

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	24,233
Drowning	18,268
Fall	14,167
Electrocution	7,083
Violence	5,219
Animal bite	3,728

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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

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THE TORCH BEARERS OF ICT IS HERE

FINAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

10th

BRAC BANK

The Daily Star



From this year onwards under general criteria the provision of 50% Bangladeshi ownership is no longer applicable.

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OF THE YEAR

ICT BUSINESS PERSON
OF THE YEAR

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OF THE YEAR

ICT START UP
OF THE YEAR

ICT WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

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Last date of submission : October 21, 2025



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