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ELECTORAL SYMBOL Plot thickens over move to undo RPO change

Jamaat, NCP, Khelafat say it will
erode trust, favour BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is weighing a step back from its move to amend article 20 of the RPO, a fresh change that will allow parties in an alliance to contest polls with a common symbol, according to highly placed sources.

However, Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and Khelafat Majlis yesterday warned that reversing the amendment decision would compromise electoral neutrality and unfairly advantage a particular political force.

The amendment, approved at an advisory council meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on October 23, made it mandatory for each party in an alliance to contest polls with its own symbol, not a common one.

It intended to give voters a clearer idea of each candidate's party identity. No gazette on the amendment was issued.

According to the sources, the interim government is preparing to undo the amendment to article 20 of the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

Sources said the reconsideration followed an informal meeting at the state guesthouse Jamuna on Saturday night, where the chief adviser reviewed the political situation and election preparations with several advisers. The decision came at the chief adviser's initiative, the sources added.

The BNP has been opposing the amendment. In a letter to Law Adviser Asif Nazrul on October 25, its Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said the change was made without consulting key stakeholders and undermined the democratic rights of alliance partners.

The party demanded the retention of the previous provision that allows alliance partners to run with a common symbol.

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- BNP opposed change, citing lack of consultation, alliance partners' rights
- NCP accuses govt of giving BNP assurances, demands clarity
- Jamaat, Khelafat decry 'secret understandings', warn of unrest

Let's talk and
overcome the
ongoing crisis

Jamaat asks BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taheryesterday urged the BNP to sit for talks to resolve the ongoing "political crisis" centring the implementation of the July charter, the proposed referendum, and the upcoming national election.

At a press conference at Al-Falah auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar

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BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday voiced concern about the growing public doubt over the national election being held as scheduled, and said this "uncertainty could make the country's democratic transition more difficult".

During the rule of the fallen, defeated and fugitive autocrat, people had no interest in national elections. Now, under the interim government, questions are being raised among the public -- will the election be held on time?" he said.

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While inaugurating the BNP's membership collection and renewal drive abroad and online payment gateway activities at a city hotel, Tarique said such a situation was not supposed to arise under the interim government.

Tarique said the Awami League established fascism by destroying the country's electoral system over the past 15 years only to prevent BNP's victory. "It is a matter of concern and surprise that even in a fascism-free Bangladesh, a coordinated campaign and various

GRAFT UNDER AL REGIME
Most power deals tied to nexus of
companies, govt high-ups: report

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Most of the power sector deals were signed by a nexus of private entities, government higher-ups and bureaucrats during the Awami League regime, found the national committee formed to review the power sector contracts.

At the top of that nexus was then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who served as the minister of power, energy and mineral resources. Besides, some officials of the Prime Minister's Office had repeatedly interfered with the power sector deals.

The six-member committee also found procedural flaws in signing the deal with Adani Power to import electricity from India and recommended further digging into the issue by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

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Doubt creeping in over timely polls: Tarique

UNB, Dhaka



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50 years since jail killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On this day 50 years ago, the walls of Dhaka Central Jail bore witness to one of the darkest chapters in the nation's history, as four national leaders were brutally murdered behind bars.

The slain leaders were Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Captain (retd) M Mansur Ali, and AHM Quamruzzaman -- the core of Bangladesh's wartime leadership that guided the nation in the absence of Bangabandhu

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BNP to meet today to finalise candidate list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP Standing Committee is set to meet today, aiming to review and finalise the list of candidates for the upcoming national election.

The meeting will take place at the Gulshan Chairperson's office at noon. BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman will join it virtually, said party sources.

If the list is approved, the nomination list will be officially announced soon, according to party insiders.

They said candidate list is close to being finalised after conducting multiple surveys with BNP leaders and activists across the country, as well as holding discussions with nearly 1,000 nomination seekers.

A Standing Committee member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We've received invitations for the meeting, and the agenda is open. Two key issues may be discussed: one regarding the finalisation of the nominations and another concerning the chief adviser, who may announce something significant. There may also be discussions on how to respond to the chief adviser's actions."

He, however, didn't say what the chief adviser may announce. Last night, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing announced that the interim government will hold a press conference at the Chief Adviser's Office in Tejgaon today around noon.

While the press wing did not disclose the specific agenda of the briefing, several sources close to the government indicated that an Advisory Council meeting focusing on the implementation process of the July charter will precede it.

According to party sources, a team led by Tarique has been working since last September to finalise the party's nomination seekers for the upcoming February election.

In the first phase, a survey was conducted by Tarique's own team to assess potential candidates. In the second phase, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, along with Standing Committee members, held discussions with nomination seekers across the country. In the third phase, detailed information, including passport-sized photos and national identity card copies, was collected from shortlisted candidates.

According to party insiders, candidates in 200 constituencies have almost been finalised. However, BNP is struggling to finalise candidates for 60 to 70 seats due to internal conflicts and multiple strong contenders. There are also complications in seat-sharing arrangements with alliance partners in some constituencies.



Women wait for a TCB truck to buy essentials at subsidised rates in Rajshahi city's Shiroi area yesterday. Many of the low-income group flock to TCB distribution points across the city early in the morning, fearing they may miss out on the limited supply. The photo was taken around 7:00am, though distribution was scheduled to begin at 10:00am.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Hezbollah 'playing with fire'

Israel warns Lebanon, calls for disarmament

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel warned yesterday that its military would step up its attacks against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, a day after the Lebanese health ministry reported four people killed in an Israeli air strike.

Despite a November 2024 ceasefire with the Lebanese group, Israel maintains troops in five areas in southern Lebanon and has kept up regular strikes.

"Hezbollah is playing with fire, and the president of Lebanon is dragging his feet," Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement.

The Lebanese government's commitment to disarm Hezbollah and remove it from southern Lebanon must be implemented. Maximum enforcement will continue and even intensify -- we will not allow any threat to the residents of the north."

Israeli strike killed 4 in south Lebanon on Saturday

President of Lebanon dragging his feet: Katz

US has increased pressure on Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah

Thousands of Israelis living near the northern border with Lebanon were forced to evacuate their homes for months after Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel following the outbreak of the offensive in Gaza in October 2023.

That set off a more than year-long conflict that culminated in two months of open war before last year's ceasefire was agreed.

The Iran-backed group, which opposes Israel, has been badly weakened by the war but remains armed and financially resilient.

In September 2024, Israel killed the group's longtime chief, Hassan Nasrallah, along with many other senior leaders over the course of the war.

Since the ceasefire, the United States has increased pressure on Lebanese authorities to disarm the group, a plan opposed by Hezbollah and its allies.

Israel never stopped carrying out air strikes on Lebanon in spite of the truce -- usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah positions -- and has stepped up the attacks in recent days.

On Thursday, Israeli ground troops carried out a deadly raid into southern Lebanon, prompting Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to order the army to confront such incursions.

Plot thickens over move to undo RPO change

FROM PAGE 1

The debate comes amid deepening tensions over the timing of the referendum on July charter reforms and the methods to implement them.

Following an advisory council meeting on October 29, Adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters the government was struggling to find a way forward amid firm and conflicting positions of political parties.

'NEUTRALITY AT STAKE'

In a letter to Asif Nazrul yesterday, the NCP alleged the law adviser had assured the BNP of reversing the amendment, saying such an act would compromise the government's neutrality.

"We want to remind you that you are a neutral law adviser of the state, not a representative of any political party," read the letter signed by NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen.

The party argued that when a registered party contests under another's symbol, it bypasses its own registration obligations, weakens the Election Commission's authority, and obscures a candidate's identity.

It warned that rolling back the amendment would foster "proxy candidacies", artificially inflate multiparty representation, echo dominant voices in parliament, and undermine genuine pluralism.

Doubt creeping in over timely polls: Tarique

FROM PAGE 1

tricks are now being used to block the BNP's possible victory.

"But I firmly believe that if every believer in Bangladeshi nationalism and nationalist forces remains united, no conspiracy will be able to separate the BNP from the people, InshaAllah," he said.

As a responsible political party, the BNP leader said their party from the very beginning chose the path of compromise to maintain national unity against fascism.

He said BNP has also extended cooperation to the interim government as much as possible.

"But we have seen how new conditions are being added one after another, making the path to democracy more difficult. We must stay alert about the consequences of such actions," he said.

Tarique urged all democratic political parties to remain cautious about any evil attempt that may put them in danger. "If we fail to distinguish between strategy and deception, we may ultimately end up surrendering unconditionally to undemocratic or evil forces. I sincerely urge all democratic political

parties currently active in Bangladesh to keep this danger in mind."

Referring to the government's announcement of holding the national election in February next year, he said the Election Commission will declare the election schedule in due time.

The BNP leader said their party is completing all necessary preparations to take part in this much awaited election. "As part of this process, the nomination of BNP candidates or BNP-backed candidates in the country's 300 parliamentary constituencies is now at its final stage."

As a popular and people-backed party, he said it is normal that in almost every constituency, several qualified BNP leaders are seeking nominations. "This is a matter of pride and honour for any political party."

Tarique said it is not possible to nominate everyone, and BNP has also decided to support some candidates from other democratic parties that took part in the anti-fascist movement alongside BNP. "Because of this, some BNP aspirants may not get party nominations."

He urged all BNP leaders, workers, and supporters to accept this reality in the greater interest of the country, the people, and democracy.

"Please consider the party's decision as final. I want to remind you of the words of the proclaimer of independence, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman: 'The party is greater than the individual, and the country is greater than the party,'" Tarique said.

He said the names of BNP-nominated candidates will soon be announced in phases. "Whoever receives the nomination, please work unitedly to ensure their victory. Remember, a hidden dictatorship with secret ambitions is lurking around you. So do not let petty resentments, quarrels or disputes among yourselves reach a level where the opponent can take advantage of your differences."

Tarique also reminded those seeking nominations that they are all followers of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman and soldiers of Begum Khaleda Zia. "Remember, if the BNP's symbol 'Sheaf of Paddy' wins, you win, democracy wins, and the country wins."

Most power deals tied to nexus of companies

FROM PAGE 1

"We have found massive corruption, collusion, frauds, irregularities and illegalities in the process of execution of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with independent power producers," Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury, the head of the committee, told journalists after submitting the "interim report" to Power Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan at his office.

Neither the committee, nor the government have disclosed the report titled "Bangladesh's Power Generation: Trapped in Costly Contracts and Massive Governance Failures in a Rent-Rich Sector", calling it a "confidential" document.

The report would be disclosed after reviewing its sensitivity, Khan said.

The committee has recommended making the report public, as well as all the present and future PPAs and implementation agreements, said power division officials.

The Daily Star has talked with multiple committee members, who said they have identified the deals as "zero risk" for the businesses.

No business in the globe is risk-free, but the terms of capacity payments for power plants were being set in a way that protects the high profits of the investors, said a committee member on condition of anonymity.

"It was a nexus between the

government higher-ups and bureaucrats -- just think why the power division was under the prime minister herself. There were a couple of officials in the PMO who were former officials of the power division. They had influences over the deals," said another committee member.

The report at least mentioned the names of Ahmad Kaikaus and Abul Kalam Azad, two former secretaries of power division who were later promoted to the post of principal secretary to the prime minister.

He said they have recommended the government for an "oversight mechanism" to sign the future deals and re-negotiate the deals that took excessive profits.

"We have already signed the deals and are trapped in it. We have no other option but to re-negotiate the deals," he added.

The committee has submitted another supplementary report on the "anomalies of the procedures of power purchase agreement with Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited", which also found the "procedural flaws" in the signing of the deal.

A committee member told The Daily Star that they have found the draft of the deal was prepared by Adani Power itself and the officials of the Bangladesh Power Development Board were instructed to sign it by the Supreme Court.

government high-ups.

Asked whether the Adani deal would be cancelled, Khan said there are procedures for cancelling a deal, which is also mentioned in the report.

"If we go for a without cause cancellation, we would have to pay huge amounts of liquidity damages to the companies. So, we need to cancel a deal with a cause and that might be corruption. Most of the deals have clauses of representation and warranties which declare themselves as corruption-free... if we find corruption in the deals, we will not hesitate to cancel it," he said.

After submitting a writ petition to the High Court, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the power division are working to get proof of the anomalies, he added.

The committee, which was formed in September 2024, took around 14 months to submit its primary report and expressed hope to conclude their activities by January next year.

"As a technical issue, the committee had to go through huge documents of most of the power deals signed under "Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act 2010" (now repealed), the procedural documents, payments and generational data, which took up much of the time," said the committee chief Chowdhury, a former justice of the Supreme Court.

have to play games in politics, but playing too much poses risks."

Addressing the BNP again, he said, "Let's talk openly, coordinate and reach an understanding and consensus on how Bangladesh can truly become an independent and sovereign nation in the coming days."

The Jamaat leader also urged Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to "stand firm and take the right decisions", adding, "The people will stand by you."

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, Assistant Secretary Generals Maulana Rafiqul Islam Khan and Maulana Abdul Halim, Central Executive Council member and Dhaka South City Ameer Nurul Islam Bulbul, and Executive Council member Mobarak Hossain, among others, were present at the press conference.

At a seminar in the Institution of Diploma Engineers earlier in the day, Taher said the interim government's duty is not to appease any party but to reflect the will of the people.

"The chief adviser promised that his government's key objectives are reforms, justice, and polls. If the government goes for election without ensuring those, it will fail to keep that promise," he said, adding that opposing the July charter means harbouring the intention of

"Sheikh Hasina shed tears not for the martyrs or the wounded but for the damage done to the metro rail. Likewise, Tk 3,000 crore is more valuable for the BNP than the blood of 2,000 martyrs and over 50,000 injured."

He urged the BNP to honour the sacrifice of the martyrs and cooperate with the government in holding the referendum this month, saying Jamaat will accept whatever verdict the people deliver through it.

Addressing CA Yunus, he said, "To keep your promise, hold the referendum in November and the national election in February to implement the July Charter. Without reform, Dr Yunus will be a zero; with reform, he will be a hero."

One killed, three injured in B'baria gang violence

MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

A person was shot dead, and three others were injured in a series of attacks and counterattacks between two rival gangs reportedly fighting to establish dominance in Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria.

The deceased, identified as Shipon Miya, 30, was the son of Monna Miya, known locally as "Monek Dakat". Both were accused in multiple criminal cases, said Shahinur Islam, officer-in-charge of Nabinagar Police Station.

Quoting locals, the OC said the first attack took place around 9:00pm on Saturday at a roadside eatery near Gani Shah Mazar in Barikandi union.

Shipon was chatting with others when a group of armed men stormed in, opened fire and fled the scene immediately.

Shipon and two restaurant employees, Yasin Miya, 20, and Nur Alam, 18, were shot. They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where Shipon died.

According to locals, there has been a long-standing dispute between two gangs over control of the area's criminal activities.

One of the groups is reportedly led by Monna and his son Shipon, while the other is allegedly led by Emran Hossain, 38, a teacher at Shyamgram Mohini Kishore High School, and his cousin Arafat, son of "Mister Ali" from Thollakandi village.

The attack on Shipon was reportedly carried out by Arafat and his men. As word of the shooting spread, Shipon's father, Monna, and his supporters reportedly stormed Emran's office close by and shot him there.

Critically injured, Emran was also rushed to the DMCH, the OC said. Monna and his supporters then attacked Thollakandi village, vandalising several houses, according to the police official.

Upon receiving the news, a large police contingent led by Piyas Basak, additional superintendent of police (Nabinagar circle), and OC Shahinur rushed to the scene and reinforced security across the crime scenes.

The situation is under control now, ASP Basak told reporters, declining to comment further on the motive behind the shootings.

Tension, however, remained high in Gourikandi and Thollakandi, where residents said all shops have remained closed since yesterday morning amid fear of renewed violence.

Till the filing of this report last night at 9:30pm, no case was filed over the violence.

Speaking on the matter, Obaidur Rahman, additional superintendent of police (admin and finance), Brahmanbaria, said, "Shipon and Arafat once used to be close associates. They were both accused in multiple cases of theft, extortion and robbery."

"Police even issued a warrant against Arafat, and he was arrested and sent to jail. Only a few days ago, he got out on bail. We have learnt from sources that he was under the impression that Shipon was somehow behind his arrest and was looking to take revenge."

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Two women light candles on the grave of a deceased family member at the Baptist Church Cemetery on Band Road in Barishal yesterday, marking All Souls' Day. Members of the Christian community observe the day by offering prayers, lighting candles, and placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Progress but
not at cost of
nature: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday underscored the importance of integrated and balanced development of the country's roads, railways, airways, and waterways.

Such progress, however, should not come at the expense of nature, the environment, or rivers, he said at an inter-ministerial meeting on the Central

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Misinformation glut a threat to polls integrity

Says study by Digitally Right

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh prepares for its 2026 parliamentary election, the country faces an unprecedented threat to electoral credibility and inclusive participation due to a barrage of misinformation and hate-driven campaigns, revealed a new study.

Digitally Right, a Dhaka-based digital rights and information research organisation, published the study, titled "Tackling Election Disinformation in Bangladesh: Building Collective Responses for Electoral Integrity", yesterday.

The study was published with support from The Asia Foundation under the Promoting Effective, Responsive, and Inclusive Governance in Bangladesh programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Findings from the study were shared at an event held in Gulshan, attended by representatives from the media, fact-checking organisations, election observers, academics, and civil society.

The report found that Bangladesh's online information environment has become increasingly fragile and fragmented.

Political parties, religious groups, and foreign and diaspora-based influencers



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Govt may not survive if BNP takes to streets
Says Gayeshwar over July charter issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday said the interim government might not survive if the party launches protests over disputes surrounding the July National Charter and its implementation recommendations.

"We want a free and fair election. If we take to the streets, there is doubt about the government's survival. And if the government falls, the election will become uncertain. So, we are not protesting as we could have," he said.

Gayeshwar made these remarks while talking to journalists after placing

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5 more die of dengue, 1,162 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 1,162 new dengue patients reported yesterday, the total number of cases this year has risen to 71,675. That is 8,510 more than the same period last year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, five new dengue-related deaths were recorded yesterday, raising the total death toll for the year to 283, compared to 310 at the same time last year.



Against this backdrop, Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Mohammad Azaz said yesterday that recent data analysis shows a decline in both dengue cases and deaths in DNCC areas compared to previous years.

However, even a single death from dengue is unacceptable to us. Despite limited manpower, we are striving to

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Teaching young people to shoot?

Focus instead on skills development and employment

We are surprised by the youth and sports adviser's announcement that the government will launch a programme to equip young people with basic combat and self-defence skills, including the use of firearms. Teaching martial arts to young people—especially girls and women—is commendable, but we fail to understand how the decision to provide training in shooting to youth aged 18 to 35 was arrived at. Was this decided solely by the youth and sports ministry, or in consultation with other relevant ministries? Given the novelty and sensitivity of the idea, shouldn't there have been wider discussion with security experts and public engagement beforehand?

The adviser, in a BBC interview, explained that the idea behind this training was to create a "reserve force" for the purpose of mass defence. He also spoke of training young people in live-round firing, with a target of 20,000 young trainees a year. While many countries do have reserve forces of young citizens, such a decision is far too important to be taken arbitrarily. According to a report in this newspaper, the training programme is set to begin on November 8, with online registration already open. Reportedly, 8,000 applications have been submitted for the programme, which will run until February 2028. The criteria for selection include being physically and mentally fit and having at least a secondary school certificate.

At a time when the main priorities for the youth should be acquiring marketable skills and being gainfully employed, the focus on combat training with lethal weapons does not seem appropriate or beneficial. Especially concerning is the fact that many young people—due to poverty, joblessness, and overall unrest in society—already display violent behaviour; some are even involved in criminal activities. The surge in crime by teenage gangs and violence on various campuses, often over trivial matters, is a case in point. How wise is it, then, to have a programme that will put firearms in the hands of young people? How rigorously will their mental fitness be screened?

While basic self-defence skills such as martial arts can be a way to engage and empower young people, the decision to train them in the use of firearms should not be taken with such haste.

We urge the government to reconsider the decision and confine the programme to martial arts training. In this connection, we must point out the discriminatory allocation of placements; reportedly, out of 8,850 participants in the first phase, 8,250 places are for male participants and only 600 for female participants. Given the alarming prevalence of violence against girls and women in the country, it would make more sense to provide self-defence training to more of them. That said, we must emphasise that the youth and sports ministry would do better to prioritise programmes that teach employable skills to young men and women so that they can secure decent jobs and build stable futures.

Independent police commission a must

Ending undue political, bureaucratic control the only way forward

At a recent roundtable on police reforms organised by Prothom Alo, all participants agreed that independence of the police force is crucial for ensuring professionalism, accountability, and public confidence in the force. The speakers, including policymakers, senior police officials, rights activists, academics, and political leaders, unequivocally stressed that meaningful transformation will be possible if the scope for undue political and bureaucratic control is eliminated. From the discussion, one thing is clear: only an independent police commission with real and accountable authority can ensure a sustainable reform.

For decades, our police force has been frequently plagued by impunity, politicisation, and public mistrust. During the 15 years of Awami League rule, the force became an instrument of political oppression, severely eroding its credibility. The fragile relationship between the police and the citizens was starkly exposed during the July uprising. After the fall of the regime, the interim government formed a Police Reform Commission that submitted a report in January this year, outlining extensive measures to restore integrity and accountability in the force. Among them, the commission proposed the creation of an independent police commission. It recommended that use of force against civilians be a last resort—always precise, proportional, and appropriate—following the self-defence only rules applied to UN peacekeepers, which Bangladeshi police already follow abroad. It also urged the government to prevent custodial torture, extortion, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances.

In early September, the interim government directed the law ministry to draft laws to establish two separate commissions within the police to ensure accountability and enable internal investigations free from external interference. It is encouraging to learn that the amended Code of Criminal Procedure includes key provisions to strengthen accountability in arrest and remand procedures. However, true reform will remain beyond reach if the home ministry retains control over postings, promotions, and enforcement of the commission's recommendations. Bureaucratic interference has long undermined professionalism in the force, which must end.

Experts also believe that an independent commission could free the police from decades of manipulation and abuse. It would ensure that recruitment and promotions are based on merit, investigations are guided by evidence rather than orders, and misconduct is addressed transparently. Such a body would protect human rights, uphold due process, and help rebuild public trust. However, the government must act with urgency to implement the reforms, as enough times have already passed. A truly independent commission, free from ministerial or partisan grip, is the only way to rebuild the police as a humane, service-oriented institution.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

One World Trade Center opens

On this day in 2014, One World Trade Center opened in New York City on the site of the former World Trade Center complex, which had been destroyed in the September 11, 2001.

18 years on, how far has judicial separation really progressed?



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MD ARIFUJJAMAN

When Bangladesh formally separated the judiciary from the executive in November 2007, it was hailed as a historic turning point—the fulfilment of *Secretary, Ministry of Finance v. Masdar Hossain* (1999) and of Article 22 of the constitution. The reform seemed to promise courts free from bureaucratic control and partisan interference, empowered to function as impartial guardians of the rule of law. However, 18 years on, that promise remains only partially fulfilled. While structurally the judiciary appears independent, the lived reality tells a far more complex story. Executive influence persists, notably through appointments, postings, budget allocations, and administrative oversight. The result: a judiciary that has travelled far in form, yet not always in freedom, thus gyrating between reform and regression. A retired district judge, speaking on condition of anonymity, described it as "independence by permission"—that is, you can act freely, but only if you know where the invisible boundaries lie.

Across Bangladesh's courts, the tension is palpable. In the lower courts, many officers still operate within bureaucratic chains inherited from the old magistracy. In the higher judiciary, benches navigate the delicate balance between asserting authority and avoiding political confrontation. The rhetoric of separation remains compelling; the reality of autonomy remains unfinished.

For all its constitutional promise, judicial independence in Bangladesh has repeatedly collided with the realities of power. The mechanisms that sustain executive influence have evolved rather than disappeared. Where once magistrates served under direct bureaucratic command, today's levers lie in more subtle instruments.

One of those is placement and transfer decisions, where the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs continues to play a decisive role, although a separate Judicial Service Commission (JSC) was created to insulate the service from political discretion.

Budget control is another key barrier. Even after separation, the



FILE VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

judiciary's administrative expenses continue to pass through ministerial channels. According to an evaluation, in FY2019-20, the judiciary received just 0.352 percent of the national budget.

Appointments and promotions to the higher judiciary remain politically charged. While the JSC recommends candidates, the president (on government advice) must approve; in practice, political preference often outweighs merit. Scholars note that transparency deficits here undermine public confidence and breed self-censorship among judges.

The doctrine of separation and independence was given strong articulation in the *Masdar Hossain* case, which held that the judicial service is "structurally distinct and separate" from the civil executive. And yet, in practice, executive influence continues. For instance, the practice of "mobile courts" (executive-magistrate-led judicial functions) still blurs the line between enforcement and adjudication, contrary to the spirit of separation.

If law is the skeleton of justice, culture is its breath. In Bangladesh's judiciary, the deeper challenge is not merely constitutional design but institutional psychology—how a generation of judges, lawyers, and court staff absorbed a culture of

deference rather than assertion. The judicial service still carries the imprint of its bureaucratic past. Many officers entered under the old civil service paradigm; though rebranded, the habit of obedience remains. A senior High Court lawyer notes, "We call them judges, but we haven't retrained the reflex."

Public trust, meanwhile, oscillates

move beyond symbolism by ensuring financial autonomy, transparent appointments and promotions, and institutional self-governance.

Without financial independence, autonomy remains conceptual. Therefore, the judiciary's budget should be placed under its own control, for example, via a separate judicial administrative and financial secretariat. Besides, a more open, merit-based JSC process (possibly including civil society oversight) would reduce perceptions of partisanship and elevate institutional credibility. Finally, the judiciary must administer its own transfers, training, evaluations, and discipline. A judicial council, composed of senior judges and administrators, could anchor this autonomy.

The September 2025 High Court decision restoring control to the Supreme Court represents a recent step. However, culture remains the decisive catalyst. Judges, lawyers, and officials must internalise independence not as defiance but as duty. The Bangladesh Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) and university partnerships need reinforcement to embed constitutional ethics and professional confidence.

The judiciary also depends on the health of a country's democratic ecosystem. When parliament weakens, media polarises, and civil society retreats, the courts are placed under existential pressure. In such contexts, the alternative to independence is executive dominance. As one retired judge observed, "A state without an independent judiciary is like a body without a spine. It can stand, but not upright."

Public trust remains the final measure. Independence must be earned through transparent judgments, timely hearings, and ethical consistency. The High Court's rulings in environmental matters, rights protections, and election oversight provide flickers of hope; however, sporadic judicial courage cannot substitute for systemic strength.

Eighteen years after formal separation, Bangladesh stands at a constitutional crossroads. The next decade will determine whether the judiciary evolves from a dependent institution to a pillar of autonomous justice. The roadmap is clear: constitutional adherence, administrative reform, and cultural renewal. What remains uncertain is whether political leaders will see independence not as a threat but as the republic's greatest safeguard.

Farmgate tragedy and the question of state liability

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MD TANVIR MAHTAB and SADIA SHULTANA

Last month, a pedestrian tragically lost his life in Farmgate when a bearing pad fell from a metro rail pillar. Two other people were also injured in the incident. Following the incident, Road Transport and Bridges Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan stated that the family of the deceased would receive Tk 5 lakh as compensation and that an eligible member of the family would be offered a job at Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL). A five-member committee was also formed to investigate the incident.

In the absence of a provision for compensation for accident victims under the Metro Rail Rules, 2016, prompt response from the government is commendable, especially when the government cannot ignore its responsibility in this tragic incident. Besides, the amount offered is inadequate considering the severity of the loss. It should be noted that the amount—Tk 5 lakh—was not just meant for the financial support of the family. Rather, it was stated as compensation for the loss. According to the Law Dictionary, "compensation means indemnification or payment of damages, which is necessary to restore an injured party to his former position... money which a court orders to be paid,

by a person whose acts or omissions have caused loss or injury to another, in order that thereby the person damaged may receive equal value for his loss, or be made whole in respect of his injury." Now the question arises: how did the government determine the actual extent of the damage suffered by the victim's family? Shouldn't it be the court deciding the amount of compensation to be awarded?

From a legal perspective, the state bears responsibility under the principle of strict liability. This doctrine holds that the government can be held accountable for harm caused by its actions or those of its employees, even in the absence of direct negligence or wrongful intent.

For instance, in compliance with a High Court order, Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence and Bangladesh Railway jointly paid Tk 20 lakh as compensation to the family of Jihad, who died after falling into an abandoned deep tube well in Dhaka's Shahjahanpur area on December 26, 2014. In both incidents, there was evident negligence on the part of government authorities, making the current compensation seem disproportionately low.

In the event of a fatal accident, the family members of the deceased may seek compensation under Section 1 of the Fatal Accidents Act, 1855. However, in practice, initiating legal proceedings against a government body often proves to be difficult or impractical. Consequently, the only viable means of obtaining compensation is by filing a writ petition under Article 102 of the constitution. It is important to note, however, that filing a writ petition is not the conventional method for claiming compensation. According to Article 102, when no efficacious alternative remedy is available, an aggrieved person may invoke the writ jurisdiction of the High Court Division.

The legislative intent behind this provision is to ensure that individuals are not left without recourse when no other legal remedy exists. Therefore, a specific legal remedy is required in situations where loss has occurred as a result of negligence on the part of the government. However, apart from compensatory measures, what is truly essential is a thorough and transparent investigation to ensure that those responsible for this act of negligence are held accountable.

From a legal perspective, the state bears responsibility under the principle of strict liability. This doctrine holds that the government can be held accountable for harm caused by its actions or those of its employees, even in the absence of direct negligence or wrongful intent. A key feature of strict liability is that a person or authority cannot evade responsibility by assigning dangerous tasks to independent contractors. Under Article 32 of the constitution, the state

is strictly responsible for the protection of the right to life of its citizens. This obligation is further reinforced by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which recognises the inherent right to life and requires states to ensure its protection by law.

In *Rylands v. Fletcher* and *T.C. Balakrishnan Menon v. T.R. Subramanian* (1968), the courts held the defendants liable for damages caused by hazardous activities, even though the work had been delegated to contractors. Similarly, in Writ Petition No. 7650 of 2012, *Z.I. Khan Panna vs. Bangladesh and Others*, concerning the Jihad case, the High Court Division observed that the incident represented clear negligence by the Fire Service and Civil Defence and Bangladesh Railway, resulting in a violation of the fundamental right to life. The court further applied the maxims *res ipsa loquitur* (the principle that the mere occurrence of some types of accident is sufficient to imply negligence) and the principle of strict liability (Writ Petition No. I2388 of 2014, *Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation vs. Bangladesh and Others*).

Examples from other jurisdictions also show that governments assume moral and legal responsibility when failures lead to loss of life. Therefore, by merely paying a nominal amount of compensation or forming an investigation committee, the state cannot absolve itself of responsibility. The government must ensure accountability through proper investigation and disciplinary action against officials of the concerned authorities.

JAIL KILLING DAY

‘Those in power are often the biggest obstacles to justice’

Sharmin Ahmad is the eldest daughter of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad. On the occasion of the Jail Killing Day, she talks to Emran Mahfuz of The Daily Star about the assassination of four jailed national leaders, including her father, on November 3, 1975.

Many believe the motive behind the jail killings was to leave the pro-independence forces without leadership. What is your opinion? These leaders were indeed the life force of the Liberation War. When Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was imprisoned in Pakistan, the war didn't stop. Tajuddin Ahmad drew up the structure of a government and led the war, upholding our dignity. Had a government not been formed, the war could have been branded as terrorism by separatists. That foresight is what propelled the war forward, and also enabled the government to establish diplomatic ties with the outside world. India came forward. Both military and civilian fronts took part in the war under the wartime government's leadership.

It was largely on their credit that the aspiration for freedom of about 75 million Bangladeshis was realised. Those national leaders, during an uncertain time, led the war with thoughtful clarity and precision. The anti-liberation forces realised that killing only Bangabandhu would not be enough. They had to finish off these smart, patriotic men behind our liberation.

You were very young at the time. Today, do you think there was an international conspiracy, too?

If one's home is fragile, anyone from outside can break in. International conspirators are always lurking with their own agendas. They exploit weaknesses. Look at who formed the government after the killings in 1975, who went to the radio station after Bangabandhu was killed. Especially Khandaker Mostaq Ahmed, Taheruddin Thakur, and Mahbub Alam Chashi—they were from Awami League and conspiring from inside. If anti-revolutionaries take over, will they spare the revolutionaries? It is the wolves in sheep's clothes who realise the agenda of international conspirators. It is at home where the problem begins.

You mean to say internal weaknesses provide external enemies with an opportunity? How



The four national leaders of Bangladesh who were killed in Dhaka Central Jail in the early hours of November 3, 1975.

PHOTO: ARCHIVES

do we uncover the truth then?

To uncover the truth, we need to start with self-criticism. And we must know and preserve history in an unfragmented, whole form. I remember after my father was arrested, when my mother, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, went to see him in jail, he repeatedly told her, "Send word to the Awami League MPs who are not in jail—they must not go to the October 16 meeting at Bangabhaban to support Mostaq."

Even after the message was conveyed, many still attended that meeting. See, things were happening from the inside.

We must put emphasis on two things: our own weaknesses first, then any external conspiracies. If your front door lock is strong, a thief will think twice before coming. But if the lock is broken and the door is shaky, thieves can come anytime. It is we who must strengthen our own house.

Look at the July uprising. Awami League keeps saying it is an "international conspiracy." But they are not talking about themselves at all. They don't even regret the mass killings committed under their regime. Their limitless corruption, rigged elections, repression—people could not stay silent seeing all this. The reality is that no one can force a mass uprising. If the people do not want, a mass uprising

cannot happen. We must know the correct history.

I remember reading in a memoir that Tajuddin Ahmad once told Ataur Rahman that the way Bangabandhu was running the country, he would finish himself and them too. So where do the anti-liberation forces come in?

This is why I said earlier that we need to self-criticise. Since independence, Bangladesh has been moving away from the aspirations and objectives of the Liberation War. Establishing a foundation of equality, social justice, and human dignity for the common people has not been a priority. Instead, protecting personal and family interests became the main focus.

Did the jail administration then fulfil its responsibility in preventing the killings?

No, they did not do their job properly. I first started researching the jail killings in 1987. I interviewed an investigator of the case, Bir Uttam Brigadier Aminul Haque, a member of the Jail Killing Investigation Commission, Justice K.M. Sobhan, politician Abdus Samad Azad, and others who were in prison at the time with the four national leaders.

Brigadier Haque later became NSI chief under the Khaleda Zia

administration. On the orders of Major General Khaled Mosharraf, he interviewed the then DIG-Prisons Abdul Awal and others. The DIG said: "We could not fulfil our duties and the killings happened before our eyes." Had they truly done their duty, our national leaders could have been saved. Even then, the DIG prisons told the killers, "You cannot enter the jail with weapons; this is illegal. Who sent you?" They replied, "President Mostaq sent us." They also said clearly that they came to kill.

The then IG Nuruzzaman phoned the president at Bangabhaban. Major Abdur Rashid answered the phone. Rashid asked to let them enter. Then the IG requested to speak to the president, who came on the phone and asked them to do as Rashid said. This was published in news reports on September 25, 1996, based on statements from the then IG and DIG-prisons. On that fateful day in 1975, in the face of illegal and murderous orders from the president and his accomplices, everyone got scared. Not a single officer did his duty that day. Only the DIG tried to protest when the killers entered with guns.

How did you receive the news?

Early in the morning of November 3, my mother woke up. She came to our

room and said, "I had a nightmare." She saw my father sitting on a throne in a flower garden, wearing a white shirt. And in the sky there was a midday sun, but it was bright blood-red like a setting sun. And streams of red, like blood, were falling from that sun and turning my father's white shirt red. Someone was saying: "A terrible crisis is coming upon the country, terrible crisis."

My mother was restless after that dream. Everyone had a sinking feeling. Some fighter jets flew very low over our house. But we got no news—the radio was shut. We went to my uncle's house. My father's brother, Mafizuddin Ahmad, was very ill. There was no phone at their house. From the nearby house of Advocate Meherunnisa, a message came that an urgent message

Look at the July uprising. Awami League keeps saying it is an 'international conspiracy.' But they are not talking about themselves at all. They don't even regret the mass killings committed under their regime. Their limitless corruption, rigged elections, repression—people could not stay silent seeing all this. The reality is that no one can force a mass uprising. If the people do not want, a mass uprising cannot happen. We must know the correct history.

needed to be given to my mother. That only Begum Tajuddin should come.

So my mother and I took a rickshaw there. And outside her house, Dr Karim was standing. Crying, he told my mother, "Tajuddin and the other three have been killed in jail." My mother seemed to freeze. No words came from her mouth. I cried out, "This must be false news."

Were the bodies handed over directly? Was there a postmortem? The postmortem report said they were shot dead. No other detail. A case was filed at Lalbagh Police Station. All of that was suppressed. Until 1996, when the Awami League returned to power, everything was covered up.

Mostaq passed an ordinance that the killing of Bangabandhu would not be tried. And when General Ziaur Rahman came to power, he made that illegal ordinance permanent. So we see how politicians and those in power often become the biggest obstacles to establishing justice. They only look after their own interests. That is why the jail killing case also progressed the way it did. The real conspirators got political protection. Those who fired 60 rounds inside the jail and murdered the four national leaders escaped. Some were given life imprisonment in absentia. One could say, there was a mockery of justice.

What is your comment on the contemporary political situation? In November 2024, you said that Awami League leadership should apologise to the nation. Why did you say that?

What I hoped for did not happen. Despite the mass uprising, the country remains in a troubling vacuum of leadership. Also, instead of reflection, the Awami League leadership continues to deflect blame and target those who speak the truth. But this pattern is not theirs alone. Those currently in power, and all major political parties, have yet to rise to the moment with the humility and foresight the nation deserves.

Healing begins with courage—the courage to admit mistakes. When leaders embrace the truth, they break the cycle of blame, improve their actions, and help the country move forward. Accountability is not a weakness; it is the first step towards renewal.

My father, facing death, planted hundreds of flowers inside the jail compound. In doing so, he planted hope. We must do the same, with truth, humility, and vision.

What can Bangladesh learn from the 2025 Nobel Prize in economics?

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MD MONIRUZZAMAN and MD MOMINUR RAHMAN

The 2025 Nobel Prize in economic sciences was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for explaining how innovation drives economic growth. Their work demonstrates that progress is not only about having more people or machines, but also about having better ideas and more effective ways of doing things. This message matters deeply for Bangladesh. For decades, our growth has been powered by the hard labour of millions who send foreign remittances and work in the export-oriented garment industry. But these growth engines are slowing down. To move forward, we need to grow through innovation by creating new products and developing transformational solutions for real problems.

The Nobel-winning economists remind us that the most successful nations are those that encourage people to experiment, invent, and learn. Joel Mokyr shows that societies grow faster when they respect knowledge and curiosity. He demonstrated that for innovations to build on each other, we must not only know what works but also understand why it works scientifically. Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt explain how "creative destruction," where new ideas replace old ones, keeps economies dynamic and productive. They refer to innovation as destructive since the companies whose technology becomes passé are outcompeted. In simple terms, when people are free to try new things, they fail and try again; the whole country benefits. John Hessler, chair of the

committee for the prize in economic sciences, noted, "The laureates' work shows that economic growth cannot be taken for granted. We must uphold the mechanisms that underly creative destruction, so that we do not fall back into stagnation."

Similarly, Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, aptly noted in a recent op-ed: "This year's Nobel Prize is a prize for a particular way of seeing growth: as a restless, experimental process that constantly replaces old technologies, firms, and even mindsets with better ones." For Bangladesh, this perspective is both a challenge and an opportunity as the country eyes graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. It must now pivot toward innovation-led growth by investing in research and development, strengthening intellectual property rights, and fostering collaboration between universities and industries. What is needed is an ecosystem where innovation is rewarded, not stifled, as Dr Selim Raihan, executive director of South Asian Network on Economic Modelling, notes. He calls for reforming our education system, easing access to finance for startups, and ensuring regulatory predictability.

However, the laureates' work highlights the importance of inclusive innovation. Aghion and Howitt have shown, innovation can exacerbate inequality if not paired with social protections. For Bangladesh, this means ensuring that rural populations, women, and marginalised groups are not left behind in the digital transition.

should be promoted throughout the country. Technologies to increase farm productivity, renewable energy and digital health can improve rural life and reduce poverty.

One of the biggest barriers to innovation in Bangladesh is our meeting-driven policy culture. Decisions are not always based on data or research; rather, they are made in lengthy formal meetings, where job hierarchy rather than innovative idea sharing is prioritised. To build an innovation-led economy, we must shift from meeting-driven to evidence-driven policy creation culture, where

facts, studies, and experiments guide national decisions. Sadly, only a small fraction of Bangladesh's 17 crore people are active researchers or part of think tanks. Worse yet, research-driven analysis is often disregarded in policymaking. The government should identify, connect, and empower these researchers, universities, and policy institutes so that decisions are informed by real evidence, not routine meetings. Without this shift, innovation will remain a slogan rather than a system.

Bangladesh has shown how resilience and determination can transform a poor country. Now is the time for the next big leap from efficiency to creativity. If we follow the lessons of Mokyr, Aghion, and Howitt, Bangladesh can build an economy where ideas are our greatest export. The future will belong not only to those who work hard, but also to those who think smart. Our goal should be simple: to make "Invented in Bangladesh" a phrase known around the world. That will be our real success, not a medal from Stockholm, but a stronger, smarter, and fairer nation built by our own imagination.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project (ISLIP)
Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Memo: 46.03.2600.546.14.93.2025-54

Date: 30/10/2025

Amendment

Package No : S-01/ DPHE
Package Name : Consultancy Services for Design, monitoring, and Supervision
Project Title : Integrated Services and Livelihood for Displaced Rohingya People and Host Communities' Improvement Project (ISLIP).

This is for general information of all concerned that the above mentioned EOI notice invited vide this office Memo no: 46.03.2600.546.14.93.2025-30 Dated: 28/09/2025 has been amended as follows:

Description	Existing Provision in REOI Notice	Changed Provision in REOI Notice
EOI Submission Date & Time	The Consultants shall have to submit their EOIs electronically through the ADB CMS by 11:59 PM (Manila local time) on 30 October 2025.	The Consultants shall have to submit their EOIs electronically through the ADB CMS by 11:59 PM (Manila local time) on 08 November 2025.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

GD-2300


(Mohammad Golam Muktadir)
Project Director
Email: miltonbuel@yahoo.com

LEGENDS COMMEMORATE Ritwick Ghatak and Protiti Devi's birth centenary



Abul Hayat, among other distinguished guests, spoke about Ritwick Ghatak and Protiti Devi

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHDI
MORSVED

DOWEL BISWAS

At Chhayanaut's Ramesh Chandra Dutta Memorial Hall on Sunday, nostalgia met reverence as artists, activists, and admirers gathered to celebrate the birth centenary of filmmaker Ritwick Kumar Ghatak and his twin sister, singer Protiti Devi. The event, organised by the Ritwick Kumar Ghatak and Protiti Devi Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, honoured the two visionaries whose creative spirits defined and defied Bengal's cultural landscape.

The occasion also marked the 139th birth anniversary of language movement veteran and martyr Dhirendranath Datta, tying together three legacies of artistic and political resistance.

The ceremony began with Chhayanaut's young artistes performing *Dhronodhanne Pushpe Bhora, Amader Ei Basundhara*, their voices rising like a hymn to memory. The mood was tender, the applause steady — the audience seemed to know they were there for more than remembrance.

Producer Habibur Rahman Khan, who collaborated with Ghatak on *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam*, spoke with a mix of affection and awe. "My creative friendship with Ritwick Ghatak cannot be told in a single evening," he said. "We fought a lot, but he was like a child — laughing,

unpredictable, yet impossible to leave."

Khan recalled the chaos of working with the filmmaker. "He was so difficult to work with. There was no problem Ritwick couldn't create or solve. He worked on his instincts. Once, he stopped shooting just so 80 technicians could get paid without working. When I protested, he told me, 'Don't you know I've left many films unfinished? I don't work unless I want to.'"

Before filming "Titash..." Khan remembered, Ghatak arrived by the riverbank and drank its water — "to feel the essence of the country he so dearly loved."

Actor Abul Hayat, who made his debut in *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam*, called Ghatak



In attendance were many renowned cultural personalities

"absolutely a madman — and madly brilliant." "We were students when we fell in love with his films," he said. "His spontaneity and indifference were unmatched. From script to scene, everything bent to his will. "Titash..." has become a textbook in cinema history, and I feel lucky to have been a part of it."

Veteran actor Ramendu Majumdar, fashion designer Bibi Russell, and Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque reflected on Ghatak's unflinching portrayal of displacement, partition, and identity — themes that continue to shape South Asian cinema.

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Laisa Ahmed Lisa performs at the event

Filmmaker Shameem Akhtar and human rights activist Sultana Kamal discussed his cinematic convention. "He broke every rule," said Kamal. "His films showed pain as beauty and despair as resistance."

Protiti Devi: the forgotten twin

While Ghatak's brilliance often eclipsed his sister's, the programme devoted space to Protiti Devi's artistry. Kishwar Kamal, a renowned singer and a close family member, described her as "a free spirit who lived life on her own terms. Like her twin brother, Protiti was an artist of immense depth. She sang, taught, and inspired — leading a quiet cultural renaissance in our family."

The second half of the evening belonged to music. Laisa Ahmed Lisa performed "Je Rate Mor," one of Ghatak's favourite songs, followed by Protiti's favourite, Atul Prasad Sen's "Ke Go Tumi Ele Asile Othithi". The performances moved many to tears.

Kishwar Kamal closed her heartfelt remarks with "Amar Ei Ghor Bohu Joton Kore Dhute Hobo," her voice trembling as she echoed the twins' shared spirit — defiant, emotional, tender.

Ramendu Majumdar reflected on Ghatak's short yet thunderous life. "In only 50 years, he created and achieved so much. If he had lived longer and healthier, who knows what heights he could have reached? The partition broke him, but it also birthed his greatest art. Ritwick was the raw, unfiltered mirror of society — nothing hidden, everything painfully honest."

As the evening drew to an end, the hall fell into a hush — as if the walls themselves were listening. Ritwick Ghatak, the "madman" who made cinema bleed, and Protiti Devi, the singer who carried that same madness in melody, were remembered not as relics but as living spirits of Bengal's creative conscience.

Their centenary was more than a commemoration. It was a reminder that true art — like madness — never dies. It transforms, waits, and returns.

Shah Rukh Khan unveils 'King' on his birthday

Shah Rukh Khan has officially announced his much-anticipated film *King* on his social media accounts yesterday. He shared it with a powerful caption that reads, "Sau deshon mein badnaam, Duniya ne diya sirf ek hi naam- #KING" (Infamous in a hundred nations, the world gave me only one name- King).

King is one of the most ambitious action thrillers in recent Bollywood history. It is directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marillion. The cast includes Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Rani Mukerji, Arshad Warsi, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, and Abhay Verma.

This announcement firmly confirms the film's 2026 release timeline. The title reveal was strategically released on Shah Rukh Khan's 60th birthday on November 2, making it an extra special gift for his millions of fans.

Yash, Totini's first collaboration on OTT in Shihab Shaheen's 'Tomar Jonno Mon'



After receiving accolades for his silver screen project, noted filmmaker Shihab Shaheen is back on the OTT platform with yet another romantic film, which is what he is mostly known for. The film titled *Tomar Jonno Mon* (For You, My Heart) will release on November 6 at Chorki.

The motion poster and trailer for the film have already been released. *Tomar Jonno Mon* features the popular and much discussed on-screen pair, Yash Rohan and Tanjim Saiyara Totini. According to the director, the story he wanted to tell required a pair who share an understanding both on and off screen.

NEWS

Experts ring alarm over risk to society

FROM PAGE 12

was mass defence and boosting reserve capacity, adding that the programme would teach weapon handling but not live firing.

Meanwhile, around 8,000 applications have already been submitted.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, security analyst Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, said the initiative could be detrimental if implemented without a clear national policy.

"This is a completely wrong idea. If the purpose is to strengthen national defence capabilities, there must be a specific policy framework approved at the national level — ideally through parliament. This is not a light matter.

"Countries that have national service programmes, such as Singapore or Switzerland, have comprehensive national strategies and legal frameworks guiding them. Implementing such a programme in a disjointed way can do more harm than good."

Muniruzzaman also raised concerns over transparency and oversight in participant vetting.

BNP, Jamaat obstructing

FROM PAGE 12

"One party is obstructing reforms, while another is perhaps trying to postpone the election."

Nahid slammed BNP and Jamaat for clashing over whether the referendum should take place before the election or on election day, calling the dispute "unnecessary and unproductive".

He also accused the parties of trying to divert attention by pushing for two different proportional representation models in the upper house.

The key issues and main points of debate are which reforms will be included in the charter, what proposals will be made, their legal basis, and whether Prof Muhammad Yunus will issue the implementation order.

"If consensus is reached on these points, the referendum can be held on election day or even earlier."

Nahid Islam said the NCP wants the February election to proceed

testing, or analysis, it could pose significant risks to the state and society."

He added that many youths are linked to political, economic, or extremist power structures and can be easily influenced due to fragile psychological conditions. "Trained youths could be exploited by any parties or ideologies. It is difficult to confront trained individuals, and this could compromise our security."

Contacted by The Daily Star on Saturday, Col Md Golam Mabud Hasan, director (Training) at BKSP, said they would use airguns during the training.

According to the BKSP admission notice, the 15 day residential training will be conducted in 114 batches at BKSP centres in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, and Dinajpur.

Mob kills 3

FROM PAGE 12

C Circle), confirmed the incident, saying, "A police team recovered two bodies from the spot, while the injured man was taken to hospital."

Fahad Al Asad, resident medical officer of Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex, told this newspaper, "Police brought a man with injuries to our hospital around 7:00am, but he was already dead."

Bari said, "As it is a murder case, legal action will be taken accordingly."

Shafiqur re-elected

FROM PAGE 12

party's constitution, members of the Central Majlis-e-Shura first elect a three-member ameer panel through a secret ballot.

Then, the party's rukon across the country vote in a secret ballot to elect one of the panel members as the ameer.

Ehsanul Mahbub Jubayer, Jamaat's assistant secretary general and head of the central publicity department, told The Daily Star that since the party resumed its activities in independent Bangladesh in 1979, Ghulam Azam served as ameer until 2000.

Abbas Ali Khan acted as the party's ameer for more than a decade.

From 2000 to 2016, the position was held by Motiur Rahman Nizami, and by Mokbul Ahmad from 2016 to 2019.



Syed Nazrul Islam



Tajuddin Ahmad



M Mansur Ali



AHM Quamruzzaman

50 years since jail killings

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was imprisoned by the Pakistani forces in 1971.

More than 19 years have passed since a trial court convicted 11 individuals for the killings, yet most of the sentences remain unenforced.

Captain Abdul Majed, one of those sentenced to life imprisonment, was arrested on April 7, 2020, after decades on the run. He was later executed for his role in the assassination of Sheikh Mujib.

Among the remaining convicts — believed to be hiding overseas — Rashed Chowdhury is reportedly in the US and Noor Chowdhury in Canada. Despite repeated efforts through diplomatic channels, intelligence agencies, and Interpol, the government has failed to locate the other eight fugitives or secure the extradition of Rashed and Noor.

In the early hours of November 3, 1975, five armed army personnel dressed in khaki uniforms arrived at Dhaka Central Jail around 4:00am.

According to the first information report, one of the men, identifying himself as Captain Muslemuddin from the Bangabhaban, entered the jail and gunned down the leaders.

The four leaders were imprisoned shortly after August 15 that year, the day Mujib and most of his family were killed.

On November 4, 1975, Kazi Abdul Awal, the then deputy inspector general of prisons, lodged the FIR with Lalbagh Police Station. ABM Fazlul Karim, the officer in charge of the station, was assigned to investigate the murders. He gathered evidence from the site following a magistrate's inquest report on the victims' bodies.

The Indemnity Ordinance, however, blocked any investigation or trial for nearly 21 years. Following its repeal in 1996, the Criminal Investigation Department reopened the case on August 18 that year.

In 2004, a Dhaka trial court convicted and sentenced 11 individuals for their roles in the killings.

In its verdict, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, led by then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, observed that the murders were part of a wider criminal conspiracy involving powerful elements within the state machinery.

On April 30, 2013, the Supreme Court's Appellate Division upheld the earlier verdict, confirming death sentences for Muslemuddin, Marfat Ali Shah, and Abdul Hashem Mridha, and life terms for Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haq Dalim, Noor Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Abdul Majed, Kismat Hasem, and Nazmul Hossain.

Inu, Hanif charged

FROM PAGE 12

"innocent," Inu said while standing in the dock.

The tribunal also framed charges in absentia against Awami League Joint General Secretary and former lawmaker Mahabubul Alami Hanif and three local AL leaders from Kushtia in a separate crimes against humanity case. As all four are absconding, their charges were not read out.

The tribunal fixed November 25 for the opening statement in Hanif's case and November 30 for the opening statement and deposition of witnesses in Inu's case.

During yesterday's proceedings, the tribunal chair said sufficient grounds had been found to frame charges against Inu after reviewing the investigation report and documents. Asked whether he heard the charges, Inu replied that he could not hear properly but understood the tribunal had rejected his discharge petition.

Inu then sought to speak further, prompting Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam to object, saying the accused could only plead guilty or not. The tribunal chair then said, "There is no option; you have to reply 'yes' or 'no'."

However, Inu said both the chief adviser and the law adviser had acknowledged the "ghost cases" and sought a solution, which pleased him. "Sixty ghost cases have been filed against me in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. I am devastated," he added.

After the proceedings, Tajul told reporters that the tribunal framed charges against Inu on the grounds of command and superior responsibility.

"As president of a key component of the 14-party alliance and one of its influential leaders, Inu played a central role in meetings that planned measures to suppress the movement — including curfews and shoot-on-sight orders," he said.

He added, "Inu also made provocative statements at different times, portraying protesting students as terrorists or members of Jamaat-Shibir BNP, thereby justifying their killings as legitimate."

Tajul also said Inu even discussed with the then prime minister the use of drones, helicopters, and bombings to suppress protesters. The final charge involves the killing of six people in Kushtia on August 5 under his instruction.

Replies to journalists about Inu's "ghost cases" remarks, Tajul said there was no scope to take such statements into cognisance.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
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71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
www.sicip.gov.bd

Ref. No. FD/SICIP/BWCCI-PIU/151/2025-2700

Date: 17 Kartik 1432
02 November 2025

Recruitment Notice

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Finance
Agency	:	Finance Division
Program Name	:	Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Scheme Name	:	Expansion of Skills for Employment and Socially Inclusive Training for Priority and Emerging Sectors

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Position	No.	Minimum Qualification and Experience
Program Implementation Unit (PIU) for SICIP-BWCCI Program		
Coordinator (Finance & Procurement)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's in accounting/finance or MBA majoring in Finance or Accounting. At least 10 years' working experience in relevant field. Experience in skills development fields will be preferred. Strong communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
Application Closing Date and Time	:	Applications shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Program Director on or before 3:00 pm by 18 November 2025 in sealed envelope clearly marked "Application for the Selection of [Name of Position], [PIU Name] Program". Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of the A4 Size Envelope. Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications, experiences and skills have to be submitted.
Name & Designation of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Md. Mahfuzul Alam Khan Executive Program Director Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Address of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Probashi Kallyan Bhavan (14th - 15th Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
Contact details of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Phone: +880255138753-55 Ext: 100 E-mail: epd.sicip@gmail.com

The recruitment entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the application without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Md. Mahfuzul Alam Khan
Executive Program Director
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance,

Probashi Kallyan Bhavan (14th - 15th Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

GD-2301



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ: ০২/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।

স্মারক নং- ৮৫০১/ই

"পার্লিমেন্ট প্রকল্পের আইন, ২০০৬ ও তৎপরতার প্রকল্পের প্রকল্পের আইন, ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বর্ষের রংপুর জেলা পুলিশের নিয়ন্ত্রণিত প্রকল্পগুলি বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রস্তুত ঠিকাদার/মেরামত/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমান্মোহন্মুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আববান করা যাবে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২৫-২০২৬

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
০২	সংস্থা	১	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
০৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	১	পুলিশ সুপার, রংপুর।
০৪	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী জেলা	১	রংপুর।
০৫	দরপত্রের বিষয়	১	মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।
০৬	দরপত্রের স্থূল নথৰ ও তারিখ	১	পুলিশ হেডকোর্টার্স, ঢাকা, স্মারক নং- ৮৮.০১.০০০০.৮০৫.০৭.০২৩.২৫.২৬১৫, স্মারক নং-৮৮.০১.০০০০.৮০৫.০৭.০২৩.২৫.২৬১৬, স্মারক নং-৮৮.০১.০০০০.৮০৫.০৭.০২৩.২৫.২৬১৭ তারিখ ২৮/০৮/২৫ খ্রিঃ এবং স্মারক নং-৮৮.০১.০০০০.৮০৫.০৭.০২৩.২৫.২৬১৮ তারিখ ০৫/১০/২৫ খ্রিঃ।
০৭	দরপত্রের প্রক্রিয়া	১	উন্নত দরপত্র।
০৮	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	১	বাজেক খাত।
০৯	দরপত্র প্রকাশনের তারিখ	১	০৩/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিআই প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১	১/১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	১	১/১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দন্তৰ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১	১/১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দন্তৰ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি দাকে)।
১৩	দরপত্র দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	১	২/৫/১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	১	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।
১৫	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির ছান	১	১। রংপুর রেজে দন্তৰ, রংপুর ২। আরআরএফ, রংপুর, ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।
১৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের ছান	১	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।
১৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের ছান	১	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।
১৮	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	১	(ক) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, (খ) সহশ্রী কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, (গ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (ঘ) হালনাগাদ অধিকার সনদ, (ঙ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, (চ) ব্যাংক সলান্সে সনদ ও (ছ) অভিজ্ঞাতা সনদ (সকল দলিলের ফটোকপি দাখিল করা হলে অবশ্যি প্রয়োগ কর্তৃত হতে হবে)।
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারী	১	পুলিশ সুপার, রংপুর।
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	১	ফ্যাক্স-০২-৫৮৯৯৬১২৩৬।

দরপত্রের বিবরণ

ক্র. নং	প্রকরণের নাম	দরপত্রের মূল্য	দরপত্র আমানত	কার্যালয়ের তারিখ হতে কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
০১	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ সুপারের বাস্তববনের প্রচলিত পার্শ্বের সীমানা প্রাচীর মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।	৭৫০,০০	৪৩৫০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০২	রংপুর জেলা শীরণাছা থানার পেট ও নামফলক মেরামত কাজ।	৮০০,০০	১৬০০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৩	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস প্যারেড মাঠে অবস্থিত স্যালুট ডায়াস মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২১৫০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৪	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের ২য় তলার মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	১২৫০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৫	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২৬০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৬	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের ২য় তলার মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	৭০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৭	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের অস্তিত্ব প্রাপ্তির কাজ।	৮০০,০০	১১৫০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৮	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের অস্তিত্ব প্রাপ্তির কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২০৫০,০০	৪৫ দিন
০৯	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস ৪ তলা ব্যাকারের এসআই কোয়ার্টার মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২০০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
১০	রংপুর জেলা আওতাধীন পুরাতন অফিসার্স মেল এর রংপুর ও অন্যান্য মেরামত কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২৫০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
১১	রংপুর জেলা এসআই সার্কেলের মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২৪০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
১২	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় ভবনের অস্তিত্ব প্রাপ্তির কাজ।	৭৫০,০০	৩৮০০,০০	৪৫ দিন
১৩	লক্ষ্যে ফারার হজরিল ও ব্রহ্মপুর জমার কাজ।	৮০০,০০	২০৫০,০০	৪৫ দিন
১৪	রংপুর জেলা পুলিশ লাইস প্যারেড মাঠে অবস্থিত মাটিপারগাপস হল মেরামত কাজ।	৮০০,০০	১৩৫০,০০	৪৫ দিন</td

A tournament that will redefine women's cricket?

ASHFAQ UL-ALAM

Flurry of runs, defiant comebacks, constant rain interruptions -- what will the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 be remembered for down the line?

The eight-team tournament, which kicked off on September 30 in Guwahati, came to a conclusion on Sunday, with hosts India and South Africa battling it out in the final in Navi Mumbai.

At the time this report was filed, India had posted 298 for seven after being asked to bat, with the match beginning two hours later than scheduled owing to rain -- almost befitting considering how unlucky this tournament has been weather-wise overall.

Out of 31 matches over the course of 34 days, six ended in no results owing to rain and wet outfield. Never before had so many matches ended without a victor in a Women's World Cup.

The number of no results would have most likely been much fewer had the geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan not seeped into cricket.

Both countries no longer send their teams to their neighbouring nation and as a result, the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka was added as the fifth venue for the event.

It hosted 11 matches in total -- including all of Pakistan's matches -- seven of them were affected by rain and five ended in no result.



But even with poor weather, the 2025 edition has arguably been the most entertaining one in the tournament's history considering the high volume of runs being scored.

Before the final, teams crossed the 300-run mark a total of eight times in this year's event -- most ever in a single edition and double of the previous best which happened in the 2022 edition held in New Zealand.

A surprising fact is that the number of

centuries from the 2022 to 2025 editions -- excluding the final -- has improved by only one, going from 13 to 14, even though the teams put up bigger totals more consistently.

This signals a change in how teams are approaching batting in WODI -- making a more conscious effort to reach the 300-run mark -- and also how the women's game is evolving at a rapid rate.

An even bigger indication of this evolution, however, is who made it to this

year's final, and who did not.

Since the very first edition back in 1973, Australia and England have been a near constant in the final, with at least one of them being in the final in the first 12 editions.

This set pattern was smashed by India and South Africa, who eliminated seven-time champions Australia and four-time winners England respectively in the semifinals.

Hosts India, after being the last side to earn a place in the semifinals, knocked out the defending champions by scripting an incredible 339-run chase in a match that is already being considered the greatest successful chase in the history of women's cricket.

Jemimah Rodrigues played the innings of her life to send Harmanpreet Kaur's side to the final on home turf.

South Africa's journey to the final was no less dramatic than India's.

After beginning their campaign by getting bundled out for just 69 against England in Guwahati, the Laura Wolvaardt-led side won five games in a row to reach the knockout stage, where they avenged their earlier defeat by crushing the English side by 125 runs.

Regardless of the eventual winners, women's ODI cricket is set to crown new champions -- something that hasn't happened in men's ODI World Cup since 1997 -- which could become the starting point of a new era of greater competition.

Ankon, Mazid hit tons but Mominul falls short

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahidul Islam Ankon's career-best 122 off 272 deliveries at Sylhet Academy Ground, his fourth first-class hundred, helped Dhaka to 310 all out against Sylhet on Day 2 of the second round of the National Cricket League's (NCL) longer version on Sunday.

Dhaka had been in trouble at 120 for five by the end of Day 1 and were reduced to 175 for seven. Ankon and Sumon Khan then rescued with a 125-run stand. Sumon made a brisk 74 off 99 deliveries before falling to Khaled Ahmed, who finished with three wickets alongside Ebadot Hossain. Ankon was the last man dismissed before Sylhet made 33 without loss, as play ended early due to bad light.

In Cox's Bazar, Mominul Haque missed out on a hundred as Chattogram posted 358 in their first innings against Barishal. Mominul fell for 92 to Ruvul Miah early in the day, while Barishal captain Tanvir Islam bagged four wickets. Barishal reached 115 for two at stumps.

Meanwhile, in Cox's Bazar, Abdul Mazid's unbeaten 119 -- his 14th first-class ton -- powered Mymensingh to 555 for six before declaring against Rangpur at the Academy Ground. Earlier, Naim Sheikh and Mahfujul Islam Rabbi had also struck centuries. After their long spell in the field, Rangpur finished Day 2 on 18 for two.

In Mirpur, Rajshahi's Shakhir Hossain Shuvro fell 11 short of a century, scoring 89 off 172 balls in his side's total of 268 all out against Khulna, who ended the day at 68 for one before bad light intervened.

ASIAN ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Frederick sets sight on compound medals

SPORTS REPORTER

Long-term coach Martin Frederick has set his sights on achieving success in the compound events for hosts Bangladesh at the upcoming Asian Archery Championships, after announcing a 16-member squad for Asia's premier competition. The tournament is scheduled to take place from November 8 to 14 across two venues in Dhaka.

There were few surprises in the squad, which includes a number of experienced campaigners who have regularly represented Bangladesh, especially since top recurve archers Ruman Sana, Abdul Hakim Rubel, and Diya Siddique left for the United States in search of better opportunities.

Ruman, Rubel, and Diya had previously brought international recognition to Bangladesh, winning medals in recurve events at various competitions -- including the 2021 Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka, where Bangladesh claimed one silver and two bronze medals. The silver came in the recurve mixed team event, while the men's and women's recurve teams each earned bronze.

This time, however, Frederick has shifted his focus towards the compound events, particularly after Bangladesh's compound archers have shown consistent performances and strong scores in recent international tournaments.

"In 2021, we won three medals here but failed to win any in Bangkok in 2023. I want to repeat our success from 2021. Reaching the podium is our goal. Our compound team has grown stronger, and our compound mixed team is particularly promising. I will work towards that podium finish," the German coach told reporters after the conclusion of the Archery League at the Tongi Stadium yesterday.

"We've made great progress in the compound division, especially in the mixed team event. The recurve women's team is our weakest area, and we'll need to work hard there. But we have a young team with potential, and they need time to develop. So, perhaps we shouldn't expect too much just

yet," added Frederick, who has been coaching in Bangladesh since early 2018.

Ramkrishna Saha, Sagar Islam, and Ety Khatun are optimistic too about achieving good results on home soil.

"Last time we won bronze in the recurve team event, so this time we're aiming to reach the final," said Ramkrishna. "The men's recurve team always strives for success, and we've prepared well, especially through the recently concluded Archery League."

SQUAD:
Recurve Men: Abdur Rahman Alif, Sagar Islam, Rakib Mia, Ramkrishna Saha

Recurve Women: Shima Akter Shimu, Ety Khatun, Shonali Roy, Monira Akter

Compound Men: Mohammad Ashikuzzaman, Himu Bachar, Newaz Ahmed Rakib, Sohel Rana

Compound Women: Bannya Akter, Pushpita Zaman, Kulsum Khatun, Mithila Akter



Liverpool's welcome win ahead of Real test

AGENCIES

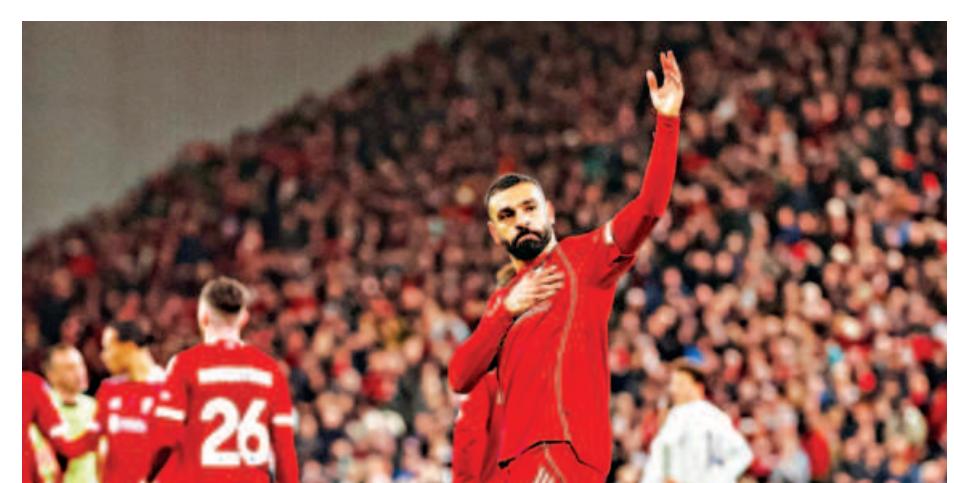
Liverpool returned to winning ways at the perfect time on Saturday night, beating Aston Villa 2-0 at Anfield to end a miserable run of form and restore some confidence ahead of a crucial week that includes clashes with Real Madrid and Manchester City.

Mohamed Salah was once again at the centre of it all, capitalising on a costly mistake from Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez in first-half stoppage time.

The Egypt forward calmly slotted into an empty net to give Liverpool the lead and, in the process, reached a remarkable milestone -- his 250th goal for the club. Only Ian Rush [346] and Roger Hunt [285] have ever reached that landmark in Liverpool's storied history.

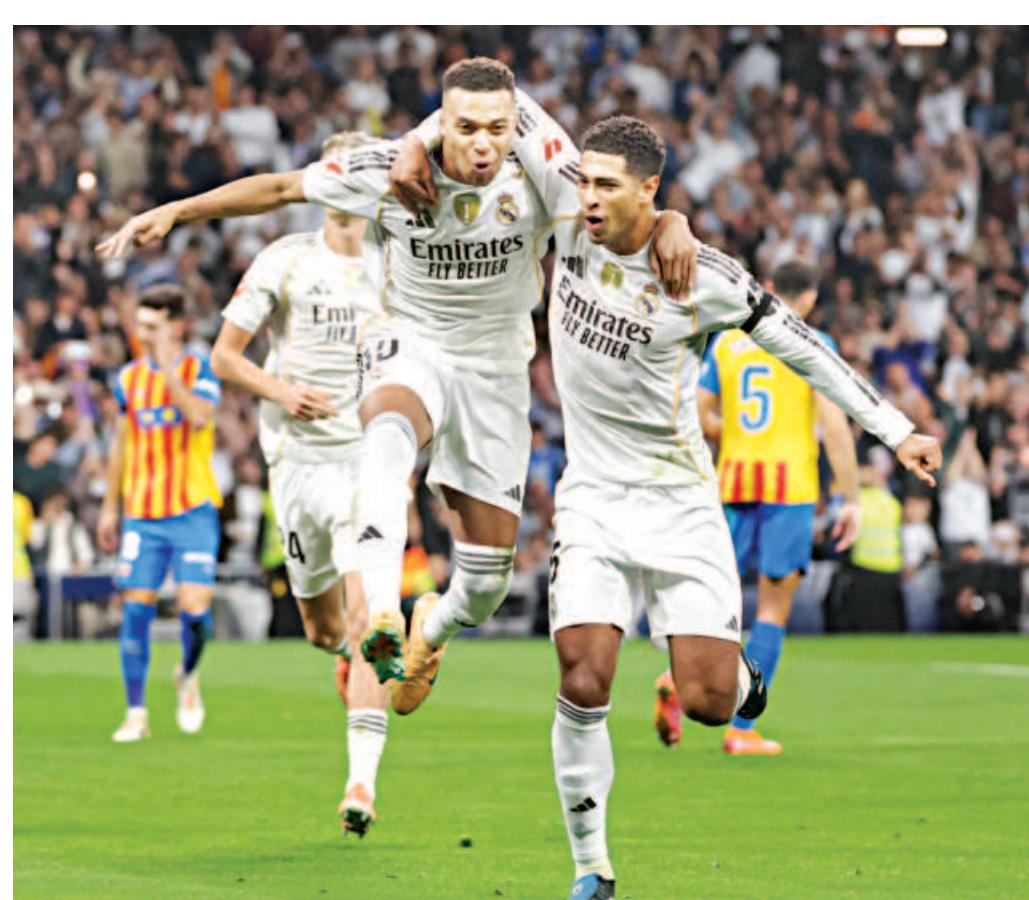
Salah's strike eased the tension around Anfield, which had grown after a sequence of six defeats in seven matches across all competitions. Ryan Gravenberch sealed the win midway through the second half, his shot from the edge of the box taking a deflection off Pau Torres to beat Martínez and make it 2-0.

"It's very important," Salah told TNT Sports after the match. "We had a few losses in the Premier League and Champions League, but I'm glad we're starting to come back on track. It's a big plus before very important games against Madrid and City."



The victory lifted Arne Slot's side to third in the Premier League table, seven points behind leaders Arsenal. For Slot, under increasing pressure after a string of poor results, this performance was a much-needed display of resilience and unity. "Everybody here felt the importance of the game -- the players and the fans," the Dutch manager said. "We showed we're still fighting."

Virgil van Dijk echoed those sentiments, praising his teammates' character after a difficult spell. "We're not out there to lose games. We want to work our socks off and



Kylian Mbappe netted twice as Real Madrid eased to a 4-0 victory over struggling Valencia on Saturday, with Jude Bellingham and Alvaro Carreras also scoring to help the LaLiga leaders claim their 13th win from 14 matches in all competitions this season. The win extended Real Madrid's lead at the top to 30 points, seven clear of Villarreal and eight ahead of Barcelona.

PHOTO: AFP

BCB drops three companies from BPL franchise race

SPORTS REPORTER

Having received expressions of interest (EOI) from eleven companies for Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) franchises for the next five years, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will move forward with eight, while three have been left out following the first stage of screening.

SQ Sports Enterprise (Chittagong Kings), Mindtree (Khulna Tigers), and BANGLAMARK (Noakhali) were disqualified for non-compliance in the EOI process due to missing paperwork, BPL governing council's member secretary Iltekar Rahman Mithu informed the media yesterday.

Alongside Rangpur Riders, franchises representing Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Sylhet are ahead in the race for final selection, while discussions continue regarding Cumilla, Khulna, and Barishal. A Chittagong franchise also remains part of BCB's plans.

Chittagong Kings had obtained a High Court injunction, but BCB filed a civil petition and secured a stay order yesterday. "You know they defaulted, and due to their payment default, they were terminated," Mithu said.

Meanwhile, BCB will hold a board meeting today to discuss improvements to the Mirpur Academy Ground and possible inclusion of a new BPL venue. The meeting will also review the national team's performance, with cricket operations set to be a key discussion point for improving policies and processes.

SHORT CORNER

Manon, Fahad eliminated from Chess World Cup

Bangladesh's International Masters Manon Reza Neer and Fahad Rahman were eliminated from the first round of the ongoing FIDE World Chess Cup 2025 in India on Sunday after contrasting results in their second games.

Babar's sweep of change

Babar Azam played a match-winning 47-ball 68 to guide Pakistan to a convincing win over South Africa in Lahore on Saturday, sealing the three-match T20I series 2-1. For the calibre that Babar possesses, this particular innings may not stand out based on numbers alone. However, current Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha noticed something different in this knock.

Messi on course for 900 faster than Ronaldo

Lionel Messi scored a left-footed curler in the 90th minute, but Inter Miami fell to a 2-1 loss to Nashville SC on Saturday. This was Messi's 892nd goal in 1,132 appearances, as he looks set to reach the 900-mark faster than Cristiano Ronaldo, who took 1,236 games.

Williamson retires from T20Is

Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson announced his retirement from T20Is on Sunday, but he will play for the Black Caps in the Test series against the West Indies. The 35-year-old batter has played 93 T20s for his country since making his debut against Zimbabwe in 2011, captaining the side on 75 occasions and leading them to the World Cup final in 2021 and semifinals in 2016 and 2022.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

