

## Airport fire exposes costly state negligence

Without mandatory insurance, disasters will keep draining public funds, experts warn

Padma Bridge, Chattogram Port, Mongla Port among major uninsured assets

Efforts to make insurance mandatory stalled despite 2023 government directive

Draft Insurance Policy 2025 mandates coverage for public, pvt buildings

SUKANTA HALDER and RASHIDUL HASAN

The blaze that gutted the uninsured cargo complex of Dhaka airport on Saturday has laid bare a deep and dangerous negligence in risk management across government installations.

Only 86 government establishments, or 14.66 percent of the country's 587 Key Point Installations (KPIs), are currently insured, according to Sadharan Bima Corporation documents. This leaves the vast majority of the KPIs completely uninsured.

These uninsured KPIs include strategic national assets like the Padma Bridge, Chattogram Port and Mongla Port.

Other critical sites such as the Bangabhaban, Gono Bhaban (now being turned into the July Uprising Memorial Museum), Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the Secretariat, BTV headquarters, airports, and prisons also remain exposed.

In the absence of insurance coverage, damages from disasters such as fires, vandalism and accidents are ultimately borne by taxpayers.

Unless the government makes insurance mandatory for public assets, experts warn, preventable financial disasters will keep draining public funds.

"Without a binding requirement, most government agencies do not feel compelled to insure public assets," said Mohammad Jainul Bari, chairman of Sadharan Bima Corporation.

Many institutions avoid insurance due to premium costs, he said.

"A small premium today could prevent massive financial damage tomorrow. Unless the government makes insurance compulsory, especially for high-value infrastructure, this situation won't change," he added.

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An aerial view shows the pitch-black water of Kalyanpur canal, polluted by household and factory waste. The contaminated water eventually flows into the Turag river in the Gabtoli area. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

End arbitrary arrests and detentions

6 int'l rights groups write to the CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of international human rights organisations have sent a joint letter to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, urging him to ensure institutions strong enough to guarantee free and fair polls and prevent backsliding.

The letter, which was sent on Sunday, was signed by CIVICUS, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Fortify Rights, Human Rights Watch, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights, and the Tech Global Institute.

It was sent following a

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## 66 die from injuries on roads every day

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At least 66 people die from road traffic injuries every day, making it the leading cause of injury-related deaths across all age groups in the country, reveals a government survey.

Besides, more than 30 lakh people suffer non-fatal injuries in road crashes each year, and 38,028 of them are left permanently disabled, underscoring the severity of the issue that demands immediate intervention by the authorities.

The annual number of road crash fatalities (24,233) furnished by the survey is four times higher than the

### DEATHS FROM INJURIES PER YEAR

Road traffic injury	<b>24,233</b>
Drowning	<b>18,268</b>
Fall	<b>14,167</b>
Electrocution	<b>7,083</b>
Violence	<b>5,219</b>
Animal bite	<b>3,728</b>

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'It's like asking one to swim with hands and legs tied'

Defence for Hasina slams ICT Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes (Tribunals) Act is "restrictive" and "inconsistent with fair trial principles," Amir Hossain, state-appointed defence counsel for deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and ex-home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

"The ICT Act has serious limitations -- there is no option to apply the Evidence Act and the CrPC in this law. It's like

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

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## MY DHAKA



PHOTO: STAR

# Gold hits Tk 2,17,381 what this means for Dhaka jewellery buyers

**RRB**

I was mulling over the recent spike in the international gold market, and what is the story these days with gold in Dhaka? How are the jewellers holding up, and how hard has it hit those who invest in gold?

It is a nervous thought for me, not because I wanted to buy, but the gold price was Tk 2,17,381 per bhoru on October 20, when I took notice of this outrageous rate.

"Gold jewellery is out of the reach of middle-income Dhaka. These are the people who bought small ornaments, like a gold chain, a nose pin, or a bangle whenever they had extra cash to spare. Puja, Eid, Pahela Baishakh, even for their personal celebrations like anniversaries or birthdays, they opted for gold," says Prohlad Kumar Saha, of Payel Gold & Diamond Jewellery shop, in Police Plaza.

Police Plaza is a happening mall with a constant flow of shoppers, for which Saha can feel the pinch; yet he says many are buying gold as investments. What if prices soar even higher?

"Parents are making gold wedding sets for their young children now, for the fear of gold going out of their reach.



We, the jewellers, face a tiff with such clients because the prices vary almost every day. A difference of Tk 4,000 matters a lot for them and us jewellers. The price can go up after they place the order, and they refuse to cover the difference, or it can go down, and they bargain for the lower rate. The market fluctuates frequently; the price changes overnight. Thus, the price when an order is placed, will change according to the delivery date's gold price. Bangladesh Jewellers' Association (BAJUS) feels that the buying and selling price of gold will only reflect the day's price," Saha explains. He had suffered due to this rapid price rise and fall.

However, business is not bad in Dhaka. People are exchanging their old "shananat shona" or traditional gold

ornaments with carat gold now. Gold ornaments in Dhaka are made with 22 carat gold or 21 carat now, replacing the use of traditional gold that had too many parts of other metals in the alloy. "The term carat (not to be confused with the gem weight carat) indicates the gold content present in the alloy out of its total 24 parts. Further clarification



would be that 22-carat gold has 22 parts gold, with the remaining two parts being composed of other metals. Soon, the Dhaka market will no longer have traditional or shonanat gold ornaments," explains Saha, adding that a bhoru is a traditional unit of weight for gold in Bangladesh, which is equivalent to 11.664 grammes.

Gold ornaments are given to daughters when they come of age. It is a sub-

continental culture, a way of giving the newlyweds seed money to secure their future.

A woman's gold is not only her strength, but her investments; by nature, a woman likes to save for rainy days. Some of us may only save a few Takas in a bamboo pole, and some in gold. However, there are stories of how loved ones take advantage of their naivety and encash their gold, even if it is a mere nose pin, for liquid cash. But there are also stories of how a mother would sell her bangles for her son to start a business.

Anyway, from the days when my mother's wedding jewellery set was made in 1967, with traditional gold, for a mere Pakistani Rs 120 a bhoru, and to compare it to today's price for that same traditional gold, you can clearly analyse the changing economic scenario of our lives in the last 58 years.

So, when you plan to sell your pre-owned fine jewellery, like your mother's "prem fash" or lover's knot chain, your mother-in-law's gold danglers like "chanbali" and "jhumka", and even the beautiful bangles like "ananta bala" your father gave you on your 16th birthday; think about it.

## 66 die from injuries on roads every day

FROM PAGE 1

official figure of around 5,500 but lower than the World Health Organisation's estimate of over 31,000.

Carried out between May 2023 and February 2024, the cross-sectional national survey came up with the findings after analysing data from 4.43 lakh participants.

Following traffic injuries, suicide, drowning, and falls were identified as the next three leading causes of injury-related mortality, it said.

Titled "Prevalence and Risk Factors for Mortality and Morbidity in Relation to National Health Injury Survey of Bangladesh 2022-23", the survey was commissioned by the Non-Communicable Disease Control of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

It was conducted by the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB) with technical support from the WHO and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Voicing concerns over worsening road safety, experts and campaigners said that the operation of a large number of unfit vehicles; a shortage of skilled drivers; a sharp rise in small and slow-moving vehicles; and poor enforcement of traffic laws have plunged the road transport sector into disarray.

They noted that influential transport associations often perpetuate this dysfunction for their own benefits, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people every year and leaving many disabled.

While data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and police put the annual death toll between 5,000 and 6,000, non-governmental organisations estimate the figure to be between 6,000 and 10,000.

However, the WHO's Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023 said

31,578 people died in road crashes in Bangladesh in 2021.

### LITTLE DROP IN FATALITY

Every year, 98,422 people die from all types of injuries -- an average of 268 deaths per day -- accounting for 10.91 percent of all deaths across age groups, according to the latest survey.

A similar survey in 2016 showed that 1,08,358 people died from injuries annually. This means injury-related fatalities declined 9.17 percent over the past decade.

PERMANENT DISABILITY DUE TO INJURY	
Fall	<b>58,160</b>
Road traffic injury	<b>38,028</b>
Cut	<b>6,711</b>
Electrocution	<b>5,965</b>
Violence	<b>5,219</b>
Animal bite	<b>4,474</b>
Burn	<b>2,983</b>

According to the latest survey, around 16.5 million children and adults suffer injuries annually -- 45,408 per day -- and of them, 138,000 are left permanently disabled.

In comparison, the 2016 survey reported over 20 million injury cases per year, with 241,395 resulting in permanent disability.

Salim Mahmud Chowdhury, the principal investigator of the latest survey, said that though the annual figure has dropped slightly, injuries remain one of the leading public health concerns in terms of mortality and disability.

"The issue is not on the government's priority list," he told this newspaper on October 5.

He noted that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be possible unless the government prioritises injury prevention and takes appropriate steps to reduce preventable deaths and injuries.

### RISE IN CAUSALITIES ON ROADS

The mortality rate from road crashes has risen while it has declined in all other categories.

At least 23,116 people died in road crashes in 2016, making it the second leading cause of injury-related deaths. According to the latest survey, the number has risen by 3.24 percent to 24,233, making road crashes the leading cause of such deaths.

However, non-fatal injuries in road crashes declined to 30.3 lakh from 34.2 lakh in 2016.

About the rise in fatalities, Salim Mahmud said economic development spurred construction of new roads and the rise in number vehicles, but no effective mechanism has been put in place to curb road crashes.

### OTHER ISSUES

According to the latest survey, suicide is the second leading cause of death, accounting for 20,505 fatalities annually, followed by 18,268 from drowning and 14,167 from falls.

More than 13.57 lakh people with various types of injuries are admitted to health facilities each year.

The survey made eight recommendations to reduce these avoidable deaths, injuries and disabilities. They include development and implementation of an injury prevention strategy; formation of a national committee for necessary intervention; and capacity building for onsite injury prevention.

## Airport fire exposes costly state negligence

FROM PAGE 1

Mohd Omar Faruk, secretary at the Chittagong Port Authority, told the Daily Star that no separate insurance has been taken out with any company because doing so would require paying premiums amounting to several crores of taka every month.

"We have a self-insurance fund, where a portion of the profits is allocated regularly. In case of any accident, compensation is paid from that fund, and this has been the port's practice since the very beginning," he said.

### FIRE EXPOSES VACUUM

The fire at the import section of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's cargo complex burnt imported goods stored at the warehouse.

Industry insiders estimate the total loss could exceed \$1 billion while businesses said the losses should not be seen simply at the import value of the items that were gutted. The ripple effects of the fire would heavily fall on both export-oriented garment and pharmaceutical industries, as well as businesses focused on the domestic market.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) are blaming each other over the cargo complex not being insured.

"The issue resurfaces each time a major fire breaks out, but to no avail. Without insurance, there is no compensation."

Citing the Dhaka airport cargo complex fire, she said, "Had it been insured, the government could have claimed compensation. Now the entire financial loss will be borne by the state, meaning the taxpayers."

Md Main Uddin, professor and former chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance at Dhaka University, said the failure stems from a "flawed mindset".

"People think disasters are rare, so they avoid insurance. The government often shares that view. They don't want to pay regular premiums for events that may not happen again for 50 years."

He said limited government

revenue, lack of awareness, and no

legal obligation are the three major obstacles.

Because of low revenue, the government prioritises only the most essential expenditures and often overlooks the risk of major disasters.

"Insurance cannot recover lost time or business, but it ensures financial recovery," Main Uddin said.

He added that many developed nations require insurance even for low-risk infrastructure. "It's not about frequency. It's about preparedness."

If insurance were made mandatory, awareness would increase, said Main Uddin. Moreover, once insurance is made mandatory, incidents may decrease due to improved precautions, he added.

Selim Raihan, a professor at the Department of Economics, Dhaka University, and Fahmida Khatun, executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the airport fire is a wake-up call for strengthening government security to protect all installations.

The low rate of insuring KPIs exposes a systemic disregard for financial prudence and national security, he said.

The fact that such high-value assets have no insurance coverage reflects not only poor governance but also a dangerous complacency in state planning, he said.

The broader implications of this negligence are deeply troubling.

"Without insurance, the full burden of any damage falls directly on the public purse...," he said.

Fahmida said, "National assets worth billions should not be left unprotected."

"The government must urgently make insurance coverage mandatory for all Key Point Installations, backed by proper valuation, monitoring, and accountability. Without that, every blaze will keep burning public money and eroding public trust," she added.

[Dwaiyan Barua contributed to this report]

**'You still have a long way to go'**  
**Porwar slams NCP over comments about Jamaat on reforms**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar has warned the National Citizen Party against criticising Jamaat over the reform issue.

"If you [NCP] want to compete with Jamaat-e-Islami, you still have a long way to go. Don't challenge your father right after being born," he said while speaking at an event as the chief guest in Satkhira's Tala upazila yesterday.

"You are a new party of students. A leader of the newly formed party made a Facebook post, criticising my party. The leader claimed Jamaat-e-Islami does not want reform and did not play a role in dialogue on reform and a new constitution. But in fact, among the six written reform proposals to the consensus commission, we were the first to submit a full report. They want us to criticise them, but no one is even mentioning their name," the Jamaat leader said.

On Sunday, NCP Convenor Nahid Islam on his verified Facebook page wrote that Jamaat's movement for PR system "was nothing but a calculated political deception". "It was deliberately designed to derail the consensus commission's reform process and divert the national dialogue away from the real question..."

At yesterday's event, Porwar said, "This time, Hindus will show that being Hindu does not mean boat [electoral symbol of the Awami League]; it means the scale [symbol of Jamaat]. If the Hindus of Tala and Kalaroa vote for the scale, they will be safer than under any past rulers, Inshallah."

"Do not fall into the trap of provocation. A group is conspiring to stop our wave of public support. Jamaat does not grab enclosures, does not occupy land, does not extract sand illegally. If Jamaat comes to power, there will be no unemployment, no corruption, no looting. Therefore, I call upon everyone to vote for the scale."

## CU student stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a university student from the port city's Outer Ring Road under Bandar Police Station.

Victim Shamim Masud Khan, 26, hailed from Barishal district. He was a former student of AIUB's CSE department and was pursuing his MBA (Evening) degree at Chittagong University.

Shamim was found beside a bush near the Outer Ring Road with the tendons of his hands and feet severed. He was bleeding profusely when locals first spotted him around 3:00pm on Sunday.

However, the matter came to light on Monday noon after the body was taken to the CMCH morgue for autopsy.

According to police, he was rescued by Halishahar Police and taken to a local private hospital, and was later shifted to Chittagong

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



A young woman lights clay lamps, surrounded by marigold decorations, on the floor of a temple in the Hospital Road area of Barishal city yesterday evening. On the occasion of Kali Puja and Deepabali, Hindu devotees decorated their homes and temples with lamps, candles, and colourful flowers to celebrate the festival of lights.

## MPO teachers issue two-day ultimatum

Warn of tougher movement if demands not met

DU CORRESPONDENT

MPO-enlisted teachers of non-government educational institutions have given Education Adviser CR Abrar a two day ultimatum to implement their demand for a 20 percent increase in house rent allowance.

Continuing their protest for the ninth consecutive day at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, the demonstrators demanded that the government issue a gazette accepting their three-point demand.

On behalf of the teachers, Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, announced that they will stage a sit-in and march from Shaheed Minar to Shahbagh today, wearing black cloths over their mouths.

Azizi said, "We will wait until October 22. If our demand remains unmet and the government fails to issue the gazette by then, the situation will turn into something Bangladesh has never seen before. We will bring teachers from across the country to Dhaka and lay siege to Jamuna [the chief adviser's residence]."

He said their protest has now turned into a hunger strike unto death.

Four teachers have already fallen sick and received hospital treatment,



- » Teachers demand a 20% rise in house rent allowance
- » Term govt's 5% offer unrealistic
- » Protest continues for the ninth consecutive day
- » Protesters to march from Shaheed Minar to Shahbagh today
- » BNP expresses solidarity with teachers

and many others are unwell. If any teacher dies due to the hunger strike, the responsibility will lie with Education Adviser CR Abrar," he added.

Azizi also said they no longer recognise the education adviser's authority. "If he cannot fulfil our demand, he must resign," he said.

The alliance further announced that teachers unable to join the central programme in Dhaka will hold a one-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Don't harass minorities'

Fakhrul urges law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged law enforcement agencies not to harass people from religious minority communities.

"I want to say something very clearly to you [law enforcement agencies]. I receive a lot of news. No one should harass anyone from minority communities. We stand beside them and will remain beside them with all our strength," Fakhrul said at a programme held at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan.

Leaders from the Matua community, Shri Guru Sangha, Sanatan Sewa Ashram, and Hindu Sangha Samiti attended the event.

Reassuring the Hindu community, Fakhrul said, "From now on, you will find us beside you. We are with you, and we will remain with you."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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JULY KILLINGS  
Most cases moved to Speedy Trial Tribunal  
  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cases filed over the killings during July uprising, except those already under trial at International Crimes Tribunal, will be moved to Speedy Trial Tribunal, law ministry spokesperson Md Rezaul Karim said in a statement yesterday.

A special committee has also been formed to ensure speedy and proper prosecution of serious offences, including murder, committed during the uprising.

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## SAGAR-RUNI MURDER PROBE REPORT Task force may again miss HC deadline

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government-formed task force may again fail to submit its full-fledged probe report to the High Court in connection with the murders of journalists Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Rani.

The court is scheduled to hear the matter tomorrow.

"We will inform the High Court about all the progress of the investigation into this [Sagar-Runi murder] case. However, there isn't much positive news to share still now," said Md Mustafa Kamal, additional inspector general of police and chief of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), who is leading the task force.

When asked whether more time

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



- » PBI chief says there is "not much positive news"
- » Probe delayed due to repeated officer transfers, pending forensic report
- » HC to hear the case on October 22
- » 122 extensions granted so far for report submission

## CHT LAND COMMISSION 33 noted citizens concerned over meeting deferral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-three eminent citizens have expressed concern over the postponement of the October 19 meeting of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Dispute Resolution Commission.

In a joint statement, they called for a high level, independent, and impartial investigation to determine who are blocking the commission's scheduled meetings in the three hill districts and why the meetings are being repeatedly postponed.

They also insisted that any influential quarter within the government abetting these obstructions must be identified and held accountable.

The signatories strongly condemned the decision to defer the meeting "in the face of threats issued from a group under the banner of Rangamati Shachetan Nagarik Shoma".

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**'Resign if you  
want to serve  
any party'**

**Jamaat leader cautions govt  
officials against political bias**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan yesterday alleged that the "ghost of politicisation" still exists within the interim government.

He also warned that people will again take to the streets if anyone in the government works in favour of any particular political party.

"If any advisers, secretaries, election commissioners, or police officials want to act as party men, they should resign. Everyone knows what happened to those in the administration who acted as party stooges. If someone in a government office works for a political party, the people will not just sit idle," he said at a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka.

Rafiqul expressed optimism that his party would win in the upcoming elections in a similar manner to how Islami Chhatra Shibir -- the Jamaat-

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

**Shah Alam  
Patwary  
passes away**

CITY DESK



Md Shah Alam Patwary, former director of Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, passed away on Sunday while undergoing treatment at a city hospital.

The management, its officials, and all members expressed deep grief and condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

## Task force may again miss

FROM PAGE 3  
 would be sought from the HC to complete the investigation, he said, "I can't say that right now. It can only be said after discussions with the government."

Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the PBI, declined to provide further details.

Contacted, Additional Attorney General Mohammad Arshadur Rouf said he was not aware of the progress of the investigation.

On April 22, the HC granted the task force an additional six months to complete the investigation and to submit its report.

The bench of Justice

Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi passed the order after Rouf sought nine months to complete the probe.

At the time, he informed the court that several officials involved in the investigation had been changed or transferred over the years, delaying the process.

He also said forensic evidence related to the case had been sent to the US and that the task force was awaiting the report, which further delayed the investigation.

The HC fixed October 22 for further hearing.

On September 30 last year, another HC bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub ordered the home ministry to transfer the investigation responsibility from the Rapid Action Battalion and constitute a task force.

The task force was directed to complete the investigation and submit a report to the court within six months. That deadline expired on March 31 this

year.

The bench had issued the order in response to a government petition filed on September 29 last year, seeking modification of a previous HC directive from April 18, 2012, which had ordered the inspector general of police to transfer the case from the Detective Branch to Rab.

However, Rab also failed to complete the probe.

On September 14, a Dhaka court issued the 122nd extension for the investigation officer to submit the report after expressing dissatisfaction over the repeated delays.

Sagar Sarwar, news editor of private television channel Maasranga, and his wife, Meherun Rumi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were murdered in their rented flat in West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012.

Rumi's brother filed a murder case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station the following day, without naming any suspects.

## MPO teachers issue

FROM PAGE 3  
 hour sit-in at district and upazila headquarters every day from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

Azizi urged all teachers to suspend ongoing training programmes and join the movement.

The demonstrators termed the government's decision to fix house rent at five percent of the basic salary or a minimum of Tk 2,000 as "unrealistic" and vowed to continue their protest until their demands are met.

The teachers reiterated

their three point demand: 20 percent of the basic salary as house rent allowance, an increase in medical allowance from Tk 500 to Tk 1,500, and raising the festival bonus for staff from 50 to 75 percent.

Meanwhile, the BNP expressed solidarity with the agitating teachers.

BNP Joint Secretary General Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie visited the protesters at the Shaheed Minar yesterday and urged the government to consider their demands.

## Don't harass minorities

FROM PAGE 3  
 "These are difficult times. Some people are trying to break the unity forged through the Liberation War of 1971 and the Uprising of 2024," said the BNP leader.

"They are attempting to create division by spreading various kinds of propaganda. We must remain vigilant against this," he added.

Meanwhile, speaking at another event, Fakhrul

said many are frustrated as politicians have failed to remain united after the July uprising.

"After the mass uprising, a great opportunity was created to rebuild the country beautifully. But when we look around, we see our politicians losing unity. We hear the sound of disunity everywhere. That's why many of us are feeling frustrated," he said.

## Most cases moved

FROM PAGE 3  
 The committee, led by an additional secretary of Law and Justice Division, will compile a list of cases filed over killings and other serious crimes during the uprising and assess their current status.

It will identify any obstacles to prosecution, excluding those under the ICT, and recommend necessary actions to the government.

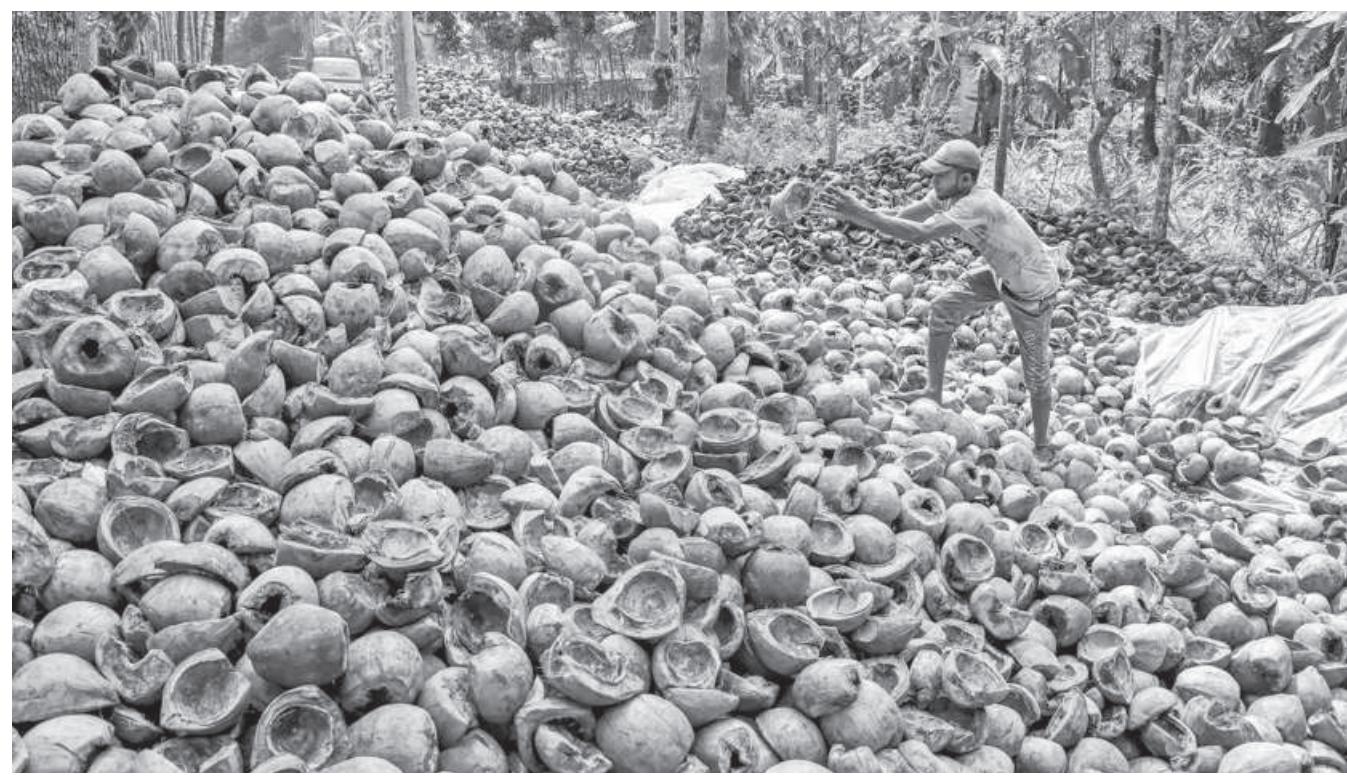
The committee will also

keep affected families and the public informed of progress.

A total of 837 cases have so far been recorded, alleging that killings were carried out on the orders of the former Awami League government to suppress the protests.

Of these, trials in 45 cases are currently underway at the ICT.

Police have submitted charge sheets in 19 murder cases across various courts.



Labourer Abu Hanif sorts coconut shells collected from different areas. He separates the coir (fibre from the outer husk of the coconut) using a machine and sells it to companies that use it to make mats, carpets, and other fibre products. Each kilo of coir sells for around Tk 70-80. The photo was taken yesterday at Rahimabad village in Bagerhat, Khulna. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Tk 3cr bridge still unusable after 3yrs Locals suffer as approach road remains unfinished

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A 45-metre bridge over a stream connecting the Teliapara Shahpur road in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj has remained incomplete for three years after the construction deadline expired in November 2022.

Although the main structure is finished, the approach road on one end is yet to be built, making the bridge inaccessible. As a result, thousands of locals, including schoolchildren, elderly people, and tea garden workers, risk injuries daily while crossing the stream.

The earthen approach road on the southern end has collapsed due to erosion, forcing residents to climb steep slopes to cross the stream. Vehicles, including ambulances, cannot reach the area, leaving the villages practically cut off.

"I once slipped and hurt my feet when going to school," said 14-year-old Munna Tanti.

Chitta Ranjan Debbarma, headman of Sathchari village, said the only alternative route adds four kilometres to their journey. "We cannot take patients to hospitals or goods to markets," he added.

The LGED started the Tk 3 crore project in mid-2020, awarding the work to M/s Hasan Enterprises, but three years past the deadline, it remains non-functional.

The contractor has already withdrawn Tk 2.42 crore, alleged locals.

Contractor Nasir Mia admitted the delay and said the bridge's approach road, guard wall, and protection works were delayed due to bad weather. "I want to complete everything within this month," he said.

Faridur Rahman, executive engineer of LGED in Habiganj, said, "We've instructed the contractor to complete the remaining work within this month. If the deadline is missed again, action will be taken, including cancellation of the contract."

## Freeze S Alam's shares worth

## Tk 8,000cr Dhaka court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 51,318,23,286 shares of 105 companies and firms owned by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam, his family members, and beneficiaries over corruption allegations.

The market value of these shares stands at Tk 800,37,872,950.

Judge Sabir Faiz of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Monabil Haq, who leads the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

"The ACC official came to know from credible sources that S Alam and others were trying to transfer these shares of 105 companies and firms elsewhere. So, an order is needed to prevent them from doing so," said the anti-graft body in its application.

## EDCL General Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO 1703 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3), 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Mofakale Hossain Chowdhury, Shareholder, Director and Managing Director of H. & M. Trims Industries Ltd. of 152, R.K. Mission Road (9th Floor), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

—Petitioner—  
—Respondents—

Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of H. & M. Trims Industries Ltd. for the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 25-09-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Advocate Md. Anwar Hossain  
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 01913391551

## Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1797 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:  
An application under section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Unique Hotel & Resorts PLC. represented by its Shareholder Salina Ali.

.....Petitioner  
VERSUS  
Eastern Industries (Bangladesh) Limited

Take notice that an application under section 81(2) read with Section 396(3) and Section 179 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of Eastern Industries (Bangladesh) Limited for the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024. Upon hearing the application on 25.09.2025, the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application. Anyone interested in the application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for the hearing of the matter. Copy of the application may be obtained on payment of necessary cost.

(Mr. Ripan Barai), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Eastern Arzu, 61, Bijoynagar, Dhaka. Mobile : 01705-074227

IN THE MATTER OF:  
An application under section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Unique Hotel & Resorts PLC. represented by its Shareholder Salina Ali.

.....Petitioner  
VERSUS  
Eastern Industries (Bangladesh) Limited

Take notice that an application under section 81(2) read with Section 396(3) and Section 179 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of Eastern Industries (Bangladesh) Limited for the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024. Upon hearing the application on 25.09.2025, the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application. Anyone interested in the application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for the hearing of the matter. Copy of the application may be obtained on payment of necessary cost.

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(Mr. Ripan Barai), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Eastern Arzu, 61, Bijoynagar, Dhaka. Mobile : 01705-074227

Take notice that an application under section 81

## INTERNATIONAL

## Freeze war at current battle lines

Trump calls on Russia, Ukraine; Zelensky says Kyiv preparing contract to buy 25 Patriot systems

AGENCIES

United States President Donald Trump has called for Russia and Ukraine to freeze the war along current battle lines – a proposal that would see Moscow keep large areas of Ukrainian territory.

Trump told reporters late on Sunday that the two sides should just stop fighting and resolve the “details” over territory at future talks. The current front line runs through the Donbas region, an industrial hub.

“What I say is they should stop right now at the battle lines, go home, stop killing people and be done,” the US president said, adding that it would be difficult to negotiate details of a final resolution.

Asked about what would happen to Donbas, which has seen most of the fighting, Trump said: “Let it be cut the way it is. It’s cut up right now – I think 78 percent of the land is already taken by Russia. You leave it the way it is right now. They can negotiate something later on down the line.”

Ukraine has previously insisted on reclaiming all of its



land. Trump himself asserted last month that Ukraine can win militarily and recapture all of the territories occupied by Russia, which also includes the Crimean Peninsula and other areas in eastern Ukraine, reports Al Jazeera online.

The US president, who had promised to swiftly end the war between Russia and Ukraine, is set to meet his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Hungary in the coming weeks.

Zelensky has said he would be ready to join Putin and Trump at their summit in Hungary if he is invited.

Meanwhile, Ukraine is preparing a contract to buy 25 Patriot air defence systems, Volodymyr Zelensky said, in what would be a huge boost to Kyiv’s abilities to defend against Russia’s aerial bombardments.

In comments to media at a meeting on Sunday and cleared for use yesterday, Zelensky said the systems would be supplied every year for a number of years, and that Ukraine would seek for some European nations to give Kyiv priority in the queue for the systems.

## End arbitrary arrests and detentions

FROM PAGE 1

meeting between Yunus and representatives of international civil society during the United Nations General Assembly in New York last month.

The rights groups urged Bangladesh to prevent arbitrary arrests and detentions. They recommended reviewing and withdrawing cases that appear politically motivated or infringe on freedom of expression and other fundamental rights.

They said such reviews should cover cases filed both before and after August 2024, regardless of perceived political affiliation, including those involving Awami League members and supporters charged or detained without credible evidence.

The rights bodies also urged the government to protect journalists from harassment and violence by state and non-state actors, to conduct prompt and independent investigations into such attacks, and to implement the Media Reform Commission’s recommendations in line with international standards on press freedom.

“Ensure press freedom and protect journalists from arbitrary arrests and detention, regardless of perceived political affiliation, particularly where charges lack credible evidence or violate freedom of expression or other rights,” the letter said.

The groups acknowledged measures taken by the interim government since last year’s July uprising, including investigations into past abuses and steps to restore civil liberties.

However, they noted that reforms in the legal and security sectors remain

incomplete and urged the authorities to take further action ahead of the 2026 national elections to strengthen institutions and uphold rights.

The letter also said security sector reforms are necessary to consolidate public trust.

It added, “Implement security sector reform, including by disbanding the Rapid Action Battalion and limiting the powers of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, to break with the past and develop rights-respecting security institutions. The Rab’s track record of perpetrating serious abuses with impunity has put the institution well beyond reform, and all military personnel should be removed from civilian law enforcement. The DGFI’s perpetration of enforced disappearances and other serious abuses underscores the need for its role and authority to be strictly delineated to military intelligence with operational limits and a clear legal mandate.

“The military should provide its full support for these accountability efforts, including by respecting the jurisdiction of the ICT [International Crimes Tribunal], a civilian court, over members of the military.”

They also called for a moratorium on the death penalty.

The letter further recommended revising or repealing several laws, including the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025, the Special Powers Act, and the Official Secrets Act, to ensure compliance with international standards on freedom of expression.

It pointed out that a ban has been imposed on the Awami League against all forms of activities, while supporters of the party engaging in them are

being detained.

The organisations referred to a UN fact-finding report released in February, which found evidence that some senior AL leaders were involved in serious human rights violations during the previous administration, and noted that the UN had warned against a ban on the party.

“End the broad ban on Awami League activities under the Anti-Terrorism Act, which excessively restricts freedom of association, assembly, and expression, and has been used to arrest Awami League members and perceived supporters engaged in peaceful activities,” the letter said.

They also urged the government to ease restrictions on civil society organisations by reforming the NGO Affairs Bureau and reviewing the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, which they said has constrained the work of non-governmental groups.

The rights groups also expressed concern over the condition of Rohingya refugees, particularly those who arrived after renewed violence in Myanmar since late 2023.

The signatories urged the government to prevent any forced returns until conditions in Myanmar allow voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation. They encouraged steps to improve access to education, livelihoods, and freedom of movement in the refugee camps.

They further said Bangladesh is at an important stage in its political transition and that further progress toward transparency, accountability, and inclusion would strengthen public confidence ahead of the next election.

## CU student stabbed to death

FROM PAGE 2

Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Though originally from Barishal, Shamim lived with his parents in the Barapola area of Bandar Residential in Chattogram.

Bandar Police Station Sub-Inspector Monirul Karim told journalists that Shamim was alive when police first found him.

“He was lying in a pool of blood

with his hand and foot tendons cut. We are investigating both possibilities – whether it was suicide or murder,” he said.

Family members and police said Shamim left home around noon on Sunday after receiving a phone call. He told his mother he was going to meet someone and also mentioned he had a job interview.

Responding to a 999 call, Halishahar Police first rushed to

the spot assuming the location was within their jurisdiction but later transferred the case to Bandar Police Station after a preliminary inquiry. His family was informed afterward.

“We are shocked by the incident – we want a proper investigation,” said the victim’s cousin, Md Maruf.

A case will be filed regarding Shamim’s death, he added.



University students light flares during a protest marking the first anniversary of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's administration, criticising government policies—particularly the free meals program—in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Colombia recalls ambassador to US

## Trump-Petro feud intensifies

AFP, Bogotá

Colombia yesterday said its ambassador to the United States had been recalled, as a public feud between the nations’ leaders heats up with President Donald Trump revoking aid and threatening punishing tariffs.

Trump on Sunday vowed to end aid to the South American nation, a historically close US partner, accusing his leftist Colombian counterpart Gustavo Petro of being an “illegal drug leader.”

He also said he would be making an announcement on tariffs targeting Colombia later yesterday.

The threats came as the United States announced it had struck another alleged drug-running vessel in international waters, killing three people.

The boat was affiliated with

a Colombian armed group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said.

That strike came on the heels of another attack – on a semi-submersible vessel – that left two survivors, one of whom was Colombian.

Petro, who has clashed with Trump since the US leader returned to power in January, has fiercely criticized the deadly anti-drug campaign in the Caribbean.

He has accused Trump of murder and of violating Colombia’s sovereignty.

Colombia’s Ambassador Daniel Garcia Pena has already returned to Bogota, the foreign ministry said yesterday in a statement, adding Petro’s government would be making further announcements during the day.

## It's like asking one to swim

FROM PAGE 1

asking someone to swim after throwing him or her into the river, tying hands and legs,” he said while rebutting the prosecution’s formal charges in a case filed against Hasina, Kamal, and former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, now an approver.

Taking the allegation seriously, tribunal Chairman Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder asked, “You mean the Evidence Act and CrPC should have been applied [to the ICT]?”

Amir agreed.

“The ICT Act imposes many bindings. We have to conduct the trial through numerous obstacles, which put the defence in an embarrassing situation,” he said.

The defence also challenged the claim of “widespread” attacks. He said prosecution only could bring witnesses from fewer than 20 of the 52 districts where the prosecution alleged atrocities occurred. And in most of those districts, there was only one witness.

“Uncorroborated testimony from a single witness cannot prove widespread crimes,” Amir said.

The tribunal observed that even killings in Dhaka alone could be termed “widespread”.

Amir said Hasina’s reference to “descendants of Razakars” targeted certain section of people, not all, and that her attempt to reform the quota system was blocked by

agitators “as part of a larger design.”

He argued the government had no role in a High Court writ petition on restoring the quota system in public service.

The tribunal chairman said the court’s inaction, followed by the sudden disposal of the writ within a day or two, indicated a calculated plan and clear government influence over the judiciary.

Defending Hasina’s 15-year rule, Amir said the prosecution ignored major achievements like the Padma Bridge, metro rail, Karnaphuli tunnel, and elevated expressway.

Justice Shohul responded, “In the name of development, are you justifying enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, and torture?”

Amir replied, “Every government makes mistakes; no administration is above error.”

He also defended Hasina’s abolition of the caretaker government system. He said Hasina was the one who introduced the system. “The system was later corrupted when a BNP-led government extended the retirement age of judges to make one of them chief adviser,” he said. “In that context, the caretaker government was scrapped, following a High Court verdict.”

On corruption, he said, “Begumpara is not only for Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party leaders, and bureaucrats are also there.”

## ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

## ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আভানগ্রাম্যজুড়ে প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি



২০২০ সন থেকে ২০২৩ সন পর্যন্ত মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান এবং ২০২৫ সনের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উচ্চীর ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের আভানগ্রাম্যজুড়ে প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

ভর্তি প্রার্থীরা ২৯/১০/২০২৫ তারিখ মুসুর ১২:০০টা থেকে ১৬/১১/২০২৫ তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ মি: পর্যন্ত Dhaka University Admission Website (<https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd>)-এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদন ক্ষি ১০৫০/- (এক হাজার পঞ্চাশ) টাকা, আইবি এইউনিটের আবেদন ক্ষি ১২৫০/- (এক হাজার মুণ্ডুষ্ঠ পঞ্চাশ) টাকা। চারটি মাস্টার্স বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের (সোনালী, জনতা, অঙ্গী, স্ল্যান্সি) দে কেন শাখার অধৰা অনলাইনে ডেবিট/ক্রেডিট কাৰ্ড, মোবাইল ফিনান্সিয়াল সেবা ব্যবহার কৰে শিক্ষার্থী আবেদন ক্ষি জয়া দিবে।

শিক্ষার্থীরা নিম্নোক্ত ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি ইউনিটে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনের যোগ্যতাসহ ভর্তি সংস্কৃত বিজ্ঞান প্রদত্ত সংস্কৃতি ইউনিটে আবেদন করতে পারবে।

বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	বিজ্ঞান অনুবন্ধ, জীববিজ্ঞান অনুবন্ধ, ফর্মেলী অনুবন্ধ, আর্থ এত এনভায়েলেমেন্টল সায়েন্সেস অনুবন্ধ, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এত টেকনোলজী অনুবন্ধভূত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইনসিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।
কলা, আইন ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	কলা অনুবন্ধ, আইন অনুবন্ধ, সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুবন্ধভূত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইনসিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।
ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ইউনিট	বিজ্ঞেন্স স্টাডিজ অনুবন্ধভূত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য।
চারকলা ইউনিট	চারকলা অনুবন্ধভূত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য।
আইবি ইউনিট	ব্যবসায় প্রযোগ্য ইনসিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।

## ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

ইউনিট	পরীক্ষার তারিখ	বার</th
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## After airport fire, govt must rebuild trust

It must implement a fire and structural safety audit in all key economic installations

It goes without saying that the devastating blaze that gutted the import section of Dhaka airport's main cargo village has struck at the heart of Bangladesh's manufacturing sector, perhaps at the worst possible time. The incident threatens to derail peak-season garment shipments for Christmas sales in a global supply chain built on speed. The initial estimate of \$1 billion damage in the fire, which industry insiders fear may rise, tells only part of the story, however. This catastrophe is the third blow to business confidence in a week, following fire incidents at factories in Chattogram and Dhaka's Mirpur area, both linked to garment production. Meanwhile, Chattogram port saw a steep tariff increase come into effect, and subsequently a truckers' strike, paralysing the country's main trade artery. That comes on top of persistently elevated inflation, high interest rates, and a 20 percent tariff on exports to the US, Bangladesh's largest market.

The crisis set off by the airport fire extends beyond garments. The pharmaceutical industry, reliant on temperature-sensitive, time-bound raw materials from abroad, faces production disruptions. Losses are also mounting in telecoms, with consignments of high-value mobile components worth millions reduced to ash.

In response, industry leaders and the government said they were in emergency mode. The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association has secured temporary warehouse space and urged members to clear imports within 36 hours to ease congestion. The government has ordered the cargo village to operate 24/7. Whether these palliative measures will suffice remains to be seen. The deeper question, though, is not what caused the fire, but how resilient Bangladesh's supply chain really is. This demands a fundamental reassessment of the regulatory systems meant to protect our economic assets.

The government must move expeditiously to avert a repeat of such failures. To restore confidence, the first priority is to provide tangible support to the business community—through a streamlined process for registering losses and expediting insurance settlements. Moreover, the investigation into the airport fire must be credible and conclusive, addressing the unresolved questions of sabotage versus negligence. Contradictory accounts of the firefighting response demand nothing less.

The more enduring task would be to confront the abysmal state of fire safety that this tragedy has laid bare. A one-off audit of the airport is therefore not enough. Bangladesh needs a mandatory, nationwide fire safety review of all critical economic infrastructure, including ports, EPZs, warehouses, and major factories. The government must then mandate modern, automated suppression systems and enforce a time-bound compliance schedule. Finally, to salvage its international reputation, Bangladesh must communicate its action plan clearly to global partners. A high-level, cross-ministerial task force should be established to oversee this reform agenda, with the mandate not only to manage the crisis but also to harden the nation's economic infrastructure against future shocks.

## Legal migration for all workers crucial

Exorbitant cost of migration is taking a heavy toll on our workers

It is most unfortunate that the migration sector continues to be dominated by middlemen despite there being proper government channels for recruitment. According to a recent study by the Ovibashi Unnayan Karmi Programme (OKUP), workers are paying exorbitant fees as most of them migrate through informal channels. Among the 1,084 workers surveyed by OKUP in eight migration-prone districts, 56 percent relied on informal or illegal agents to facilitate their migration to the Gulf countries, while only seven percent reported using licensed recruiting agencies. This highlights the grim reality of the limited accessibility of formal recruitment channels, particularly in rural areas.

Workers have long migrated to Gulf countries under the "free visa" system without any job guaranteed before departure. While the government fixed average cost for migration to the Middle East is Tk 116,224, workers with free visa have to spend around Tk 499,802 on average. And despite paying nearly five times more than the government-approved cost, 43 percent fail to find work after reaching the destination countries, while many must spend additional money to obtain work permits.

Reportedly, a total of 938,000 workers migrated to the Middle East in 2022. Of them, 57 percent obtained work permits upon arrival, while 21 percent, who initially failed to secure employment, spent an extra Tk 150,000 on average to acquire work permits (iqamas). The OKUP study estimated that Bangladeshi migrants in Gulf countries lost about Tk 30,000 crore in 2022 alone due to unethical and fraudulent recruitment practices under the free visa system.

Another alarming finding is that 72 percent of respondents took loans to cover migration costs, while 11 percent mortgaged their land and six percent sold it. And many of those who returned home without finding jobs were unable to recover their mortgaged land. All this is deeply concerning. Migration experts note that there is no such thing as a "free" visa; under ILO conventions, workers cannot be sent abroad without an employment contract. Yet, many Bangladeshi migrants go without one, leaving them vulnerable to all sorts of exploitation.

We urge the government to take concrete steps to make legal labour migration more accessible and protect our workers from exploitation through strict measures. The recruitment process must be transparent and accountable. Experts also emphasise the need for skill training to prepare our workers for better opportunities abroad. With Saudi Arabia's recent abolition of the Kafala system, we hope the recruitment process for that country will be easier now, while the hardships faced by our workers will be reduced.

# EDITORIAL

## Time to move from investment promotion to facilitation

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem  
is research director at Centre for Policy  
Dialogue (CPD).

Abrar Ahmed Bhuiyan  
is programme associate at CPD.

**KHONDAKER GOLAM  
MOAZZEM and ABRAR  
AHMED BHUIYAN**

Earlier in April this year, when the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) organised the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025, people expected investment to rise overnight. But it did not quite happen. Because what BIDA did was investment promotion, not facilitation. Investors focus on three things: price, predictability, and procedure—and facilitation directly addresses these concerns, not promotion alone.

While investment promotion is about encouraging investors to come through tax holidays, special zones, or marketing, investment facilitation is about helping investors once they decide to attend summits and invest. What Bangladesh urgently needs now is investment facilitation—the support investors require. Facilitation is about solving real problems on the ground.

Globally, governments focus more on investment promotion than facilitation. A 2017 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) study found that between 2010 and 2016, only 20 percent of investment measures targeted facilitation, while 80 percent focused on incentives, special economic zones (SEZs), and investment promotion agencies (IPAs). Bangladesh follows a similar trend; its policies are among the most liberal in South Asia, showing strong openness to foreign capital. Yet, despite these favourable conditions, foreign direct investment (FDI) has not matched expectations. This shortfall stems not from a lack of investor interest but from persistent legal, institutional, and operational barriers.

Another recent study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), based on the UNCTAD Action Menu for Investment Facilitation, highlighted that investment facilitation encompasses a wide range of measures designed to make investment processes more transparent, efficient, and predictable for both domestic and foreign investors. It identified six key aspects to assess facilitation performance: (i) regulatory transparency and predictability, (ii) electronic governance, (iii) focal point and review mechanisms, (iv) application process efficiency, (v) inter-agency cooperation, and (vi) responsible business conduct and anti-corruption enforcement.

The on-ground reality indicates

a mixed and uneven investment facilitation ecosystem in Bangladesh. If we take a look at the status of investment facilitation in the country, it can be noted that regulatory transparency and predictability are not ensured across sectors. Although laws and transparency mechanisms exist, information is scattered, poorly localised, and often inaccessible. Investors face difficulty understanding procedures and identifying the correct contact points. Across sectors, policy inconsistencies, conflicting interpretations, lack of transparency, and abrupt procedural changes have created an environment of uncertainty that discourages investment.

For instance, in the power and energy sector, the interim government's decision to discontinue the unsolicited process, introduce open tendering, and abruptly halt projects came despite investors already receiving the "go-ahead" and committing resources.



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

To ensure predictability, policies should remain consistent across regimes, with gradual, well-notified changes. Investor confidence depends heavily on perceptions and market signals; therefore, the government must consider how its decisions shape those perceptions.

Electronic governance is at a poor to nascent stage, with partial and non-functional online systems. Most processes across sectors remain manual or only half digitised. Investment portals, e-payment systems, and online document submissions are often incomplete or difficult to use. Websites are not user-friendly in design or functionality, reflecting a lack of understanding of user perspectives and limited institutional willingness to improve.

Despite substantial spending, many digitisation initiatives have turned into opportunities for rent-seeking rather than reform. Consequently, investors

still visit offices physically and face confusion as different authorities demand varying sets of documents. Moreover, online platforms generally lack effective grievance redress and feedback mechanisms. Thus, digital systems exist but yield little benefit for investors. Ministries managing digital platforms should actively seek user feedback and adapt systems accordingly, learning from global best practices. Recently, BIDA expanded its online One Stop Service (OSS) platform to include land registration services and introduced relationship managers from the private sector as focal points. It has also shown responsiveness to the recommendations of CPD's action guide for investment facilitation in the renewable energy sector.

Focal point mechanisms are minimal and fragmented. From an investor's perspective, focal points are vital for identifying both the right organisation and the specific

Many online forms lack features such as automatic notifications for incomplete submissions or real-time application status updates. Clear timelines are rarely stated, and inter-agency cooperation is inadequate, forcing investors to submit the same documents repeatedly to different offices. Consequently, application processes remain slow, inconsistent, and unpredictable.

Investors should not be left in uncertainty. Clear instructions, timelines, notifications, and regular updates on application status must be ensured. Reducing these uncertainties will make the process simpler, more predictable, and more comfortable.

Cooperation among agencies is limited and still developing. Establishing a business or project requires approvals from several authorities, ministries, regulatory bodies, and BIDA, but poor cooperation prolongs timelines and increases costs. Investors often invest in land or take loans before approvals, and delays directly affect project expenses. BIDA should serve as the central coordination mechanism and the driving force for investor facilitation, as it holds the mandate to manage investor relations and perceptions. It should lead and ensure that investors can access sector-specific guidance without redirection. Government agencies under different ministries should be service-centric and open to cooperation with BIDA and sectoral nodal agencies.

Responsible business conduct and anti-corruption mechanisms exist but are not effectively practised. Bangladesh has ratified international conventions and aligned its legal frameworks with global standards, yet enforcement remains inconsistent. Given that the country will be under greater scrutiny in the international market, following standards and best practices is crucial to gain investor confidence.

To unlock the potential of foreign direct investment, Bangladesh must adopt a phased and concrete reform agenda addressing both structural and procedural bottlenecks. Reforms should be feasible within existing institutional arrangements and designed to strengthen predictability and investor trust. However, BIDA's engagement is necessary but not sufficient. Ministries and agencies responsible for different sectors must act with equal enthusiasm and coordinate closely with BIDA.

For reforms to succeed, a collaborative, transparent, and investor-friendly approach is critical for Bangladesh to attract foreign investment, create jobs, and advance its sustainable energy transition.

## We must rebuild an economy that works well for the youth



Saba El Kabir  
is a sustainability practitioner. He can be  
reached at saba@cultivera.net.

**SABA EL KABIR**

When Bangladesh's youth poured into the streets in July 2024, the trigger was a court ruling on job quotas. This was no policy dispute. It was an inevitable eruption—the moment a generation which was promised a future through education finally declared war on the system that betrayed them.

For over a decade, we have been celebrating our "demographic dividend," a youth bulge seen as the engine of growth. Every university degree was supposed to be a step towards prosperity. Yet in 2024, the numbers told an unambiguous tale of failure. Youth unemployment, aged between 15-24, stood at 11.46 percent. Among university graduates, the rate stood at 13.11 percent. Some estimates suggested that one in three graduates remained without work for up to two years.

Moreover, nearly 40 percent of Bangladeshi youth fell into Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) category. The gender divide remained harsh as the female NEET rate was almost 50 percent higher than that of males. Education had been framed as a path to dignity, but

became a symbol of exclusion. At its root, the education system was disconnected from market needs. Nevertheless, that cohort of "educated unemployed," digitally connected and deeply frustrated, was the movement's core energy.

Beneath the social unrest lay an economic model that equated growth with success even as its core engines broke down. Bangladesh's GDP looked strong, but its foundations were not. The banking sector was one key cause and symptom of the malady. By early 2025, the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio had climbed to 24.13 percent, meaning nearly one in every Tk 4 lent was unrecovatable. This was no ordinary banking failure—it was money heist in plain sight. The mountain of bad loans stood as a monument to impunity, where connected borrowers drained capital unchecked. With credit to private enterprise drying up, investment stalled. The SME sector was choked by a financing shortfall estimated at \$2.8 billion.

Meanwhile, dependence on the RMG sector evolved into a trap. With the industry accounting for about

85 percent of export value, the jobs it offered were low-skill and low-pay, inadequate for a rising class of graduates. Gender exclusion deepened the fracture. Women's workforce participation had risen, but remained concentrated in the garment work, lacking security. The mismatch was stark: talent was being produced for which no roles existed.

**The uprising is not supposed to be a passing eruption. The youth, once exalted as Bangladesh's dividend, became its critics. Deprived of economic mobility, they seized political agency.**

Meanwhile, as job creation stagnated, living costs continued to rise. Inflation peaked officially at 11.7 percent in July 2024, eroding household purchasing power. Analyses suggested that nearly 28 percent of the population slipped back into poverty. Inequality soared as local studies placed the Gini coefficient near 0.50—a level typically associated with serious social tension.

The uprising is not supposed to be a passing eruption. The youth, once exalted as Bangladesh's dividend, became its critics. Deprived of economic mobility, they seized political agency. And so, in a sandbox where the economy was made to serve

politics, sense must prevail and politics must serve the economy.

The foremost priority now for any elected government must be job creation. This starts with financial-sector cleanup. It will require more than just new regulations or reform; it demands the political courage to dismantle the networks of impunity that have protected willful defaulters for years.

Once credit returns, education reform and SME revival must follow in tandem. Education must move beyond theory to build AI and digital skills, applied learning, and university-industry partnerships, backed by a national commitment of at least four percent of GDP. At the same time, closing the \$2.8 billion SME credit gap through guarantee schemes and fintech tools can offer the fastest, most inclusive path to employment generation.

This will provide Bangladesh with the groundwork to realistically diversify into value-added sectors, such as ICT, pharmaceuticals, and light engineering, which are capable of absorbing educated labour sustainably.

The July uprising was not a riot; the masses rallied to a simple call—a call for economic justice, which would uphold their right to a brighter future.

Regardless of the failings of current politics, a generation that feels its future is being stolen will not wait quietly. If we answer their call, this chapter in our history may become a turning point. If they are ignored, the next eruption will be louder.

# Clash of barbarisms: Gaza as a metaphor for a fractured world

## LETTERS FROM THE UK

Dr Geof Wood

*is a development anthropologist and author of several books and numerous journal articles. He is also emeritus professor of international development at the University of Bath, UK.*

GEOF WOOD



In 2006, I made a presentation to the Bath United Nations Association entitled, "Clash of civilisations, clash of barbarisms," in which I took Samuel P. Huntington, the American political scientist, to task for characterising the world in terms of the former phrase. This later morphed into a publication, *Clashing Values in Bangladesh: NGOs, Secularism and the Ummah*, in which I saw various NGOs and movements in Bangladesh acting out global contestations on the local stage. As I ponder now in 2025, we are witnessing the colonial imposition of a one-sided "peace" treaty in Gaza—already broken in its first week, with bombings and humanitarian trucks denied entry—designed to restore the pre-October 7, 2023 status quo.

Thus, there is little mention of the decades of occupation of Gaza or encroachment in the West Bank, with no promises to end either. There are no credible undertakings for a two-state solution by the proponents of this "peace" deal, let alone by its extremist opponents. Reclaiming the historic "river to the sea" area clearly remains the objective for both the extremist victor and the vanquished, thus pursuing absolute, non-negotiable, and mutually contradictory ends. But who are these "Vs," squeezing out all conciliatory opinions and values that lie between them? They represent the most barbaric versions of their paths, forsaking any hope of peaceful coexistence as neighbours, and instead choosing to remain implacable enemies.

This trend suits those across the world who favour extremism as the only route to their own narcissistic urges for power, their fragile egos valorised through increasing fragility and humiliation of others. Such extremism is strongly characterised by what is rejected or hated, rather than what is liked and valued, feeding on negativity and the conflicted fear of *the other*. It is this extremism that binds the Israeli far-right and the Hamas in Gaza, each

Trump's dystopian sunset strip.

Last year, I was reminded of a better glimpse of that good life: a BBC Proms concert in London with Daniel Barenboim conducting the orchestra made up of young Israelis and Palestinians of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. It was a hugely moving occasion. And let's not forget Colum McCann's *Apeirogon*, the tale of Rami and Bassam in Jerusalem, fathers of lost daughters from

clash of barbarisms is a zero-sum game where the effort is directed at the destruction of the other rather than the prospect of mutual gain through socially productive collaboration.

In this sense, Gaza has become a metaphor for something wider and far more dangerous. The politics of extreme identity and naïve nationalism are taking over in many parts of the world, whether in the form of Brexit in the UK or "Make America Great Again" under

exclusive, such as the white supremacism in the US and parts of Europe. Sadly, in Europe, we are painfully aware of past pogroms and discrimination against ethnic minorities, and there is a real fear that we stand on the brink of repeating such horrors.

The exploitation of incremental exclusion, achieved by redefining the rights of belonging and citizenship, is now understood as a form of fascism. In this system, states enforce strict boundaries by denying access to those deemed "beyond the pale," while simultaneously increasing the exploitation of their labour to benefit encircled elites, who increasingly rely on rents rather than profits to maintain their privilege. These forms of internal slavery have often been depicted in dystopian novels and movies, but are now on open display.

Let us return to Gaza and the West Bank: the former occupied under apartheid-type conditions, and 40 percent of the latter violently occupied by Israeli settlers, backed up by their army, labelling any resistance as terrorism. In both contexts, it is not just space that is being controlled, but also access to employment and income. Under periods of relatively quiescent occupation, Palestinian labour from Gaza crossed daily into Israeli employment but with no rights to influence wage determination and conditions. Akin to slavery, this income tap could be turned off for "misbehaving" individuals who are fast-tracked to Israeli jails, as evidenced by the 1,700 held without charge and then released, returning by the busload as part of the recent hostage exchange "deal".

The underlying context here is undeniable: the sustained removal of dignity over decades starting from the Nakba in 1948. A deliberate policy of humiliation, culturally and materially. It is small wonder that such atrocities beget atrocities, as October 7 undoubtedly was, timed and designed deliberately to enable further isolation of Palestinians. But barbarisms beget barbarisms. This is not a clash of civilisations. This is a politics of non-negotiable ends. Any scope for negotiation and compromise has been systematically removed from it, made institutionally redundant in favour of brutish violence, threats and intimidation, and further fuelled by the military-industrial complexes wherein lie further opportunities for rents and profits by the world's self-destructing elites. Are we just pawns in a global game of barbaric chess?



**"We are witnessing the colonial imposition of a one-sided so-called 'peace,' already broken in its first week, with bombings and humanitarian trucks denied entry."**

FILE PHOTO: AFP

needing the other for their relevance.

So, it is not a clash of civilisations that we are now witnessing, to use Huntington's terms, but rather the opposite—the manufacture of barbaric intolerance, acted out through destruction rather than construction. Beyond immediate and mobilising slogans, there is no "what next," no "what comes after." No real conception of the good life, apart from

opposing tragedies who meet and share their grief across the divide.

But civilised people on either side of the wall seem hostage to the barbarity of their leaders, who are intent on pursuing mutual demonisation as the basis of their power, whipping up their millenarian supporters into frenzies of hatred, consumed by alienation and removal of purpose in their own societies. This

Trump. Both movements, led by questionable millionaires and funded by equally dubious billionaires, are underpinned by pyramidal debt structures. Both movements start with scapegoating contemporary immigrants for the supposed socio-economic exclusion of the "white" poor. They incrementally turn upon longer established minority communities as the idea of nativism becomes more racially

## Why is contraceptive access no longer a national priority?

Mostafa Shabuj

*is a journalist at The Daily Star. He can be reached at mostafashabujstar@gmail.com.*

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

The use of contraceptives was first promoted in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) in the 1950s. By the 1960s, it had been incorporated into government family planning programmes aimed at curbing rapid population growth and reducing maternal mortality. Over the past six and a half decades, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress: the fertility rate has dropped to less than a third of what it was, accompanied by a significant decline in maternal mortality.

However, in recent years, that progress has begun to stall. A severe nationwide shortage of contraceptives is now exacerbating the situation, coinciding with a worrying rise in HIV infections and related deaths. According to a report in this daily, HIV infections in Bangladesh have increased steadily, in contrast to a global declining trend. Between 2000 and 2024, recorded HIV cases increased by more than 45 percent. Some 882 new cases have been detected by June this year. The report suggested that the alarming rise in recent cases is partly attributed to the disrupted supply of condoms, needles, and

syringes to vulnerable populations, including drug users, sex workers, and transgender individuals, driven by insufficient funding.

The *Daily Star's* report "Contraceptive crisis grips health centres," published on October 20, 2025, mentions a collapse in distribution of contraceptives based on supply chain data: between July 2024 and 2025 free condom distribution plummeted from 72.7 lakh to 35.6 lakh and oral contraceptive pills dropped from 48.6 lakh in May 2024 to a mere 12.2 lakh in July 2025, leaving many upazilas completely out of stock. Supplies of intrauterine devices (IUDs), implants, and crucial iron-folic acid tablets for pregnant women and adolescent girls who suffer from anemia have also dwindled significantly or ceased entirely.

According to officials of the family planning department, the shortage started in mid-2024 after the cancellation of a procurement project last year and the failure of the interim government to allocate necessary funding for a subsequent two-year procurement project submitted in 2024.

Many health workers and experts are deeply concerned, warning that this shortage will impact both the population growth and economy of the country. Unexpected pregnancies, abortions, and maternal health problems have economic consequences. Besides, a rise in birth rate will put pressure in the country's capacity to ensure food, housing, education, healthcare, and jobs for its population, given our limited resources. It also has environmental and social consequences.

While reporting on the contraceptive crisis, I have visited remote areas in several districts, particularly the hard-to-reach chars of the Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers. In these remote areas, it is women who primarily avail contraceptives from health centres, as men often remain indifferent. In fact, a *Samakal* report, citing the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022-23 (BDHS), stated that 91 percent of contraceptive users are women, with only nine percent being men. This shows that, men unjustly and implicitly place the burden of family planning on their female partner. Therefore, when the free service stops, the less affluent and less aware families are undoubtedly at higher risk of unintended pregnancies.

The situation is worsened by a significant rise in the price of birth control related products in the private market, as reported in several media. Therefore, residents of these chars, who are mostly underprivileged, cannot even afford to buy contraceptives from the market. Besides, the women of these char areas told me that they felt discouraged

about family planning as their male partners were very reluctant to engage in this matter.

Meanwhile, health workers in remote community clinics informed that following the disruption of contraceptive supplies and the complete halt of iron-folic acid tablets, fewer adolescents and women were visiting the clinics. This break of contact severely hampers efforts to provide vital maternal health services and create awareness—which, they believe, will negatively impact the overall maternal health care services and population trends.

As a journalist covering remote areas for years, particularly the char areas of northern Bangladesh, I have witnessed that women face significant barriers in relation to maternal and reproductive health care issues. Their male partners are often uninterested in taking them to the doctor in town, even when severely ill, as travelling from a remote char to an upazila or district town for treatment is costly and difficult. Every char I visited in the last nine years has a high incidence of child birth and maternal mortality compared to urban areas.

Bangladesh has achieved a remarkable feat in family planning, moving from just eight percent of families using contraceptive methods in 1975 to a high of 64 percent in 2022. This success saw the average number of children born to a woman drop dramatically from six at the time of independence to only two today. This achievement was the result of concerted efforts by government initiatives, extensive public awareness campaigns, and the dedicated work of NGOs. However, the

recent severe and countrywide shortage of contraceptives threatens to reverse decades of progress in population control and public health.

Now, the core question remains: how could we allow such a crisis of birth control or contraceptives to happen in a densely populated country like Bangladesh? Why are there no contingent plans to avert the crisis? Furthermore, why is the government no longer prioritising birth control as a matter of national importance? The government cannot abruptly, and without any prior warning, trim the free contraceptive services it has provided to marginalised communities for years. There is no evidence that the government is even considering a way to mitigate the enormous health risk that has been created.

The bottom line is that the government should swiftly restore normal contraceptive supplies and treat this matter as a national priority. It should also commission an independent survey on the contraceptive crisis of the past year to determine the extent of the increase in unintended pregnancies, abortions, and maternal mortality. The research findings can then guide the next government to ensure such a crisis never happens again.

Generally, every populous country considers contraception as a national imperative, not just for population control or economic development, but as a life-saving strategy and a legitimate medical procedure. Bangladesh should be no different.

ACROSS

- 1 Holds up
- 5 Increase
- 11 Concept
- 12 Incite
- 13 Billy Crystal TV comedy
- 14 Emmy winner Candice
- 15 Memorable time
- 16 Cellar supply
- 17 Valerie Harper TV comedy
- 19 "Succession" network
- 22 Relay stick
- 24 Lipstick goof
- 26 Dull pain
- 27 Singer Fitzgerald
- 28 Roof support
- 30 Scent
- 31 That girl
- 32 Starry hunter

34 Lose one's footing

35 Lane

(carpoolers' place)

38 Emmy winner

Patricia

41 Sandy hill

42 Hearts, e.g.

43 Poker payment

44 Friend of Jerry and Elaine

45 Halt

DOWN

1 Ascend

2 Scent

3 Emmy winner for "Maude"

4 Easy victim

5 Zealous

6 Sports spots

7 Extra amount

8 Snub-nosed dog

9 Try out

10 Signing need

16 Took the title

18 Garden tools

19 Emmy winner for "Mad About You"

20 Emmy winner

Lucille

21 Test type

22 Soaking spot

23 Field unit

25 Office note

29 "See ya!"

30 Small drink

33 Washer cycle

34 "Trek"

36 Aware of

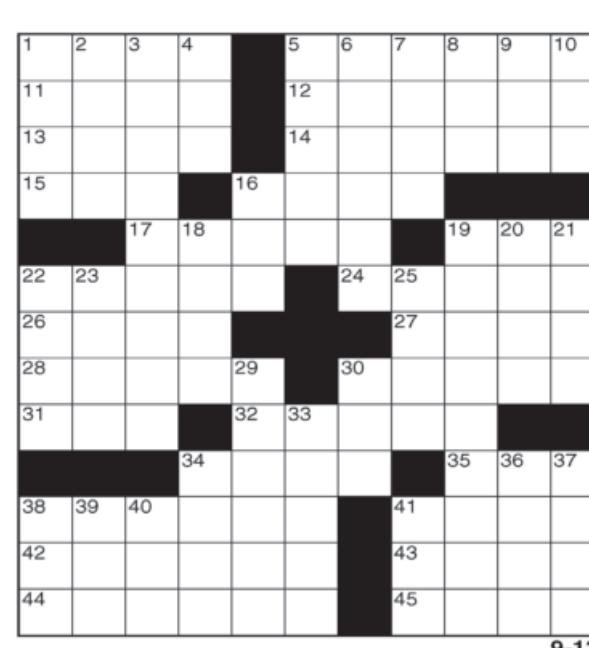
37 Julia Louis-Dreyfus series

38 Sty resident

39 Before, to bards

40 Before today

41 German article



## SUNDAY'S ANSWERS





## UNITED FOR LALON

### DU speaks up against violence and vandalism

FAIZA RAMIM

On the evening of October 19 and the eve of Lalon Shah's 135th *tirodhān* (death anniversary), the student-run quarterly magazine Siren convened the programme titled *Manush Bhojley Shonar Manush Hobī* (If you seek the human within, you become the golden human) at the open concourse of Payra Chhattar at TSC, Dhaka University. From six until ten, the square became a temporary public institution of song, humming with the strong voices that spoke of humanity and secularism that persists despite the forces that want to uproot them, the vibrations of ekta strings and the layered sound of harmonium and flute.

The event had assembled performers from every corner of the country united only by their love for Lalon -- Kuhok Team from Narayanganj, Indrani Shoma from Chattogram, Kotha Baul from Tangail, Oikko Jit Baul from Gazipur, Shukhonlal Rai from Lalmonirhat and Anan Baul from Sirajganj, joined by

SM Rakib, Shimul, Anupam, Lanju, Akash Gyan, Lau Band and writer-philosopher performer Arup Rahi. The instrumental ensemble consisted of Asim Chakma (harmonium), Narayan Dash (tabla), Mishal Tripura (cajón), Mofizur Rahman Birohi (dotara) and Kanon Molla (flute). There were also modern instruments like ukulele and guitar that went smoothly without taking away from the folk aesthetics, rather making for a subtle addition.

The current political atmosphere of Bangladesh emphasises a moral urgency of this music that translates into a broader statement on communal harmony. Since its inception, violence against Bauls and Fakirs and suppression of their voices has been common. The vandalism of mazars, surveillance of rural akhras, and public humiliation of spiritual mendicants constitute a recurring pattern of disciplining difference. The recent outrage over the forceful hair-cutting incidents of September 2025 was merely a more visible and direct transgression of human

*Jaat Gelo Bole, E Shob Kanar Haat Bajar, and Milon Hobī Koto Dine.*

Lalon's philosophy of embodiment continues to structure Bangladeshi popular consciousness. His verses imagine the body as both cage and a channel where spirit encounters material constraint. When the musicians at Payra Chhattar sang *Jaat Gelo Jaat Gelo Bole*, it acted as a critique of caste and class hierarchies still embedded in bureaucratic and religious institutions.

His influence now extends far beyond the Bengal region. His humanist philosophy, grounded in the sanctity of the human body and the rejection of sectarian division, continues to inspire scholars, poets, and musicians across the world. The Japanese anthropologist Masahiko Togawa, one of the most devoted international interpreters of Baul culture, wrote with anguish after visiting the Kushtia mazar in 2000. He observed the striking contrast between Lalon's ascetic

reimagined freedom as inner harmony rather than political revolution. Bob Dylan's album John Wesley Harding features Baul singer Purna Das and Dylan once travelled to Kolkata for the wedding of Purna's son, invoking a lineage of resistance song rooted in Lalon Shah, citing him as his inspiration too.

The Dhaka University event and Togawa's essay belong to a single conversation about preservation and erasure. Both insist that reverence without responsibility becomes another mode of violence. When state institutions construct



monumental "heritage" around a living tradition while neglecting its practitioners, they replace dialogue with display. The students who organised *Manush Bhojley Shonar Manush Hobī* chose the opposite gesture: they created a space where the Baul voice spoke for itself, surrounded by listeners rather than curators.

Lalon's voice endures because it identifies freedom with recognition, the capacity to see another as part of one's own being. Among the crowd at Payra Chhattar that resonance was visible. Street vendors hummed while selling snacks, children repeated refrains, and students from diverse disciplines joined the chorus. Lalon continues to speak to ordinary people because his language does not require mediation. He addresses hunger, love, mortality, class anxiety and the search for justice with equal intimacy. That recognition still animates the streets of Dhaka and the villages of Kushtia. In that continuity lies the true legacy of Lalon Shah, and in that continuity the possibility of an ethical Bangladesh remains alive.



PHOTOS: RATUL CHOWDHURY

rights that couldn't be swept under the rug easily. However, instances of such injustices have always been there. Anan Baul's performance of his own song about the 2020 attack on his Sirajganj akhra emphasised that, asking why singers are punished for their harmless devotion and if his music killed anybody.

The performers each revisited Lalon's canonical songs *Shob Loke Koy Lalon Ki Jaat, Khachar Bhotor Ochin Pakhi, Jaat Gelo*

humanism and the concrete complex rising beside his tomb. For Togawa, the transformation of a sacred, living space into a tourist site represented the spiritual emptiness of commodified faith. He preferred to stay on the clay-walled veranda of his guru's house, eating simple food and listening to a child sing *Kemon Nay Bicharak Khoda*.

Allen Ginsberg's poem *After Lalon*, written after his encounter with Baul songs in the 1960s,

Ayub Bachchu's legacy to be preserved through museum and cultural hub



A museum and cultural hub is set to be established in Dhaka's Moghbazar area at the initiative of the Ayub Bachchu Foundation.

Spread across 10 kathas of land, the museum will preserve an extensive collection of memorabilia from the legendary musician's personal and musical life.

Ferdous Akhtar Chondona, wife of Ayub Bachchu and president of the foundation, said that work on the project is progressing steadily, though sponsorship is needed to carry it forward.

The museum will display many of Ayub Bachchu's personal belongings, including his guitars, T-shirts, hats, caps, rings, and sunglasses, along with other treasured items from his life and career.

A recording studio modeled after AB Kitchen, Ayub Bachchu's iconic workspace, will also be part of the museum.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### 'The Seesaw Soirée'

The Seesaw Collective, an eclectic ensemble celebrated for its improvisation and rhythmic interplay, returns to Dhaka with a dynamic performance. Featuring

Rahin Haider on saxophone and traditional flute, the band blends jazz and fusion with original compositions. Guest appearances include acclaimed vocalist Tashfee and composer Shahrin Shahriar.

DATE: FRIDAY | OCT 24, 2025  
TIME: 7 PM-9:30 PM  
VENUE: JATRA BIROTI, BANANI



## NEWS

### Liberation War not accurately represented

FROM PAGE 12

particularly concerning differing opinions and the note of dissent".

The parties further objected to a clause that restricts the right to challenge the Charter in court, saying it goes against fundamental rights.

They opposed the removal of the Proclamation of Independence and the Declaration of Independence from the sixth and seventh schedules of the Constitution, calling it an attack on the nation's founding principles.

Speaking to reporters, Riaz said the commission had clarified that the Proclamation of Independence had not been removed from the Charter.

"We have urged them to sign the July Charter," he said, adding that the discussions with the parties are ongoing and the commission hopes they will sign soon.

BSD (Marxist) Coordinator Masud Rana said his party had formally submitted its written concerns to the commission.

"The issue of the note of dissent should have been clearly defined in the Charter. We are willing to compromise on political matters, but not on the historical and structural realities of Bangladesh," he said.

### Three more held, no case filed yet

FROM PAGE 12

we learned that the detainee and Mahir grew up in the same neighbourhood and had been in a relationship since school. When the girl expressed her liking for Jobayed, Mahir became furious. We suspect he killed Jobayed out of rage with the help of a friend Nafis."

Adding that jealousy may have been the motive, he said, "During questioning, the girl appeared very calm. She claimed to know nothing about the murder, and we are verifying her statement."

Asked whether the accused, Mahir Rahman's mother, had handed him over to police, Lalbagh DC Mallik said, "I have no information on this. Full details will be shared tomorrow [today] morning."

Contacted, Mahir's mother said, "Mahir returned home on Sunday evening with a wounded and bloodied hand, and told me about the incident. I first arranged for his treatment and took him to a hospital. The next morning, I took him to Chawkbazar Police Station and handed him over.

"My son had been in a relationship

rights are protected.

About the October 17 incident, the victims said the event was completely unexpected and explained that they had gathered at the South Plaza of the parliament to present their legitimate demands peacefully, not to cause any disturbance.

However, a group of outsiders infiltrated the gathering and became involved in clashes and acts of vandalism, which tarnished the image of the July victims, they said.

The group claimed to have identified around 20 to 25 such individuals who were responsible for the disorder.

They expressed regret for what happened that day and apologised for the incident. At the same time, they sought the Commission's assistance to have the four cases filed in connection with the incident withdrawn.

In response, the Commission assured them that all of their concerns would be taken seriously and conveyed to the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

The team included Md Sohag Mahmud, Kamrul Hasan, Md Al Amin, Mustain Billah Habibi, Marufa Maya, Ahadul Islam and Nusrat Jahan.

About the case filing, Jobayed's elder brother, Enayet Hossain Soikot, said, "We wanted to file a case naming the girl, her parents, Mahir, and Nafis. But the OC advised us not to include too many names, saying it might weaken the case."

Asked about this, OC Rafiqul said, "We will record the case. I advised them to consult university teachers before finalising the names of the

### DIG praised cop brutality gave cash rewards

FROM PAGE 12

"To quell the student movement at a meeting held at Savar Police Station.

"He praised officers who had played a tough role in suppressing the protests and rewarded some of them with cash envelopes," Enayet said.

He said then Dhaka superintendent of police Asaduzzaman called the meeting on July 25, 2024, following DIG Nurul's directive and the district's all police high-ups attended it.

Officers in charge of Ashulia, Dhamrai, and Savar were among the attendees, said Enayet, who himself was present at the meeting.

Another prosecution witness, Karimul Islam, elder brother of martyr Bayezid Bostami, whose body was burnt after being shot in Ashulia, testified before the tribunal yesterday.

During cross examination, defence lawyers asked Enayet if he was making a false statement to save himself from being an accused in the case since he was sent on retirement for playing a tough role in quelling the student movement.

Enayet denied the defence's claim.

In the case, a former local lawmaker and several former police officers are accused of ordering and executing the fatal shootings and subsequent arson attack during the July uprising in Ashulia.

Six of the victims were shot dead while another was injured. Police later burnt five of the dead and the injured.

Footage showed the bodies of the five dead and the lone survivor were first thrown onto a rickshaw van and later onto a police pickup truck.

A cop then poured a flammable substance over their bodies and lit a matchstick, setting them ablaze as the only man still alive moved his hands while the fire erupted.

Another officer, who was smoking, threw his burning cigarette onto the flames, while a third one added a wooden bench to the fire, intensifying the inferno that reduced the six to ashes.

### Up to 8.5 lakh law enforcers may be deployed

FROM PAGE 12

"The Election Commission initially planned to deploy law enforcers for five days during the election. At today's [Monday's] meeting, a proposal was made to extend the period to eight days. This will be reviewed," he said, adding that the law enforcers would be stationed three days before the polls.

The secretary said discussions were held on preventing the misuse of AI, banning the use of drones, and equipping police with bodycams.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin chaired the meeting that was attended by all four election commissioners, the home secretary, the EC secretary, and representatives from law enforcement agencies.

The EC secretary mentioned that no specific directives were given to the law enforcement agencies.

The 13th national election is expected to take place in the first half of February, before Ramadan, while the election schedule is likely to be announced in the first half of December.

During the 12th parliamentary polls, members of the armed forces were initially deployed for eight days, but they were kept on the ground for five extra days. Law enforcers were deployed for 10 days during the 11th national polls.

The meeting also discussed controlling illegal firearms and ensuring safety of foreign journalists and observers.

In response to a question about whether members of the armed forces would be deployed with civil magistracy powers, he said, "This is under discussion. 'In aid of civil power' is included, but we will ensure that this does not conflict with the Representation of the People Order (RPO)."

Regarding law and order, the EC secretary said, "The election period spans from the announcement of the schedule to the publication of the gazette. Our discussions focused within that timeframe. There's currently no scope for discussion beyond that, nor did we. I did not notice any concern among them [law enforcers]. Rather, I saw a commitment to conducting a good election. They are providing us with the highest level of support they can."

The secretary added that the environment is suitable for holding the polls.

**NCP to call for protest rally**

Press Club, the Central Shaheed Minar and Shahbagh, he said.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has decided to revisit the allocation of the "shapla" symbol, following a renewed request from NCP.

According to the commission, the matter will be reviewed in light of existing electoral laws and regulations before a final decision is made.

Akhtar Ahmed, senior secretary of the EC, said, "We had asked the NCP to choose from 50 available symbols and had given them time until October 19."

"On the final day, a party delegation submitted a renewed request for the shapla symbol. The matter will now be placed before the commission for further consideration."

# Weaving dreams with Jamdani

SUKIT KUMAR DAS, Faridpur

In Panail village of Faridpur's Alfadanga upazila, 34-year-old Mostafizur Rahman weaves Jamdani sarees -- and with each thread, he weaves hope for a better future.

From his home, he produces sarees using silk, cotton, and zari threads. Each piece sells for Tk 12,000-40,000, depending on the design and quality.

"I could not continue my education beyond the primary level due to poverty. Since childhood, I've been focused on finding ways to earn for my family," he said.

At 16, he left home in 2007 for Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj, the country's Jamdani weaving hub, where he trained under master weavers Haris Mia and Anwar Sardar. He also worked in a local factory for several years.

In 2021, after gaining 14 years of experience, he returned home and set up a small handloom workshop with the help of his wife, Nila Begum. Gradually, he began producing Jamdani sarees and training villagers in weaving.

His 30-by-10-foot tin-roofed workshop is simple but functional, with wire mesh openings for light and air. Inside, six looms stand neatly in rows, each operated by two artisans. From this small space, around 25 high-quality Jamdani sarees are produced every month.



I could easily expand production," he added.

Mostafizur also employs 12 young people from the area.

One of the workers, Mohammad Hossain, 29, said, "I used to work in Rupganj, but when I saw the same facilities here, I joined Mostafizur bhai's factory. I now earn Tk 22,000-25,000 a month."

Mostafizur invested about Tk 5 lakh to establish his workshop, named "Muslim Jamdani Ghar". He now earns Tk 50,000-60,000

in monthly profit after expenses.

"Each saree uses about 2,200 to 2,400 strands of silk thread bought from Rajshahi, costing around Tk 2,000," he said.

Customers often visit his home to buy sarees directly or place advance orders ahead of festivals. He also supplies products to the BSCIC Industrial City in Rupganj.

The real challenge is finding skilled workers. With more weavers,



Sharmin Yasmin, former upazila nirkabi officer of Alfadanga, said, "I bought several sarees from Mostafizur while I was posted there. His sarees are flawlessly woven."

Tagarband Union Parishad Chairman Mia Asaduzzaman said, "Mostafizur is our pride. His Jamdani sarees have earned widespread appreciation. If authorities provide support, a Jamdani weaving centre could be established here centring him, generating employment among local youths."

## DHAKA AIRPORT E-gate to open within days: adviser

UNB, Dhaka



Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the e-gate at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will be opened within the next two to four days.

"We will open this gate at the airport very soon so that passengers can enter by showing their passports," he said. "We will also start issuing electronic passports for foreign countries by December."

The adviser spoke to the media after attending a meeting of the core committee on law and order at the Secretariat.

When asked whether the e-gate would open this week, Jahangir Alam replied, "Roughly speaking, yes, but I can't say exactly. If the director general of passports were here, he could have given a clearer answer."

Speaking to journalists, the adviser said the meeting also reviewed security and preparations for the upcoming national polls, with emphasis on police training.

"Our officers are being trained to conduct elections efficiently. There is no doubt about their capability. The IGP has already said the force is ready, and I fully support that," he said.



A battery-run rickshaw casually drives beside a bus on the Mouchak-Malibagh Flyover yesterday. Despite such vehicles being banned from using flyovers, drivers openly defy the rule, putting themselves, their passengers, and other vehicles at risk of accidents.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Power generation halted at Barapukuria plant

### Technical glitch shuts down all 3 units, causing 200MW shortfall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Electricity generation at all three units of the Barapukuria Thermal Power Plant in Dinajpur has been suspended due to mechanical failure.

As a result, the national grid has been deprived of about 200MW of electricity, raising fears of load shedding and low voltage across parts of the northern region, said Abu Bakar Siddique, chief engineer of the Barapukuria power plant, yesterday.

According to the chief engineer, power generation at Unit-3 came to a halt on October 16 due to a mechanical glitch. Despite continuous efforts on Friday and Saturday, it could not be restarted, leading to a loss of around 160-170MW of power.

Meanwhile, Unit-1 was shut down around 9:00pm on Sunday following a boiler tube leakage. The unit had been producing 50MW of electricity.

Repairs to fix the leakage are expected to be completed within a week, he added.

Discussions are underway with the Chinese manufacturer for technical support to resume production.

Unit-2, however, has been out of operation since 2020. As a result, power generation at the Barapukuria plant has now come to a complete halt.

The plant has a total production capacity of 525MW - 125MW each from Unit-1 and Unit-2, and 275MW from Unit-3.

## Resign if you want

FROM PAGE 4  
backed student organisation -- did in the student union elections across universities.

The rally was held by Jamaat as part of the simultaneous movement of eight like-minded parties. Apart from Jamaat, Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party, Khelafat Majlis, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) and Islami Andolok Bangladesh also held similar programmes separately in different places in the capital.

This was their fourth round of simultaneous programmes with five demands, including the issuance of an order to implement the July National Charter and holding a referendum on that order by November.

Rafiqul reiterated their five-point demands and said, "If these demands are not met, Jamaat's movement will continue."

Nezam-e-Islam Party, Khelafat Majlis and JAGPA held separate rallies on the road in front of the National Press Club in the afternoon. Activists and leaders of Islami Andolok Bangladesh held a rally at the Baitul Mukarram area.

The parties will hold protest rallies and marches in divisional towns on October 25 and in district towns on October 27.

In their rally, Islami Andolok Secretary General Maulana Yunus Ahmad said, "If attempts are made to return the country to the old order through a rotten election system, the people will resist."

At JAGPA's rally, party vice president and spokesperson Rashed Pradhan demanded the administration must be freed of partisan influence as soon as possible.

Maulana Sakhawat Hossain, senior Naib-e-Amir of Khelafat Majlis, said there is no value to elections or reforms unless the July Charter has a legal basis.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Security Division  
Bangladesh Coast Guard

Office of the Project Director "Establishment of Logistics and Fleet Maintenance Facilities for Bangladesh Coastguard"  
Bangladesh Coast Guard Headquarters, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

Tel No. 02-8181035, email: cg\_dockyard@coastguard.gov.bd

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Corrigendum Tender Notice No. 44.08.2680.030.20.031.25.422 dated 20 October 2025.

This is to inform all concerned that the following amendments are made under the Tender Notice No. 44.08.2680.030.20.031.25.378 dated 01 October 2025.

Package: GD-32 (Lot-3 & 4) (Supply and Installation of ICE Workshop Equipment).

#### Time Extension:

Previous Time Limit		Corrected Time Limit	
As per Tender Notice 44.08.2680.030.20.031.25.378 dated 01 October 2025.		As per Corrigendum Notice 44.08.2680.030.20.031.25.422 dated 20 October 2025.	
Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time	Last selling date and time
21 October 2025 1430 hrs	22 October 2025 1200 hrs	22 October 2025 1230 hrs	03 November 2025 1430 hrs

Note: All other items and conditions in tender document will remain unchanged.

Mahbub Hasan

Captain BN

Project Director

Establishment of Logistics and Fleet Maintenance Facilities

for Bangladesh Coast Guard

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Controller of Stores (East)  
Bangladesh Railway  
CRB, Chattogram-4000  
[www.railway.gov.bd](http://www.railway.gov.bd)

No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25

Dated: 19-10-2025

### e-Tender Notice

### Notice No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02

### Amendment/Corrigendum-02

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Controller of Stores (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram (Tender ID: 1142053) for the Procurement of Goods as stated below:

Description	Old value	New value
Document last selling date & time	Date: 20/10/2025 Time: 16:00	Date: 27/10/2025 Time: 16:00
Opening date & time	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 28/10/2025 Time: 12:00
Last date & time for Tender/Proposal security submission	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 11:00	Date: 28/10/2025 Time: 11:00
Closing date & time	Date: 21/10/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 28/10/2025 Time: 12:00
Start date	Date: 23/10/2025	Date: 29/10/2025
Completion date	Date: 23/04/2026	Date: 30/04/2026

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

এস (১৫) (৭৫)

Engr. Md. Al-Amin

Sr. Asst. Controller of Stores (HQ) (Adl. Charge)

On the behalf of Controller of Stores (East)

Tel: 01711-692931

GD-2226

Engr. Md. Al-Amin

Sr. Asst. Controller of Stores (HQ) (Adl. Charge)

On the behalf of Controller of Stores (East)

Tel: 01711-692931

## 33 noted citizens

FROM PAGE 4  
They denounced what they described as the authorities' appeasement of anti-peace elements and the administration's muted response, seen by observers as permissive.

They said although the Land Commission was formed 24 years ago to resolve land disputes, it has failed to make meaningful progress.

After the 2016 amendment to the relevant law, a few meetings were held and several decisions were taken, but those remain unimplemented.

Over 26,000 land dispute applications are now pending, they said.

The statement further alleged that no effective steps have been taken to make the commission operational.

The signatories also protested the continuous violence, land grabbing, arson, communal attacks, sexual violence and false cases against indigenous people in the hills.

They said it must be remembered that no

## PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15

JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

Source: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

GD-2226

# How to futureproof your IT leadership career

ZARIF FAIAZ

Technology leadership has never carried more influence, or more jeopardy. Artificial intelligence is rewriting job descriptions, regulation is tightening, and value is shifting from projects to enduring products and platforms. To prosper through the next decade, treat your career as a system with three compounding levers: capability, credibility and capital. Capability is the stack of skills you keep current, credibility is the trust you earn through outcomes, and capital is the network and goodwill that multiplies both. Titles will change and toolchains will churn, but these levers compound if you manage them with intent.

**FROM DELIVERY TO VALUE**  
The first shift is philosophical. IT leaders who are judged only by what ships will struggle, while those measured by outcomes that sustain will endure. That means organising around products and platforms rather than functions, and setting goals that speak finance as fluently as they speak engineering. A release that reduces churn, lifts margin or cuts cost to serve is a strategic asset, not just a milestone. It also requires the courage to end work that no longer maps to strategy. Futureproof leaders are remembered as much for what they stop as for what they start, and they make the case in the language of customer impact and cash flow.

**BECOMING AI NATIVE**  
You do not need to be a machine learning researcher to be AI native, but you do need fluency. Treat AI as a management system as well as a technology capability, use it to interrogate briefs, draft strategies, compare suppliers and pressure test scenarios, then coach your teams to do the same. Industrialising AI responsibly is now table stakes. Data provenance, model risk, prompt logging, evaluation and red teaming belong inside your operating model rather than in a slide deck. Upskilling should happen at two levels, a universal baseline across the workforce that emphasises safe use, verification and privacy, and a deeper track for specialists who will own MLOps and model governance. Above all, scale only when the value clears. Pilots

should be quick and disciplined, with clear measures such as cycle time reduction, error rates and customer metrics.

## SECURITY AND RESILIENCE AS A SIGNATURE

Boards will forgive a late roadmap sooner than they will forgive an avoidable breach. Designing on the assumption of breach is no longer a posture, it is the default. Identity must be strong, privileges least, verification continuous. Resilience is engineered rather than hoped for, with chaos testing, immutable backups,

infrastructure layers, with wasted resources visible and removable. Data must be treated as a product, with ownership, documentation, lineage and privacy by design. At scale, federated models such as data mesh can keep autonomy and accountability in balance.

## LEADING THE PEOPLE STRATEGY

Technology is a talent market as much as a tools market. Teams that combine deep expertise with collaborative breadth move faster and break less. Hiring should privilege learning velocity, systems thinking and influence

upstream in design, not as a costly retrofit. Storytelling is a leadership tool, distills complex trade offs into clear options, leads with the so what, and states a recommendation that a non technical board can act on.

## SUSTAINABILITY AS AN ENGINEERING PROBLEM

Sustainability is moving from corporate narrative to operating constraint. Know the carbon intensity of your workloads and suppliers, architect for efficiency, and fold energy and emissions into the same dashboards that executives already trust. When

before you seek them.

## A 12-MONTH ACTION STORY

Imagine the year as four chapters rather than a checklist. In the opening months, you reset the operating model to product lines, agree three outcome metrics per product and stand up a pragmatic FinOps rhythm, you also publish version one of your AI guardrails so experimentation begins safely. The second chapter sees you pilot an internal developer platform and run a red team exercise alongside an executive incident drill, turning security from policy into muscle memory, a catalogue for data as the product takes shape. Mid year, momentum shifts to simplification, you decommission legacy estates that no longer earn their keep, embed a sustainability by design standard and rotate top talent through platform and security so skills spread. The final chapter focuses on institutionalising gains, you present outcome improvements to the board, codify playbooks that survive leadership changes, recruit successors for key roles and take on an external advisory or non executive mandate to broaden your vantage point.

## WHAT TO STOP AND WHY IT MATTERS

Futureproofing is as much subtraction as addition. When leaders stop owning every decision, product and platform owners step up and speed increases. When organisations stop measuring busyness and start counting outcomes, priorities sharpen and burnout recedes. When teams stop treating vendors as saviours and instead co-design, benchmark and plan graceful exits, architectures outlive contracts and sovereignty returns to the enterprise.

## THE MINDSET THAT LASTS

In the end, careers compound when learning is systematic, not sporadic. Ring fenced time for hands-on exploration, small field experiments with real measures, and a trusted circle of peers who trade playbooks will keep you moving faster than the landscape shifts. The leaders who endure design operating systems that outlast hype cycles and earn trust when it matters most. Build for that, and your career will be built to last.

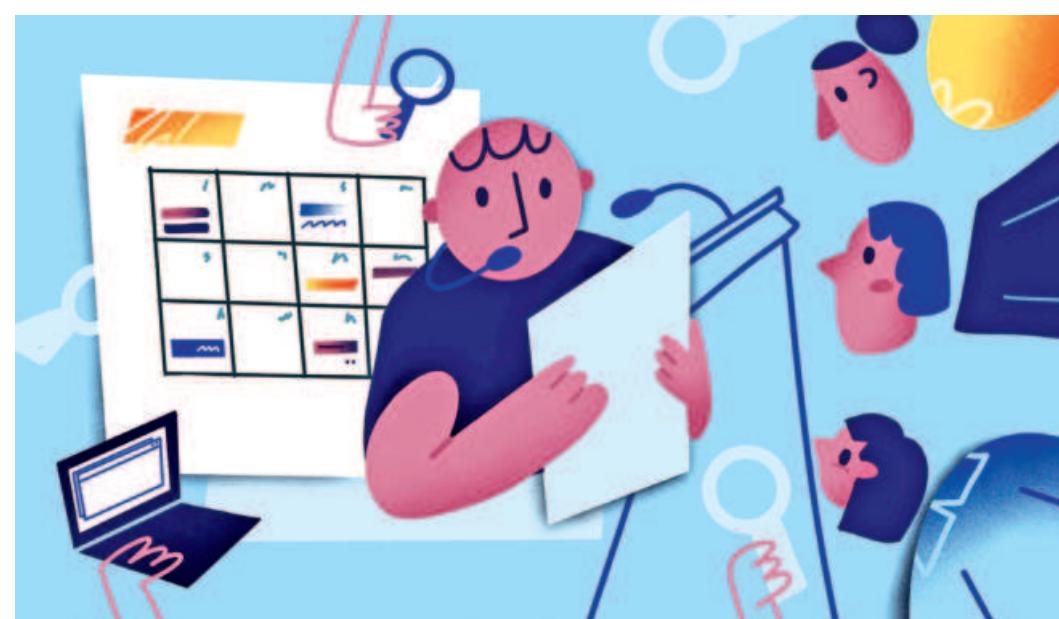


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

segmentation and rehearsals that include executives who will make real decisions under pressure. The human layer is decisive, rewarding the reporting of near misses, writing runbooks in plain language and rehearsing cross functional incident roles. Leaders who make security cultural, not clerical, will carry their credibility into any market.

## MASTERING THE PLATFORM ECONOMY

Winners do not only build applications, they build platforms that others can build on. Internal developer platforms, golden paths and strong APIs convert toil into paved roads and allow scarce talent to focus on higher order problems. Cloud spend requires the same commercial discipline as any other input cost. Finance should be tied to value streams and product lines, not to

over narrow tool familiarity, because the stack will change faster than your headcount. Mobility between product, platform and security roles helps capability compounds and prevents career cul de sacs. Incentives should reward customer impact and reliability. Few people are truly motivated by lines of code, most are motivated by meaningful outcomes and the chance to grow.

## FLUENCY BEYOND THE IT SILO

The futureproof leader is bilingual, as comfortable with finance, risk and regulation as with code. Investment cases are defended in terms of free cash flow, payback, risk reduction and lifetime value, not merely on architectural elegance. Regulatory readiness on privacy, AI and sector rules belongs

efficiency is engineered, right sizing, scheduling compute, refactoring hot paths, choosing appropriate models, it is both greener and cheaper, which makes it durable in hard budget cycles.

## BUILDING A BOARD READY PROFILE

The next jump for many IT leaders will cross into the C suite or the boardroom. Owning a profit and loss line, even a small one, proves commercial competence. Participation in governance forums, risk committees, data ethics boards and investment councils, widens perspective and influence. Publishing lessons from platform migrations, AI guardrails or incident management, with sensitive details removed, makes your thinking legible to the market and attracts opportunities

## THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



# AI writes 90% of company code at Anthropic, says CEO

## NEXT STEP DESK

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has recently revealed that artificial intelligence models now generate approximately 90% of the code used within his company.

Speaking at the Dreamforce conference in San Francisco, Amodei confirmed his prediction from earlier this year that most coding would be handled by AI within six

months had become reality at Anthropic and several partner companies.

When questioned about whether this reduced the need for human engineers, Amodei suggested the opposite might be true. "If Claude is writing 90% of the code, what that means, usually, is you need just as many software engineers. You might need more," he explained.

He described the shift as a "rebalancing" that allows engineers to focus on the most challenging aspects of programming while supervising AI systems.

The trend appears to be spreading across the industry. According to a report by TechCrunch, Y Combinator CEO Garry Tan previously noted that about a quarter of current startups in the accelerator's

program use AI to write 95% or more of their code.

However, data suggests this transformation may be affecting employment patterns, with one study showing a nearly 20% decline in positions for developers aged 22-25 since ChatGPT's launch, while experienced engineers remain in demand.

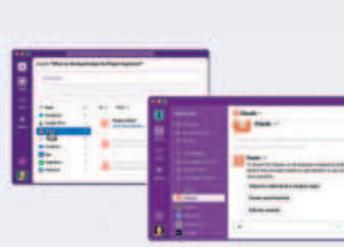
# ANTHROPIC

## Slack adds new developer tools for AI agents

## NEXT STEP DESK

Slack has introduced new developer tools designed to let AI applications securely access and use data from workplace conversations. The platform now includes a real-time search API and a Model Context Protocol server that allow AI systems to retrieve specific messages and files while maintaining existing security permissions, without requiring bulk data downloads.

These tools are intended to enable AI agents to move beyond generic responses by providing context aware information and automating tasks directly within workflows. According to Slack, this can help solve the problem of app fragmentation, where employees typically switch between over 1,000 different enterprise applications. The new real-time search API and protocol server are currently in closed beta, with general availability expected in early 2026.



# Google Sheets can now handle complex AI commands

## NEXT STEP DESK

Google has upgraded its Gemini AI in Sheets to now handle complex, multi-step tasks from a single instruction. According to an official blog post by Google regarding the upgraded feature, users no longer need to give several separate commands to complete a complicated job.

For example, a user can now ask Gemini to "delete all the old archived rows, add a new 'Team' column with a dropdown menu, and then create an 'Updated Due Date' column" and Gemini will understand and perform all of these actions at once.

This allows for advanced data cleaning and formatting in plain language. Other tasks Gemini can now do in one include building a project tracker with formulas and dropdowns, or cleaning a sales report by removing old data and highlighting top performers, says Google.

The tool has also been given more abilities, like creating pivot tables, adding filters, and filling cells with formulas, adds Google in the post. The feature is available for Google Workspace business and enterprise customers, as well as for educational users with the Google AI Pro add-on. Users can find Gemini in the side panel of Google Sheets.

## JOBS OF THE WEEK

### World Food Programme

Business Transformation Officer

(Data Specialist)



Deadline: October 22

## Eligibility:

② Master's or

in Computer Science, Engineering, Data Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, Information Management, or any relevant field.

Minimum experience: 5 years

## BRAC University

Deputy Manager, Health &amp; Safety

Deadline: October 26



## Eligibility:

② Bachelor's degree

in Engineering,

Environmental

Science, or a related

field. Professional

certification is

preferred.

Minimum experience: 3 years

## Healthcare

Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Sr. Officer/ Sr. Executive, Production

Deadline: October 31

## Eligibility:

② B. Pharm/M.

Pharm from any

reputed university

with prior

experience in the

pharmaceuticals

industry.

Minimum experience: 3-5 years

## Asset Developments &amp; Holdings Ltd.

Executive, Sales &amp; Marketing

Deadline: November 2

## Eligibility:

② Graduation from a

recognised university

with prior experience

in sales and marketing.

Minimum experience: 1-4 years

Apply through the job posting on BDJobs.com.



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

"The best time for planning a book is while you're doing the dishes."

- AGATHA CHRISTIE



# SPORT



If Shorna Akter's stunning 3 for 5 against Pakistan set the tone in the ICC Women's World Cup, her power-hitting masterclass against South Africa announced her arrival in style. The 18-year-old all-rounder then underlined her growing stature with another dazzling display in Navi Mumbai on Monday, taking 3-27 to spark Sri Lanka's collapse from 174-4 to 202 all out. With every outing, Shorna is proving to be Bangladesh's game-changer thriving on the world stage.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## KINGS END FORTIS RUN



Bashundhara Kings players celebrate snapping Fortis FC's four-match unbeaten streak against them with a 2-1 win in a Bangladesh Football League fixture at Dhaka's Kings Arena yesterday. Dorielton Gomes scored within 40 seconds, and Faisal Ahmed Fahim added a second, before Onyekachi Ofora pulled one back for Fortis in stoppage time. Elsewhere, newly promoted PWD Sports Club shocked Arambagh KS 1-0 in Manikganj.

PHOTO: BFF

## PSG get Dembele boost, ARSENAL HOST ATLETICO

STAR SPORTS DESK

Defending champions PSG headline Wednesday's Champions League action as Luis Enrique's side travel to Germany to face Bayer Leverkusen. The Parisians are among six teams still boasting a perfect record after two matches. Elsewhere, Barcelona, sixth in the standings after a win over Newcastle United and a loss to PSG, host Olympiacos in the early kick-off. Manchester City journey to Villarreal, while last season's finalists Inter Milan make the trip to Belgium to take on Union Saint-Gilloise. In one of the night's most tantalising clashes, Arsenal welcome Atletico Madrid to the Emirates, while Newcastle United play host to Benfica.

\*Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele is set to return for PSG for the first time since claiming the award. The 28-year-old winger has been sidelined for six weeks with a hamstring injury. PSG have also been boosted by the return of Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

\*Atletico Madrid have never won away to an English side in the group or



league phase of the Champions League.

\*Arsenal remain one of only two teams, alongside Inter, yet to concede a goal in this season's competition.

\*Barca continue to battle an injury crisis, with Joan Garcia, Marc Andre Stegen, Gavi, and Dani Olmo all unavailable. Robert Lewandowski will be sidelined for around a month after sustaining a hamstring injury on international duty, while Raphinha

remains doubtful after missing the last four matches.

\*Erling Haaland is in blistering form for Manchester City, scoring 14 goals in just 10 appearances across all competitions this season.

\*Inter, winners of both their opening fixtures, have now kept 10 clean sheets in their last 11 group or league phase matches, winning 11 and losing only once in their last 16.

## What to WATCH

### TSPORTS

Bangladesh vs West Indies  
2nd ODI  
Live from 1:30 pm

TEN CRICKET AND A SPORTS

Pakistan vs South Africa

2nd Test, Day 2  
Live from 11:00 am  
SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 5  
Champions League  
Barcelona vs Olympiacos  
Live from 10:00 pm  
From 1:00 am

(Wednesday):  
Leverkusen vs PSG  
Newcastle vs Benfica  
Union St-Gilloise vs Inter  
Arsenal vs Atletico Madrid  
Villarreal vs Man City

# SPIN DUEL awaits in Mirpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Spin it to win it – that seems to be the mantra of Bangladesh and the West Indies heading into today's second ODI of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

After the first ODI, a spin-dominated affair which the hosts won by 74 runs, the Tigers added left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed into the

In the first match, Rishad Hossain's six-wicket haul rescued the hosts after the batting department disappointed once again, getting rolled over for just 207.

Head coach Phil Simmons and senior assistant coach Mohammad Salauddin worked extensively with the batters on Monday on how they could score runs in the Mirpur turner, and came up with some out-of-the-box methods.

Former skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh players and head coach Phil Simmons observe intently as senior assistant coach Mohammad Salauddin demonstrates a low-centre-of-gravity batting stance during a training session yesterday, ahead of their second ODI and penultimate against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. While the spinners are primed to have a field day, all eyes will be on the batters as they face the notorious Mirpur pitch which would be devoid of grass and bounce, with the Tigers aiming for a series win after four straight losses.

squad on Sunday.

The visitors responded by flying in left-arm spinner Akeel Hosein, who was expected to land in Dhaka on Monday night, as the fourth spinner in their squad.

A win today would seal an ODI series triumph for the Tigers after four successive defeats. Given the prodigious turn and the occasional bounce that was on offer in the wicket for the series opener, the temptation is there for the hosts to go with four frontline spinners – one more than the last match.

The hosts' spin bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed, however, remained tightlipped about team formation, instead, spoke about the dangers of spinners getting carried away by the extra turn.

"As a spinner, when you see that kind of wicket, you get excited. And when you get excited, you don't remember your process. Process is everything. You [have to] bowl good overs to get wickets, not just good balls," Mushtaq said in the pre-match press conference on Monday.

made a dogged 32 in the last match, batted at the centre nets with two stumps right behind his legs – on the left of where a left-hander's leg stump would be – to work on his backfoot movement, which was causing him to fall over while playing through the leg-side.

The players also batted with smaller bats, a ploy to help them keep their head position and balance right while making late adjustments to deal with the turn.

"We wanted to bring the net practice very close to the match environment... Simmons and Salauddin were trying to tell them how to take singles in the middle overs. The spinners also set field positions, making it very close to an actual match situation," Mushtaq said.

"With a small bat, whether you are on the front foot or back foot, your gravity level has to be low. So, your head has to be very close to the ball. So, you start playing the ball very late."

It remains to be seen whether the special training pays dividends for the hosts in sealing the series, or, if the visitors can outspin the hosts to keep the series alive.

## Butler wants stronger tests before Asian Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head coach Peter Butler has stressed the need to face stronger opposition as part of their build-up to next year's AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia.

The women in red and green are set to leave for Bangkok this morning to play two international matches against Thailand -- ranked 51 places above them but had failed to make it to the Asian Cup. The fixtures are scheduled for October 24 and 27.

"You can't go there with a mentality, you know what I mean, a win-at-all-cost mentality," Butler emphasised that the matches were more about performance than results, in a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

"You have to sometimes be realistic and put things in context of actually what you want from that game."

Bangladesh began their preparations about three weeks ago at KEPZ in Chittagong before returning to Dhaka on Friday. Nine players, who had been playing in Bhutan's domestic league, joined the squad upon their return.

"We covered a lot of ground and built strong team spirit," Butler said, noting he had to ensure the players weren't "overcooked" during the intense camp.

The Englishman reiterated his desire for Bangladesh to face stronger opponents in the lead-up to the Asian Cup, facing "state teams in Australia" if the opportunity arises.

"We've had this conversation, myself and Miss [Mahfuz Aker] Kiran. Club sides in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong are not strong enough. So that would be a complete waste of time. All we want is that the international fixtures, it may be against Azerbaijan, it could not be Iran."

## SHORT CORNER

### Volleyballers eye CAVA Cup

Bangladesh volleyball team are aiming for the title at the six-nation CAVA Cup, starting Wednesday at Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Dhaka. The seven-day tournament features Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. Captain Horosit Biswas said beating Afghanistan in recent matches boosted the team's confidence.



### Five national records tumble on opening day

Experienced swimmer Kajal Mia and rising star Samiul Islam Rafi stole the spotlight on the opening day of the 34th National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championships at the National Swimming Complex yesterday.

\*\*Read The Daily Star website for full stories.



Morocco players celebrate winning the FIFA U-20 World Cup after Yassir Zabiri's brace fired them past six-time champions Argentina 2-0 in the final at the Estadio Nacional Julio Martinez Pradanos in Santiago, Chile, yesterday. The victory delivered Morocco their maiden title, making them only the second African nation after Ghana (2009) to win the tournament which has long been a hotbed for future superstars.





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## JULY UPRISING

DIG praised cop brutality, gave cash rewards  
Ex-police officer tells ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Nurul Islam, former deputy inspector general of police at Dhaka range, praised and rewarded officers for their hardline actions against protesters during the July uprising, a former police officer told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

Enayet Hossain, former assistant superintendent of police who has been sent on retirement, testified as the 17th prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case over killings of seven people and burning five of the dead and one alive in a police van near Ashulia Police Station on August 5 last year.

The witness said senior officers, including Nurul, encouraged strict measures

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Rows of tin-roofed shops at Khilgaon Bazar line the railway tracks in the capital's Khilgaon area. Shopkeepers and customers alike remain exposed to serious risks, especially when trains move along the tracks at such close proximity.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## UPCOMING ELECTION

### Up to 8.5 lakh law enforcers may be deployed for eight days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is reviewing a proposal for the deployment of law enforcers for eight days during the February national election.

Members of law enforcing agencies yesterday placed the proposal before the commission during a meeting at the latter's headquarters in the capital. As per the proposal, around 1.5 lakh police personnel, 90,000 to 1 lakh members of the armed forces, and 5.5 to 6 lakh Ansar members would be on duty across the country to maintain law and order during the polls.

EC officials said the proposal is currently under scrutiny and the commission will finalise the deployment plan after assessing security requirements in coordination with the home ministry and other relevant authorities.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed shared this information with journalists, following a preparatory meeting on law and order at the EC headquarters yesterday morning.



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## 2 senior secys, 7 secys sent into forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday sent two senior secretaries and seven secretaries into forced retirement.

The senior secretaries are Md Mashirul Rahman and Monzur Hossain, while the secretaries are Shaiful Azim, Md Mizanur Rahman, Farid Uddin Ahmed, AKM Matiur Rahman, Md Azizur Rahman, Md Shamsul Arefin, and Md Nurul Alam.

The public administration ministry issued nine separate gazette notifications in this regard. The officers have been retired under Section 45 of the Public Service Act, 2018, which allows the government to retire any public servant without providing justification, as long as the individual has completed 25 years of service.

According to the notifications, the officials have completed 25 years in service, and the government has deemed their retirement necessary in the public interest.

All nine officials were promoted to the rank of secretary during the Awami League-led government and were made officers on special duty (OSD) at different times during the interim government.

They will receive retirement benefits and other entitlements as per the rules, the ministry said.

## Gaza mediators step up diplomacy

Israeli fire kills 3 near ceasefire line; Trump says truce still in place

AGENCIES

Israeli fire killed three people near a ceasefire line in Gaza yesterday, medics said, as US envoys in Israel tried to push forward the fragile truce that faced its gravest test so far over the weekend.

A Palestinian official close to ceasefire talks said efforts by Arab mediators and the United States would be stepped up, after helping restore calm in the enclave following a day of intense bombardment that killed at least 45 people.

Israel said it launched the strikes across the enclave on Sunday in response to a Palestinian attack that killed two soldiers who were operating within the agreed deployment line in Rafah, in southern Gaza, in what it described as a blatant violation by Hamas of the truce.

Despite repeated bursts of violence in the week since the truce was agreed, the US envoys Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, aiming to corral Israel and Hamas to get the ceasefire plan back on track.

US Vice President JD Vance is also due to visit Israel today, Israel's airports authority said. High level US diplomacy in the region, with talks also due later yesterday with Hamas in Egypt, underscore the importance of cementing the ceasefire to Trump, who last week proclaimed "the historic dawn of a new Middle East".

- US envoys meet Netanyahu to shore up fragile truce
- Violations will be handled "toughly but properly": Trump
- Kerem Shalom border crossing reopens for aid
- Israeli forces arrest 11 Palestinians in West Bank raids

Local health authorities said Israeli tank fire had killed three people in the Gaza City suburb of Tuffah. The Israeli military said forces had fired at Hamas members who crossed the yellow line to remove the threat, reports Reuters.

US President Donald Trump said Sunday that a ceasefire in Gaza was still holding after Israel carried out the deadly strikes on the territory.

Asked by reporters whether the truce was still in effect, Trump said: "Yeah, it is". The US president, who helped broker the deal, also suggested that Hamas leadership was not involved in any alleged breaches, instead blaming "some rebels within".

On Sunday, the NCP sent a letter to the Election

## JULY CHARTER

### NCP to call for protest rally this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party (NCP) has decided to go for a "protest rally" in Dhaka on Friday to press for their three-point demand, including a legal basis for the July Charter and securing "shapla" as their electoral symbol.

"We are moving for street programmes and planning to hold a mass gathering in Dhaka this week since we haven't received a positive response from the Consensus Commission and the Election Commission," Monira Sharman, NCP joint convenor, told The Daily Star.

The NCP did not sign the July Charter as its three key demands including giving the charter a legal ground were not met.

According to the party leaders, the Consensus Commission contacted the NCP leaders multiple times for their signature. The Commission, however, did not respond positively to the NCP's three demands.

On Sunday, the NCP sent a letter to the Election

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## JULY CHARTER

### Liberation War not accurately represented

Four left parties tell consensus commission again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four left leaning political parties yesterday met with the National Consensus Commission and submitted a memorandum explaining why they had not signed the July National Charter yet.

In the memorandum, the parties raised seven specific objections, arguing that the historical and political background of the Liberation War had not been accurately represented in the Charter and that their proposed amendments were ignored.

The parties are Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (BSD), BSD (Marxist) and Bangladesh Jasad.

CPB General Secretary Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan and BSD (Marxist) Coordinator Masud Rana handed over the memorandum to Commission Vice President Ali Riaz. The memorandum was addressed to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who is also the chief of the Consensus Commission.

The parties expressed concern over ambiguities regarding how the Charter's commitments would be implemented and incorporated into the constitution,

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## JNU STUDENT MURDER

### Three more held, no case filed yet

Mother of prime suspect hands him over to police

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Three people were detained last night for questioning over the murder of Jagannath University student Jobayed Hossen. However, no case had been filed as of last night over the incident that occurred on Sunday evening.

Mallik Ahsan Uddin Sami, deputy commissioner of DMP's Lalbagh division, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

"We have detained three suspects in a special drive. Their identities will not be disclosed at this time due to the ongoing investigation. A detailed briefing will be held tomorrow [today] morning," he said.



Jobayed's student was detained on Sunday night for questioning after his body was recovered. Following her statement, investigators identified Mahir Rahman, a student of Sheikh Borhanuddin Post Graduate College, and his friend as the main suspects.

Bangshal Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star, "During initial interrogation,

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Bangladesh suffered an agonising seven-run defeat to Sri Lanka in an ICC Women's World Cup fixture in Navi Mumbai yesterday, despite a 77-run captain's knock from Nigar Sultana Joty. The result eliminated Bangladesh from the competition after one win in six matches. Chasing 203, Bangladesh looked on course for victory after reducing the target to 12 runs off 12 balls with six wickets in hand and Joty still at the crease, but Sri Lanka held their nerve to keep their semifinal hopes alive.

## Amazon's outage disrupts internet services

AFP, Paris

Many popular internet services, from streaming platforms to messaging services and some banks, went offline for hours yesterday due to an outage in Amazon's crucial cloud network.

The disruption affected streaming platforms, including Amazon's Prime Video service and Disney+, as well as Perplexity AI, the Fortnite game, Airbnb, Snapchat and Duolingo.

Mobile telephone services and messaging apps Signal and WhatsApp were also affected in Europe, according to Downdetector, a website monitoring internet problems.

Some UK banks, such as Lloyd's were also impacted, and pointed to Amazon Web Services (AWS) as the problem.

AWS handles nearly a third of the planet's cloud infrastructure market, powering millions of apps and websites around the world.

AWS's maintenance site said its engineers scrambled to fix the underlying DNS issue once they became aware at 0711 GMT of "increased error rates" hitting multiple services.

More than four hours later, though some problems persisted, AWS said it was on the path "towards full recovery" and most of its operations were "succeeding normally".