh now stands at a critical crossroads. Will the July charter become a living document, backed by deadlines and deliverables? Or will it be shelved only to gather dust like so many of its predecessors?

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</h2

NEWS

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 Saifullah, 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

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 Umerpari 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.

"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

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

and kandis into fertile fields of hope.

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

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".

Terminating 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

to the government. Iftekharuzzaman, a member of the commission, told The Daily Star, "The recommendations we are going to present to the government already have inputs from various political parties and experts, and our own reflections. To give it a final shape, we've decided to hold another round of discussions with the experts."

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.

Mosfigur 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. "Counsel 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 Shikha Jatiyokor Protashanti 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 stand-off 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.

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 19, 2025
KARTIK 3, 1432 BS
The Daily Star

9



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 Uddyan 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 Manzoor 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. Manzoor 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, 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



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, sausages, 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 dietitian. Email: abeda.mishu@gmail.com

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Post Chikungunya joints and muscle pain management

DR MD FARUQUL ISLAM

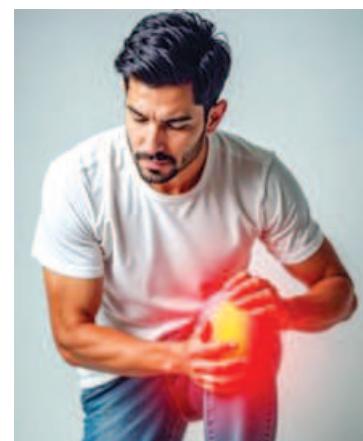
Mr Rahman, 56 years old, came to the hospital with a complaint of severe pain in several joints, causing difficulties in walking and other daily activities. The patient said he had experienced a fever that lasted 2 to 3 days. After examination it was diagnosed as a case of post-chikungunya. Like Mr Rahman, 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 grip.



- 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.

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.
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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

equipment and inputs—reducing costs, saving time, and strengthening climate resilience. In sanitation, collaboration with local producers and manufacturers has led to the sale of 1.5 million improved toilets. Our new initiatives in nutrition and clean energy are expected to reach 50,000 households within the next two years, supporting climate adaptation and improving health and prosperity. In addition, iDE is supporting 50 startups focused on the green sector, promoting innovation and sustainable local enterprise growth.

TDS: Given the growing impact of climate change, how is iDE adjusting its business models and partnerships to ensure resilience and long-term results?

SK: Climate change affects every aspect of rural life—from crops and water to health and livelihoods. At iDE, we are integrating climate resilience and green innovation across all sectors through partnerships ranging from solar irrigation and e-cooking to regenerative agriculture and climate-risk insurance, protecting both people and the environment.

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.

Sameer Karki
Country Director,
iDE Bangladesh

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 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.

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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?"



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



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 over 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 it 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, 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

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 T20Is 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.

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

ICC Women's World Cup

India vs England

Live from 3:30 pm

STAR SPORTS 1

Australia vs India

1st ODI

Live from 9:30 am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

Premier League

Tottenham vs Aston Villa

Live from 7:00 pm

Liverpool vs Man Utd

Live from 9:30 pm

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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

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.

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.

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 Reforms 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

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

However, damage caused by ordinary negligence shall not be

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



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(২০১৪, ২০১৮ ও ২০২৪)

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অথবা

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,

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