

BNP banks on a blend of old and new faces

Announces a list of 237 potential candidates; Fakhrul hints at some changes after talks with allies

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP yesterday unveiled a list of potential candidates for 237 constituencies, including three for its chairperson Khaleda Zia and one for acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

Khaleda will contest from Bogura-7, Dinaipur-3, and Feni-1, while Tarique will run from Bogura-6 (Sadar), his ancestral constituency and a seat once held by his mother.

Although he has played a key role in devising the party's political strategy and election plans for nearly two decades, this will be Tarique's first time contesting an election.

Bogura, the birthplace of late president Ziaur Rahman, has been a BNP stronghold since the party's founding. Khaleda has repeatedly contested from the district -- first from Bogura-7 (Gabtali and Shahjahanpur) in 1991, and later from Bogura-6 (Sadar) since June 1996. She won both times. The three-time former prime minister was born and brought up in Dinaipur, while Feni is her ancestral home.



The construction of the six-lane TT Para underpass near the Kamalapur Railway Station has been completed and is awaiting inauguration. Once opened, this infrastructure will enable vehicles to pass smoothly beneath the railway lines, eliminating the risk of collision and ensuring uninterrupted train movement overhead. The underpass has been constructed as part of the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JULY CHARTER, REFERENDUM DISPUTE

Resolve differences, preferably in 7 days

Govt asks political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid the raging dispute over the referendum and the July charter implementation order, the interim government has called on political parties to settle their differences and reach a unified decision as soon as possible, preferably within a week.

Law Adviser Professor Asif Nazrul made the call at a press conference following an emergency meeting of the advisory council, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his Tejgaon office yesterday.

According to Asif Nazrul, the meeting discussed finalising the July charter implementation order as well as the date and content of the referendum.

The council noted that despite prolonged discussions between the consensus commission and political parties, disagreements remain over several reform recommendations, the timing and subject matter of the referendum, and amendments to the Representation of the People Order.

BNP wants the referendum on the July charter on the election day, while Jamaat wants it to be held by November.

Also, the government is considering stepping back from an amendment to the RPO that it approved recently.

The amendment, endorsed at an advisory

“Anti-fascist political parties have been in dialogue over the past 15 years, reaching numerous decisions and standing united through difficult times. The government now expects these parties to hold discussions and present a unified decision.”

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul

council meeting on October 23, made it mandatory for each party in an alliance to contest the polls with its own symbol instead of a common one. If reversed, it would allow parties in an alliance to use a common symbol in the election.

While the BNP supports the government's move to undo the amendment, Jamaat-e-Islami, the NCP, and Khelafat Majlish oppose it, saying it would unfairly benefit a particular political party.

In light of these issues, Asif Nazrul said

Bangladeshis getting tricked into Russia's war

BRAC report reveals

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A growing number of Bangladeshis are being tricked into travelling to Russia under the guise of legal migration, only to be forced into fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war, according to a new investigation by the BRAC Migration Programme.

The report titled “Promises Written in Blood: How Legal Migration Turned into Forced Recruitment in the Russia-Ukraine War,” is based on survivor accounts and family testimonies. It details how at least 10 Bangladeshi men, lured by promises of secure jobs and decent pay, ended up in combat zones. Some of them are feared dead.

According to the report, the men travelled to Russia with valid work visas, believing they had secured well-paying jobs in oil, construction, or logistics. Instead, upon arrival, their passports were confiscated, and they were coerced into auxiliary combat units and sent to military camps near the front lines.

The report urged immediate, coordinated action by the government and international actors, warning that “untrained foreign labourers are being used as expendable manpower”.

BRAC found that the victims followed proper migration procedures -- obtaining authentic work visas, departing from recognised airports,

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- 63 seats kept for partners or undecided nominees
- 83 nominees never contested national polls
- 10 women, 4 members of minority communities picked
- BNP didn't disclose any candidate for all three Bagerhat seats

Tarique is expected to return after 17 years in exile in London, where he lived with his wife, Zubaida Rahman, and daughter, Zaima Rahman.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who is contesting the upcoming polls from Thakurgaon-1, read out the list following a meeting of the party's standing committee at the chairperson's Gulshan office.

The party kept 63 seats vacant -- some for allies and some because it could not finalise candidates there. During the 2018 election, the BNP had reserved 22 seats for its alliance partners.

The published list shows that 83 of the nominees have never contested a national election before. Among them are Abdul Awal Mintoo, Zahid Hossain, Ishraque Hossain, Sanjida Islam, JCD leader Kazi Rawnakul Islam, and Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas.

“This is our list of possible appropriate candidates. For those who have been with us in the simultaneous movement, we haven't nominated anyone in the constituencies they're interested in. We hope they'll announce their candidates soon, and then we will finalise our list.

“It may change, especially after discussions with the parties that joined

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Photo: Sazid Hossain, Prothom Alo

BNP’s potential nominees for polls

Total Seats – 300
Candidates declared – 237
Vacant – 63
Panchagarh-1 – Barrister Mohammad Nawshad Zamir
Panchagarh-2 – Forhad Hossain Azad
Thakurgaon-1 – Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir
Thakurgaon-2 – (Vacant)
Thakurgaon-3 – Md Zahidur Rahman Zahid
Dinajpur-1 – Md Monjurul Islam
Dinajpur-2 – Md Sadik Riaz
Dinajpur-3 – Khaleda Zia
Dinajpur-4 – Md Akhtaruzzaman Mia
Dinajpur-5 – (Vacant)
Dinajpur-6 – Prof AZM Zahid Hossain
Nilphamari-1 – (Vacant)
Nilphamari-2 – AH Md Saifullah Rubel
Nilphamari-3 – (Vacant)
Nilphamari-4 – Md Abdul Gafur Sarkar
Lalmonirhat-1 – Md Hasan Rajib Prodhان
Lalmonirhat-2 – (Vacant)
Lalmonirhat-3 – Asadul Habib Dulu
Rangpur-1 – Md Mokarram Hossain Sujan
Rangpur-2 – Mohammad Ali Sarkar
Rangpur-3 – Md Samsuzzaman Samu
Rangpur-4 – Mohammad Emdadul Haque Bhorosa
Rangpur-5 – Md Golam Rabbani
Rangpur-6 – Md Saiful Islam
Kurigram-1 – Saiful Islam Rana
Kurigram-2 – Md Sohul Hossain Kaykobad
Kurigram-3 – Tajvir UI Islam
Kurigram-4 – Md Azizur Rahman
Gaibandha-1 – Khandaker Ziaul Islam Mohammad Ali
Gaibandha-2 – Md Anisuzzaman Khan Babu
Gaibandha-3 – Prof Dr Syed Moinul Hasan Sadik
Gaibandha-4 – Mohammad Shamim Kaysar
Gaibandha-5 – Md Faruk Alam Sarkar
Joypurhat-1 – Md Masud Rana Prodhان
Joypurhat-2 – Abdul Bari Bogura-1 – Kazi Rafiqul Islam
Bogura-2 – (Vacant)
Bogura-3 – Abdul Muhit Talukdar
Bogura-4 – Md Mosharof Hossain
Bogura-5 – Golam Mohammad Siraj
Bogura-6 – Tarique Rahman
Bogura-7 – Khaleda Zia
Chapainawabganj-1 – Md Sajahjahan Mia
Chapainawabganj-2 – Md Aminul Islam
Chapainawabganj-3 – Md Harunur Rashid

Naogaon-1 – Md Mostafizur Rahman
Naogaon-2 – Md Samsuzzoha Khan
Naogaon-3 – Md Fazle Huda Babul
Naogaon-4 – Ikramul Bari Tipu
Naogaon-5 – (Vacant)
Naogaon-6 – Sheikh Md Rezaul Islam
Rajshahi-1 – Md Sharif Uddin
Rajshahi-2 – Md Mizanur Rahman Minu
Rajshahi-3 – Mohammad Shofiqul Haque Milon
Rajshahi-4 – DMD Ziaur Rahman
Rajshahi-5 – Prof Nazrul Islam
Rajshahi-6 – Abu Sayed Chad
Natore-1 – Farzana Sharmin
Natore-2 – Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu
Natore-3 – (Vacant)
Natore-4 – Md Abdul Aziz
Sirajganj-1 – (Vacant)
Sirajganj-2 – Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku
Sirajganj-3 – VP Aynul Haque
Sirajganj-4 – M Akbor Ali
Sirajganj-5 – Md Amirul Islam Khan
Sirajganj-6 – MA Muhit Pabna-1 – (Vacant)
Pabna-2 – AKM Selim Reza Habib
Pabna-3 – Md Hasan Zafir Tuhin
Pabna-4 – Habibur Rahman Habib
Pabna-5 – Md Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas
Meherpur-1 – Masud Arun
Meherpur-2 – Md Amzad Hossain
Kushtia-1 – Reza Ahmed
Kushtia-2 – Ragib Rauf Chowdhury
Kushtia-3 – Md Zakir Hossain Sarkar
Kushtia-4 – Syed Mehdi Ahmed Rumi
Chuadanga-1 – Md Sharifuzzaman
Chuadanga-2 – Mahmud Hasan Khan
Jhenaidah-1 – (Vacant)
Jhenaidah-2 – (Vacant)
Jhenaidah-3 – Mohammad Mehedi Hasan
Jhenaidah-4 – (Vacant)
Jashore-1 – Md Mofiqul Hasan Tripti
Jashore-2 – Mosammat Sabira Sultana
Jashore-3 – Onindya Islam Amit
Jashore-4 – TS Ayub
Jashore-5 – (Vacant)
Jashore-6 – Kazi Rawnakul Islam
Magura-1 – Md Monowar Hossain
Magura-2 – Nitai Roy Chowdhury
Narail-1 – Biswas Jahangir Alam
Narail-2 – (Vacant)
Bagerhat-1 – (Vacant)
Bagerhat-2 – (Vacant)

Bagerhat-3 – (Vacant)
Khulna-1 – (Vacant)
Khulna-2 – Nazrul Islam Monju
Khulna-3 – Rokibul Islam Bokul
Khulna-4 – Azizul Bari Helal
Khulna-5 – Mohammad Ali Asgor
Khulna-6 – Monirul Hasan Bappi
Satkhira-1 – Md Habibul Islam Habib
Satkhira-2 – Abdur Rouf
Satkhira-3 – Kazi Alauddin
Satkhira-4 – Md Moniruzzaman
Barguna-1 – Md Nazrul Islam Molla
Barguna-2 – Nurul Islam Moni
Patuakhali-1 – Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury
Patuakhali-2 – (Vacant)
Patuakhali-3 – (Vacant)
Patuakhali-4 – ABM Mosharraf Hossain
Bhola-1 – Golam Nabi Alamgir
Bhola-2 – Md Hafiz Ibrahim
Bhola-3 – Major (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikrom
Bhola-4 – Md Nurul Islam Nayan
Barishal-1 – Zahir Uddin Swapan
Barishal-2 – Sardar Sarfuddin Ahmed Santu
Barishal-3 – (Vacant)
Barishal-4 – Md Rajib Ahsan
Barishal-5 – Md Mojibor Rahman Sorwar
Barishal-6 – Abul Hossain Khan
Jhalakathi-1 – (Vacant)
Jhalakathi-2 – Israt Sultana Elen Bhutto
Pirojpur-1 – (Vacant)
Pirojpur-2 – Ahmed Soheli Monjur
Pirojpur-3 – Md Ruhul Amin Dulal
Tangail-1 – Fakir Mahbub Anam Swapan
Tangail-2 – Abdus Salam Pintu
Tangail-3 – SM Obaydul Haque Nasir
Tangail-4 – Md Lutfor Rahman Motin
Tangail-5 – (Vacant)
Tangail-6 – Md Rabiul Awal Lablu
Tangail-7 – Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui
Tangail-8 – Ahmed Azam Khan
Jamalpur-1 – M Rashiduzzaman Millat
Jamalpur-2 – AE Sultan Mahmud Babu
Jamalpur-3 – Md Mustafizur Rahman Babul
Jamalpur-4 – Md Faridul Kabir Talukdar Shamim
Jamalpur-5 – Shah Md Wares Ali Mamun
Sherpur-1 – Sansila Zebrin
Sherpur-2 – Mohammad Fahim Chowdhury
Sherpur-3 – Md Mahmudul Haque Rubel
Mymensingh-1 – Syed Emran Saleh
Mymensingh-2 – Motaher Hossain Talukdar

Mymensingh-3 – M Iqbal Hossain
Mymensingh-4 – Postponed
Mymensingh-5 – Mohammad Jakir Hossain
Mymensingh-6 – Md Akhtarul Alam
Mymensingh-7 – Dr Md Mahbubur Rahman
Mymensingh-8 – Lutfullahel Mazed
Mymensingh-9 – Yaser Khan Chowdhury
Mymensingh-10 – (Vacant)
Mymensingh-11 – Fakor Uddin Ahmed
Netrakona-1 – Barrister Kaysar Kamal
Netrakona-2 – Md Anwarul Haque
Netrakona-3 – Rafiqul Islam Hilali
Netrakona-4 – Md Lutfozzaman Babor
Netrakona-5 – Md Abu Taher Talukdar
Kishoreganj-1 – (Vacant)
Kishoreganj-2 – Advocate Md Jalal Uddin
Kishoreganj-3 – Dr Osman Faruk
Kishoreganj-4 – Md Fazlur Rahman
Kishoreganj-5 – (Vacant)
Kishoreganj-6 – Md Shariful Alam
Manikganj-1 – (Vacant)
Manikganj-2 – Moinul Islam Khan
Manikganj-3 – Afroza Khan Rita

Munshiganj-1 – Sheikh Md Abdullah
Munshiganj-2 – Mizanur Rahman Sinha
Munshiganj-3 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-1 – Khandaker Abu Ashraf
Dhaka-2 – Aman Ullah Aman
Dhaka-3 – Gayeshwar Chandra Roy
Dhaka-4 – Tanvir Ahmed Robin
Dhaka-5 – Nabi Ullah Nabi
Dhaka-6 – Ishraque Hossain
Dhaka-7 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-8 – Mirza Abbas Uddin Ahmed
Dhaka-9 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-10 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-11 – M A Kaiyum
Dhaka-12 – Saiful Alam Nirob
Dhaka-13 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-14 – Sanjida Islam Tuli
Dhaka-15 – Md Shafiqul Islam Khan
Dhaka-16 – Aminul Haque
Dhaka-17 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-18 – (Vacant)
Dhaka-19 – Dr Devan Md Salahuddin
Dhaka-20 – Vacant
Gazipur-1 – (Vacant)
Gazipur-2 – M Monjurul Karim Roni
Gazipur-3 – Prof Dr SM Rafiqul Islam Bachchu
Gazipur-4 – Shah Riazul Hannan
Gazipur-5 – Fazlul Haque Milon
Gazipur-6 – (Vacant)
Narsingdi-1 – Khairul Kabir Khokon

Narsingdi-2 – Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan
Narsingdi-3 – (Vacant)
Narsingdi-4 – Sardar Md Sakawat Hossain
Narsingdi-5 – Engr Md Ashraf Uddin Bokul
Narayanganj-1 – Mostafizur Rahman Bhuiya Dipu
Narayanganj-2 – Nazrul Islam Azad
Narayanganj-3 – Md Azharul Islam Mannan
Narayanganj-4 – (Vacant)
Narayanganj-5 – Md Masuduzzaman Rajbari-1 – Ali Newaz Mahmud Khaiyom
Rajbari-2 – (Vacant)
Faridpur-1 – (Vacant)
Faridpur-2 – Shyama Obaid Islam
Faridpur-3 – Nayab Yusuf Ahmed
Faridpur-4 – Shahidul Islam Babul
Gopalganj-1 – Md Selimuzzaman Molla
Gopalganj-2 – Dr KM Babar Ali
Gopalganj-3 – SM Jilani
Madaripur-1 – Kamal Zaman Molla
Madaripur-2 – (Vacant)
Madaripur-3 – Anisur Rahman Shariatpur-1 – Sayed Ahmed Aslam
Shariatpur-2 – Md. Shafiqur Rahman Kiron
Shariatpur-3 – Mian Nuruuddin Ahmed Apu
Sunamganj-1 – Anisul Haque
Sunamganj-2 – (Vacant)
Sunamganj-3 – Mohammad Koyesor Ahmed
Sunamganj-4 – (Vacant)
Sunamganj-5 – Kolim Uddin Milon
Sylhet-1 – Khandaker Abdul Moktadir Chowdhury
Sylhet-2 – Mosammat Tahsina Rushdir
Sylhet-3 – Mohammad Abdul Malik
Sylhet-4 – (Vacant)
Sylhet-5 – (Vacant)
Sylhet-6 – Emran Ahmed Chowdhury
Moulvibazar-1 – Nasir Uddin Ahmed Mithu
Moulvibazar-2 – Sawkat Hossain Soku
Moulvibazar-3 – Naser Rahman
Moulvibazar-4 – Md. Mujibor Rahman Chowdhury
Habiganj-1 – (Vacant)
Habiganj-2 – Abu Monsur Sakawat Hasan Jibon
Habiganj-3 – Md G K Gaus
Habiganj-4 – SM Faysal Brahmanbaria-1 – M A Hannan
Brahmanbaria-2 – (Vacant)
Brahmanbaria-3 – Md Khaled Hossain Mahbub
Brahmanbaria-4 – Mushfiqur Rahman
Brahmanbaria-5 – Md Abdul Mannan
Brahmanbaria-6 – (Vacant)

Cumilla-1 – Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain
Cumilla-2 – (Vacant)
Cumilla-3 – Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaykobad
Cumilla-4 – Monjurul Ahsan Munshi
Cumilla-5 – Md Jasim Uddin
Cumilla-6 – Md. Monirul Haque Chowdhury
Cumilla-7 – (Vacant)
Cumilla-8 – Zakaria Taher
Cumilla-9 – Md Abul Kalam
Cumilla-10 – Md Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan
Cumilla-11 – Md Kamrul Huda
Chandpur-1 – ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon
Chandpur-2 – Md Jalal Uddin
Chandpur-3 – Sheikh Farid Ahmed
Chandpur-4 – Md Harunur Rashid
Chandpur-5 – Md Mominul Haque
Feni-1 – Khaleda Zia
Feni-2 – Joyнал Abedin
Feni-3 – Abdul Awal Mintoo
Noakhali-1 – AM Mahbub Uddin
Noakhali-2 – Joyнал Abedin Faruk
Noakhali-3 – Md Barkat Ullah Bulu
Noakhali-4 – Md Shahjahan
Noakhali-5 – Mohammad Fakhrul Islam
Noakhali-6 – Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Shamim
Lakshmipur-1 – (Vacant)
Lakshmipur-2 – Md Abul Khair Bhuiyan
Lakshmipur-3 – Md Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie
Lakshmipur-4 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-1 – Nurul Amin (Chairman)
Chattogram-2 – Sarwar Alamgir
Chattogram-3 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-4 – Kazi Salahuddin
Chattogram-5 – Mir Mohammad Helal Uddin
Chattogram-6 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-7 – Hummam Quader Chowdhury
Chattogram-8 – Ershad Ullah
Chattogram-9 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-10 – Amir Khosrou Mahmud Chowdhury
Chattogram-11 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-12 – Mohammad Enamul Haque
Chattogram-13 – Sarwar Jamal Nizam
Chattogram-14 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-15 – (Vacant)
Chattogram-16 – Mishkatul Islam Chowdhury Pappa
Cox's Bazar-1 – Salahuddin Ahmed
Cox's Bazar-2 – (Vacant)
Cox's Bazar-3 – Lutfur Rahman Kajol
Cox's Bazar-4 – Shahjahan Chowdhury
Khagrachhari – Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan
Rangamati – Dipen Dewan
Bandarban – Saching Pru

BNP banks on a blend of old

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the simultaneous movement.”

According to the list, the BNP has largely relied on senior leaders and, in many cases, chosen successors of veteran figures. New faces have been included to attract young voters.

Several former and current top leaders of the Jubo Dal, Swechchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal have also been nominated.

BNP named Swechchhasebak Dal President SM Jilani for Gopalganj-3, a constituency traditionally contested by Awami League President and ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina. She had been an eight-time lawmaker from the constituency comprising Kotlipara and Tungipara – her ancestral home.

A standing committee member said the list of potential candidates was finalised considering factors such as popularity and a balance between youth and senior leaders.

After the list was announced, rallies featuring the party's electoral symbol were held in different parts of the country. Protests also broke out in several constituencies, including Madaripur, Chattogram, Kushtia and Meherpur, against the announced nominees.

To prepare the list, Tarique directed a team to conduct at least five surveys in each constituency over the past few months. He gathered inputs from them and – either personally or through standing committee members – spoke with potential candidates to resolve issues in constituencies facing internal feuds.

At a five-hour-long meeting at the Gulshan office yesterday, joined virtually by Tarique, the standing committee members spoke to divisional secretaries and distributed the list of possible candidates among them.

The secretaries gave their seat-by-seat feedback, while the members reviewed and debated potential candidates for 260 constituencies. However, as they could not reach a consensus on 23 of them, they announced a list of 237 candidates for now, party sources said.

Four candidates picked from minority communities are Gayeshwar Chandra Roy for Dhaka-3, Nitai Roy Chowdhury for Magura-2, Saching Prue Jerry for Bandarban, and Dipen Dewan for Rangamati.

Ten women have been nominated, including Khaleda Zia, Farzana Sharmin (Natore-1), Sabira Sultana (Jashore-2), Sansila Zebrin (Sherpur-1), Israt Sultana Elen Bhutto (Jhalakathi-2), Afroza Khan Rita (Manikganj-3), Sanjida Islam Tuli (Dhaka-14), Shama Obayed Islam (Faridpur-2), Tahsina Rushdir (Sylhet-2), and Nayab Yusuf (Faridpur-3).

Currently, there are 50 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad. Under the Representation of the People Order, political parties must nominate at least five percent women candidates in direct elections, while the Election Commission requires 33 percent female representation in party committees.

Nine of the BNP's 12 standing committee members have received nominations. They are Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain (Cumilla-1), Mirza Abbas (Dhaka-8), Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Moyeen Khan (Narsingdi-2), Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury (Chattogram-10), Salahuddin Ahmed (Cox's Bazar-1), Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku (Sirajganj-2), Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (Bhola-3), and AZM Zahid Hossain (Dinajpur-6).

Selima Rahman, Nazrul Islam Khan, and Jamiruddin Sircar were not nominated.

Seven of the BNP's 19 vice-chairmen were nominated – Altaf Hossain Chowdhury (Patuakhali-1), Barkat Ullah Bulu (Noakhali-3), Mohammad Shahjahan (Noakhali-4), Abdul Awal Mintoo (Feni-3), Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad (Cumilla-3), and Ahmed Azam Khan (Tangail-8).

At the same time, 20 of the party chairperson's advisers and three joint secretaries general were also on the party ticket.

Adviser to BNP chairperson Khandaker Abdul Moktadir was named for Sylhet-1, which has always

been the general election bellwether for parties. Every party that had won this constituency since the restoration of democracy in 1991 went on to form the government.

BNP Joint Secretary General Khairul Kabir Khokon was nominated from Narsingdi-1.

Hummam Quader Chowdhury, son of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, has been nominated from Chattogram-7, while Ishraque Hossain, son of former Dhaka mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, will contest from Dhaka-6. BNP Legal Affairs Secretary Kayser Kamal has been nominated from Netrokona-1.

Several senior party leaders and their family members have been excluded from the list.

Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Joint Secretary General Habib-un-Nabi Soheli, and newly appointed Joint Secretary General Humayun Kabir did not receive nominations.

BNP chairperson's advisers Abdus Salam, Moyazzem Hossain Alal and Aminur Rashid Yasin, and Vice Chairman Asaduzzaman Ripon were also left out.

Former reserved seat lawmaker Rumeen Farhana, who was widely discussed as a potential candidate, has not been included yet.

BNP International Affairs Secretary Nasir Uddin Asim, who earlier contested from Dhaka-10, and Robiul Islam Robi, who also ran from the same seat, were not on the list as well.

Party sources said the BNP decided not to nominate over one person from the same family. As a result, Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed's wife Hasina Ahmed, Mirza Abbas's wife Afroza Abbas, and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku's wife and former lawmaker Rumana Mahmud were not nominated.

However, in constituencies where senior leaders have passed away, their sons or wives have been nominated to contest in their place, the sources added.

Bagerhat is the only district with three constituencies in which the BNP has not yet announced any candidates.

Bangladeshis getting tricked

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and carrying legitimate contracts.

However, once in Russia, their passports and phones were seized “for processing,” and they were forced to sign “voluntary service agreements” before being transported to undisclosed military sites.

Illegal trafficking also occurs. Recruiting agents here, under the pretext of high-paying jobs, send people to Russia, and hand them over to intermediaries who give them to the military as forced labourers or combatants.

The exact number of Bangladeshis involved in Russia's war is unknown. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) estimates that around 2,000 people have travelled to Russia with work visas in recent years, alongside others who went as students or for other purposes. BRAC believes hundreds may now be in the conflict zones.

Among the deceived was Afzal Hossain Meraj, who went to Russia in August 2023 to work as a welder with a salary of Tk 70,000. He had paid Tk 6.5 lakh to a recruiting agency in Uttara, including training fees.

After four months, a broker in Russia offered him a “better opportunity”, to enlist with a Tk 26 lakh signing bonus and Tk 3.3 lakh monthly pay. Other perks included Tk 15 lakh injury compensation, and possible citizenship if Russia won the war.

Tempted, Meraj agreed, only to have his passport seized and sent to the front lines.

“We were lost and helpless when my son called me secretly on WhatsApp and IMO from the war zone. He said he could be killed at any time,” said Mera's father, Ali Hossain.

Meraj witnessed two other Bangladeshis get killed in combat.

He got shot in the thigh in June, fled a hospital, and reached the Bangladesh embassy in Moscow,

which arranged his return in September.

“Yes, we got some money, but they sent my son to a war zone with false promises,” Ali said. “Life is more important than money.”

According to a source, recruiters lure Bangladeshis by promising they will continue doing the same jobs they were doing, just near the front line. However, after signing the contract, they are forced to take part in the war.

Not everyone was as fortunate.

Ayan Mondol from Bagerhat last contacted his family months ago, saying he was being moved toward the Ukrainian border; he is believed to have been killed in a drone strike.

Amit Barua from Cumilla was photographed wearing a Russian military uniform. He remains missing.

Mohsin Ahmed from Gafargaon, Mymensingh, also went to Russia for a welding job but was forced into the army.

The Daily Star contacted his brother, Mahfuz Ahmed. He said Mohsin was injured in a drone attack and was treated for three days and sent back to the battlefield.

On April 21, his family submitted an appeal to the foreign ministry, seeking assistance.

Mahfuz said many other Bangladeshis are still on the front lines. “It's uncertain whether my brother will be able to return. We haven't had any contact with him for months.”

He added that Russian authorities tightened surveillance after some Bangladeshi workers managed to return with travel passes.

The BRAC report said it has submitted rescue applications for victims to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed case files to the CID for investigation. It is also providing legal and psychosocial support to families.

The report warned that this

exposes “major weaknesses in Bangladesh's migration management system”. Without stronger oversight, legal migration routes could be exploited for trafficking and coercion, threatening the country's international reputation and future labour agreements.

Coordination between organisations and the foreign ministry remains reactive rather than preventive, it added.

Mostafizur Rahman, additional superintendent (Trafficking in Human Being) of CID, said six cases have been filed over trafficking to Russia. “Alongside legal migration, people have also been sent illegally and ended up in war zones,” he said.

“We found that at least 10 Bangladeshis were sent illegally over the last two years. Only two have returned; one remains in contact, and seven others – four to five of whom are suspected dead – are missing.”

He said, “We suspect over 30 Bangladeshis were killed in the war.”

He noted that no bodies have yet been repatriated but added that forced recruitment “almost stopped after June this year”.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC Migration Programme, said, “We still do not know how many Bangladeshis are stuck in Russia or how many have been killed. Reports of deaths keep coming from multiple sources.”

He also expressed concern that a Bangladeshi youth, using a verified Facebook account under the name Md Soheli, is encouraging others to join the Russian war effort. “Despite this, no visible action has been taken by authorities to raise awareness,” he said.

Shariful urged the government to conduct a nationwide survey to identify the missing and launch a strong awareness campaign. “If we don't act now, the cost will be more human lives.”

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Bangladesh now stands at a very critical moment. Which direction we will move towards as a nation and as a country and how we will walk along the path of democracy -- these things depend on the next election.

AMM NASIR UDDIN
Chief Election Commissioner after inspecting a training programme of Ansar-VDP members



Rusha affectionately gathers her friend Marufa's hair to tie it into a ponytail on their way to school. The simple gesture reflects the warmth of childhood friendship. The photo was taken in Jhalakathi of Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Primary schools not getting music and PE teachers Govt withdraws plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has withdrawn its plan to create posts for music and physical education (PE) teachers in government primary schools, weeks after several religion-based organisations opposed the move.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued a revised gazette on Sunday, amending the Government Primary School Teachers Recruitment Rules 2025.

The amended version dropped the two new teaching positions that had been included in the earlier gazette published on August 28.

Masud Akhtar Khan, additional secretary of the ministry's School Division, said, "A revised gazette has been issued. While the earlier version listed four categories of teachers, the new one includes only two. The posts of assistant teachers for music and physical education are no longer included."

He, however, declined to comment on whether the decision came under pressure from any particular group, saying, "Please speak to the higher authorities about that."

The earlier gazette had introduced two new assistant teacher categories -- one for music and another for physical education -- alongside the existing assistant teacher posts.

Educationalists had initially welcomed the move, calling it a long-overdue step towards encouraging creativity and well-rounded learning at the primary level.

However, the plan quickly drew strong criticism from several Islamist organisations, including Helafat e-Islam, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jamaat e-Islami, Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, that demanded its cancellation.



Candidate list 'disappointing and full of godfathers' Says Patwary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary yesterday said BNP's announced list of candidates for the upcoming national election is "disappointing" and "most of them are godfathers".

"We had expected that after the mass uprising, BNP would nominate some good candidates. But it seems they have tactically sidelined the young members of the Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal. We welcome those young leaders to join our party," he said at a press briefing at the party office in Banglamotor.

"NCP had learned that Tarique Rahman might return soon. We want to sit together and resolve issues through discussion." He lauded Khaleda Zia for securing nominations in three constituencies and described her as a "symbol of democracy".

Patwary also voiced support for Prof Muhammad Yunus. "Dr Yunus is being intimidated -- sometimes by BNP, sometimes by Jamaat. I want to tell the chief adviser: If you are afraid, we are here. We fear no one -- not BNP, not Jamaat."

DHAKA CONSTITUENCIES

BNP nominates 13, keeps 7 seats open

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has prioritised a combination of old guards and new faces while nominating candidates for the Dhaka constituencies in the upcoming 13th national election.

The party yesterday announced its probable candidates for 13 of the 20 constituencies in Dhaka. It has yet to announce candidates for Dhaka 7, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18 and 20.

BNP sources said these seats are either being kept for possible alliance partners or are under further consideration.

Among the alliance candidates, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleeb Rahman Partho is expected to contest from Dhaka-17, the same seat he ran for in 2018.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajjaj has reportedly received BNP's approval to contest from Dhaka-13.

In Dhaka-1, Khandakar Abu Ashfaq, president of Dhaka district BNP, has been nominated. He also contested the 2018 election from the same seat.

In Dhaka-2, former state minister Aman Ullah Aman has been selected. His son, Irfan Ibne Aman, was the BNP candidate in 2018.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a BNP standing committee member, will contest from Dhaka-3, as he did in 2018.

Tanvir Ahmed Rabin, member secretary of Dhaka City South BNP and son of former MP Salahuddin Ahmed,

has been nominated for Dhaka-4. Salahuddin contested the seat in 2018.

Nabi Ullah Nabi has been nominated for Dhaka-5, a seat he also contested in 2018.

Ishraq Hossain, son of late Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, has been chosen for Dhaka-6.

In 2018, Gano Forum leader Subrata Chowdhury contested this seat as an alliance candidate.

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas will again contest from Dhaka-8, where he also ran in 2018.

In Dhaka-11, MA Quaiyum, founding president of Dhaka City North BNP, has been nominated. His wife, Shamim Ara Begum, contested the seat in 2018.

Former Dhaka City North BNP president Saiful Alam Nirob has been nominated for Dhaka-12. He also ran in 2018 with BNP's ticket.

In Dhaka-14, Sanjida Islam Tuli, coordinator of Mayer Daak, a platform for families of victims of enforced disappearance, has received the primary nomination.

In 2018, Syed Abu Bakar Siddique, son of former BNP lawmaker SA Khaleq, contested the seat from BNP.

For Dhaka-15, Shafiqul Islam Khan, former acting general secretary of Jubo Dal, has been nominated. In 2018, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Md Shafiqur Rahman contested this seat as an alliance candidate.

Aminul Haque, convener of Dhaka



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Five more die of dengue, 1,147 get hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

The dengue crisis continues to worsen as five more patients died and 1,147 were admitted to hospitals across the country in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning.

With the latest fatalities, the total number of deaths from the mosquito-borne disease has risen to 288 this year, according to the DGHS.

Three of the new deaths were reported in Dhaka division (outside city corporations), and one each in DNCC and Rajshahi.

During this period, 1,147 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, bringing the total number of cases to 72,822 so far this year.

Currently, 1,076 patients are receiving treatment in Dhaka, while a total of 3,082 patients is undergoing treatment at hospitals across the country.

HC stays circular to recruit Dhaka Wasa MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the effectiveness of a notification issued for appointing the managing director of Dhaka Wasa on a contractual basis for a period of three years.

The bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Fatema Anwar issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Md Liakot Ali challenging its legality. The member secretary of the Financial Management Assistance Committee on August 14 issued the circular for appointing the MD.

In the petition, Liakot said only the board of directors of Dhaka Wasa is entitled to appoint its MD in accordance with the Dhaka Wasa Authority Act, 1996.

MEDICERAM IN MALAYSIA

190 Bangladeshis fired for protesting exploitation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Malaysian gloves manufacturer has terminated 190 Bangladeshi workers for protesting against exploitative practices, including the non-renewal of their visas.

The migrant workers at the Kuala Lumpur-based company Mediceram told The Daily Star yesterday that the management handed termination letters to all Bangladeshi employees on October 31 and has begun cancelling their visas to deport them.

"I heard visas of six Bangladeshis have already been cancelled and the company will do the same for others," said one worker.

We also went to the Malaysian labour court and immigration department with a legal counsellor, but we were told that we cannot file any complaint.

A SACKED WORKER

"We also went to the Malaysian labour court and immigration department with a legal counsellor, but we were told that we cannot file any complaint," the worker said.

Over the past two years, since 2023, Mediceram workers have gone on strike multiple times, demanding payment of unpaid wages and recruitment fees.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Drainage work by the Dhaka South City Corporation has left the Alu Bazar area of the Old Dhaka in a dilapidated state. As a result, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road, while vehicles have little space to pass through. Locals alleged that the work has been going on for nearly three months, causing immense suffering. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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B'BARIA VIOLENCE
Another victim dies, death toll rises to two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A youth, who was critically injured in a series of attacks and counterattacks between two rival gangs in Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria on Saturday, died yesterday, raising the incident's death toll to two.

The deceased, Yasin, from Alamnagar village in Nabinagar municipality, succumbed to his injuries around dawn while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said his brother Shaheen.

Shipon Mia, 30, son of Monnaf Mia also known as "Manek Dakat" from Thollakandi village, died on Saturday, the night of the incident.

Quoting locals, Shahinur Islam, officer-in-charge of Nabinagar Police Station, 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, 20, and Nur Alam, 18, were shot.

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

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NOVEMBER 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-55	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-15
JAMAAT 5-30	1-15	4-15	5-34	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People crowd around this TCB truck in the Mohammadpur area of the capital yesterday to purchase daily essentials at subsidised rates. For many, such facilities have become a beacon of hope amid the rising prices of commodities.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

HABIGANJ SADAR HOSPITAL

Patients fall prey to theft gangs, broker syndicates

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Broker syndicates and theft gangs have been operating at Habiganj 250-bed District Sadar Hospital for years, leaving patients and their attendants in constant fear and distress.

Service seekers alleged that brokers, in collusion with some hospital staffers, often harass visitors to lure them into private clinics while demanding extra money. Thieves take advantage of the chaos to steal wallets, phones, and other valuables from visitors.

Last week, Abdul Kuddus from Baniachong brought his wife to the hospital for treatment. Within minutes, his wallet, containing cash, ID cards, and important papers, was gone. "I didn't even notice when it happened. Now I'm in deep trouble," he said.

Sumona Akter from Chunarughat said her mobile phone was stolen while she was standing in a queue for a doctor's appointment.

"A man approached me, offering help with my serial, and soon after my phone vanished," she said.

Subhan Mia, a local shop owner, said the syndicates operate openly both inside and around the hospital. They demand bribes to speed up treatment, lure poor patients into costly private



facilities, and collaborate with nearby pharmacies and diagnostic centres for hefty commissions.

According to the hospital authorities, records show that in 2018 the hospital management committee formed a sub-committee to evict brokers. In

February 2019, a list of 28 identified brokers -- including individuals from Habiganj town, Baniachong, and Chunarughat -- was publicly released. Yet, years later, the problem persists.

"The situation has worsened recently. We received numerous complaints from victims. Acting on a tip-off, we conducted a raid at the hospital on October 29 and detained nine brokers," said Shah Alam, company commander of Rab-9 (CPC-3).

Executive Magistrate Md Mohsin Miah said they are continuing their drives against brokers.

Dr Aminul Haque Sarkar, superintendent of the hospital, admitted the problem. "Some brokers have been caught, but many others are still operating. A coordinated effort from everyone is needed to completely eliminate them. If we receive any specific complaint against any doctor or staff member, we will take legal action."

Safeguard national unity, peace

Hindu leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu community leaders yesterday expressed concern over recent incidents of misinformation, threats, and harassment targeting ISKCON Bangladesh and other religious minorities.

They urged the government to take effective measures to safeguard national unity and peace and called upon citizens to stand united against divisive forces.

They came up with the call at a joint press conference organised by several Hindu religious organisations in Dhaka.

Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari, general secretary of ISKCON, read out the written statement at the event.

He said that certain groups with vested interest are deliberately spreading falsehoods, rumours, and propaganda against ISKCON and the Hindu community in an attempt to disrupt Bangladesh's longstanding tradition of religious harmony and social cohesion.

ISKCON is being falsely portrayed on social media as a "militant" and "extremist" organisation, he added.

Three specific demands were placed before the authorities: swift legal action against those involved in inciting communal violence, enhanced security for all temples and religious institutions, and strict monitoring of social media to curb the spread of provocative misinformation.

15 injured in BNP factional clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the local BNP in Jhenaidah yesterday, reportedly over control of a local market.

The incident occurred around 8:30am at Kalamankhali Bazar in Dogachi union.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital, while the others received first aid.

Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between the supporters of district BNP Vice-President and former UP chairman Asad Chowdhury and those of Masud Joardar, a leader of Arafat Rahman Koko Sports Council, over establishing supremacy in the Kalamankhali area.

Asad Chowdhury said, "Masud's men beat up our supporter Amirul a few days ago and broke his leg. Later, they took control of the market. This morning, they came again and shut down all the shops, which led to the clash."

However, Masud, joint convener of the Jhenaidah Sadar upazila committee of Arafat Rahman Koko Sports Council, denied the allegations.

District BNP President MA Majid said, "The dispute between the two groups is rooted in a long-standing social animosity, not political issues."

Jhenaidah Sadar Police Station Inspector (Operations) Shamsuzzoha said on information, police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Defamation case filed against Patwari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari has been sued for allegedly making defamatory comments about BNP and one of the senior leaders of its youth front, Jubo Dal.

Kazi Mukituzzaman, a Jubo Dal leader, filed the defamation case with the court of Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain, said Mahadi Hasan Jewel, a lawyer for the complainant.

After recording the complainant's statement, the magistrate directed the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police to investigate the case and submit a report to the court, the lawyer added.

According to the case documents, Nasiruddin made the remarks while addressing a programme held at Shaheed Shamsul Alam Hall of BMA Auditorium in Dhaka around 6:22pm on November 1.

Quoting Nasiruddin, the case statement reads: "A major party is acting like a bully over the July charter."

The statement goes on to quote Nasiruddin saying that there's a leader in Dhaka city named Nayan (belonging to BNP's youth front) who has made so much money through extortion and corruption that he alone could fund a referendum.



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190 Bangladeshis fired

FROM PAGE 3

Even Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Asif Nazrul had visited the workers in May and assured them their problems would be resolved.

"We had unpaid salary and visa renewal issues for many months. Eventually, the company renewed visas for nearly 90 workers but not for the rest," said another worker.

Around 90 others continued facing problems as their visas were not renewed despite the company's promise. "So, we went on strike from October 23," he added.

Malaysia-based migrant rights groups -- Workers' Solidarity Network, Socialis Alternative and Angkatan Kesatuan Siswa Socialis -- issued a joint statement condemning the company's actions and demanding an end to the unlawful forced deportation.

They said the migrant workers were subjected to "slave-like conditions", with confiscated passports, delayed salaries, unexpired visas and frequent threats from employers.

The statement said Mediceram has faced similar allegations since 2017.

Between 2022 and

2024, around 4.5 lakh Bangladeshis were recruited in Malaysia but were charged Tk 4.5 lakh to Tk 6 lakh, leaving many in debt and unemployed.

The statement said Mediceram workers had organised eight or nine protests over the years, and each time the employer made promises to settle outstanding debts and meet the workers' demands -- promises that were repeatedly broken.

"Even the involvement of government agencies has failed to bring meaningful pressure or decisive action to resolve the workers' claims," it said.

The situation worsened on September 30 when immigration officers raided the factory and detained about 90 workers for allegedly not having valid visas.

"In reality, all of them were legal employees, but the company failed to renew their visas," the statement

BNP nominates

FROM PAGE 3

City North BNP and a former national footballer, has been selected for Dhaka-16.

In Dhaka-19, former BNP lawmaker Dewan Mohammad Salauddin has been nominated. He also contested from the seat in 2018.

For the remaining constituencies, BNP has yet to make final decisions.

In the 2018 election, Mostafa Mohsin Montu of Gano Forum contested Dhaka-7, while Afroza Abbas, BNP Women's Party president and wife of Mirza Abbas, contested Dhaka-9.

Among others, former state minister Abdul Mannan contested Dhaka-10; Md Abdus Salam, adviser to Khaleda Zia, contested Dhaka-13; Shaheed Uddin Mahmud of Jatiya Oikya Front contested Dhaka-18; and Tamij Uddin, former Dhamrai upazila chairman, contested Dhaka-20 with BNP's ticket or as an alliance member.

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

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01	1165507	JBPLC/DODS/OTM-01/Computer-10/2025	Tender for Procurement of Desktop Computer (Without Monitor) and Monitor (Supply, Installation & Commissioning) for Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office, Dhaka-South, Dhaka.	17/11/2025 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following Goods.

Tender ID	Description of Goods	Tender opening date & time
1085787	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare Parts (Code: 3256105)	17/11/2025 Time: 16.00

This is online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Engr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman Khan, Principal
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Nepal SC halts interim govt’s decision to recall 11 envoys

REUTERS, Kathmandu

The Supreme Court in Nepal has ordered a halt to the recall of nearly a dozen ambassadors, a lawyer said yesterday, in a setback for Prime Minister Sushila Karki and her interim government.

Karki, a former chief justice who was appointed as the country’s first woman leader in September after deadly anti-corruption protests, recalled 11 ambassadors to countries including China, the United States, Britain and Japan, who were appointed by her predecessor K P Sharma Oli.

In seeking the envoys’ removal, the government said it was not satisfied with their performance.

“The government could not justify its charges against the ambassadors in the court,” Ananta Raj Luitel, an independent lawyer who challenged Karki’s decision, told Reuters.

Luitel said all ambassadors would continue to work as usual in their positions. Jagdish Kharel, minister for communications and information technology, said the government would “respect the order of the Supreme Court.”

The 73-year-old Karki is tasked with holding fresh elections to the lower house of parliament by March 5 and has appointed a small cabinet of reform-minded figures with anti-corruption credentials.

Seventy-six people were killed and more than 1,300 injured during the protests in early September by the Gen Z movement, named for the age of its mainly young supporters.



Relatives bid farewell to 17-year-old Palestinian Jameel Hanani, who was killed by Israeli forces, during his funeral in Beit Furik, near Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hamas ‘determined’ to stick to Gaza truce

Erdogan tells OIC delegates in Istanbul

AGENCIES

Hamas is “determined” to stick to the Gaza truce, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday, adding it was crucial that Muslim nations play a leading role in the Palestinian territory’s reconstruction.

“It seems that Hamas is quite determined to adhere to the agreement,” Erdogan told delegates from the Organization of Islamic States (OIC) gathered in Istanbul for their annual

COMCEC economic cooperation summit.

His remarks came as Turkey prepared to host the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia for talks on Gaza’s reconstruction as fears grow for the shaky October 10 ceasefire. The talks were set to begin at an Istanbul hotel later yesterday. “At this point, we need to deliver more humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and then begin reconstruction efforts,” he said.

NCP preparing list

FROM PAGE 12

The Dhaka-12 has two names on the NCP’s list of possible candidates — Senior Joint Member Secretary Nahida Sarwar Niva and Jatiya Jubo Shakti Convener Tarikul Islam.

Senior Joint Convener Ariful Islam Adib will likely run in Dhaka-14.

Contacted, Samantha Sharmeen, senior joint convener of NCP, told this newspaper, “This is a party of ordinary people. From rickshaw-pullers to garment workers, even those who have never been in politics can contest the polls. Their sacrifices during the July uprising helped free Bangladesh from fascism, and we want people from all walks of life to join us in this election.”

According to party sources, general secretary SM Shahriar and joint member secretary Arif Soheli have been shortlisted from Dhaka-5 and Dhaka-7, respectively.

In Dhaka-19 and Dhaka-20, joint member secretary Foysal Mahmud Shanto and central committee member Asadul Islam Mukul are the prospective candidates. Narayanganj-1, will likely be given to a relative of Farhaan Faiyaz, the teenager killed in the July uprising, but the identity of the person could not be confirmed. Joint member secretary Abdullah Al Alamini may contest from Narayanganj-4. Narayanganj-5 will likely go to district coordinator Shawkat Ali.

NCP’s joint convener Sarowar Tushar may contest from Narsingdi-1, while Gazipur-4 will likely be given to central joint chief organiser Advocate Ali Naser Khan.

In Chattogram division, Chattogram-10 may be given to metropolitan Jubo Shakti convener Irfad Ibrahim. NCP’s central joint convener, Muhammad

Hasan Ali, may run from Chattogram-14 and NCP’s central joint member secretary Mir Arshadul Haque from Chattogram-16.

In Cox’s Bazar-2, the division’s organisational secretary SM Suza Uddin is already campaigning.

Cumilla-6 may be given to central joint chief coordinator Navid Nawroz Shah, while Brahmanbaria-3 to central chief organiser Md Ataulah.

In Barishal-5, central joint member secretary Mahmuda Mitu may run.

In Patuakhali-1 constituency, joint member secretary Zahirul Islam Musa; in Patuakhali-2, joint convener Mujahidul Islam Shahin; and in Jhalakathi-1, joint chief coordinator Ariful Islam Tuhin are likely candidates.

In Khulna-2, NCP will likely pick the party’s central committee joint member secretary Faridul Haque as a candidate.

Resolve differences

FROM PAGE 1

The council stressed the urgent need to reach unified decisions on these matters.

“Political parties have been urged to take the initiative to engage in dialogue among themselves and provide the government with a unified decision as soon as possible, ideally within a week. This will help the government’s decision-making process. The current situation leaves no room for delay.”

The advisory council also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to holding the national election in the first half of February next year.

Asked what would happen if the political parties fail to come to an understanding, Asif Nazrul said, “We have not issued any ultimatum. We will wait. After that, the government will act as necessary.”

Asked if the government will further arrange dialogues for political parties, he said the government has already held extensive discussions and does not intend to organise any more.

“Anti-fascist political parties have been in dialogue over the past 15 years, reaching numerous decisions and standing united through difficult times. The government now expects these parties to hold discussions and present a unified decision.”

The adviser did not comment when asked about the complaint by political parties that many of the issues discussed with the consensus commission were not included in the July charter.

JAMMAT WANTS ‘REFEREE’

Later in the day, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher urged Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to play the role of a “referee” in holding dialogue among political parties.

“We welcome the decision taken by the advisory council. However, I would like to add one point: if the council believes its responsibility is now over and that it will no longer take any initiative and leave everything to political parties, then there may be a need for a referee in the process. That’s why I hope the chief adviser will play a referee-like role, as he has done in the past,” Taher told a press conference at the Khelafat Majlish office in the city yesterday.

He said the advisory council’s call is similar to Jamaat’s call on Sunday for a dialogue. “We want to see the main stakeholder parties respond positively. If they do, a way forward will emerge.” ‘SNAKES AND LADDERS’ Meanwhile, NCP Member-Secretary Akhter Hossen said the government is “playing snakes and ladders” over political

reforms, alleging that it is stalling the process instead of implementing agreed-upon decisions.

Speaking at a press conference at the party office yesterday, he said all parties had reached a consensus through the consensus commission, and the government was supposed to issue an order based on those recommendations.

“Instead, the government is asking the political parties to again discuss the matters over the next seven days. It seems the government is playing snakes and ladders on reforms.”

Akhter alleged that the government is attempting to shift the responsibility for reforms onto the political parties, rather than taking action itself.

“A faction within the government is trying to sabotage the reform process and disrupt the election,” he said, adding, “It is disappointing to see the government trying to derail the election through formalities.”

He also criticised political parties for failing to implement the reform pledges they made in July.

“The July charter implementation order must be issued as soon as possible. People will not support any actions that derail reforms or disrupt elections.”

Akhter called for immediate steps to honour the referendum decision.

Thousands flee as Sudan conflict spreads

AFP, Port Sudan

Over 36,000 Sudanese civilians have fled towns and villages in the Kordofan region east of Darfur, the United Nations said, just over a week after paramilitary forces overran the city of El-Fasher.

In recent weeks, the central Kordofan region — a strategic hinge between Sudan’s Darfur provinces and the Khartoum-Riverine heartland to the east — has become the latest battleground between Sudan’s army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, locked in a brutal conflict since April 2023.

An estimated 36,825 people have fled five localities in North Kordofan between October 26 and 31, the UN’s migration agency said in a statement late Sunday.

Residents yesterday reported a heavy surge in both RSF and army presence across towns and villages in North Kordofan.

Both the army and RSF forces are vying for El-Obeid, the North Kordofan state capital and a key logistics and command hub that links Darfur to Khartoum, and also hosts an airport.

\$5 BILLION ARMS DEAL

Pakistan eyes 2026 launch for first Chinese submarine

REUTERS, Beijing

The Pakistan Navy expects its first Chinese-designed submarine to enter active service next year, the country’s top admiral told Chinese state media, bolstering Beijing’s bid to counter regional rival India and project power toward the Middle East.

A deal under which Islamabad will take delivery of eight Hangor-class submarines by 2028 is “progressing smoothly,” Admiral Naveed Ashraf told the Global Times in an interview published on Sunday, adding the submarines would boost Pakistan’s ability to patrol the North Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

The update on the Chinese submarine deal follows Pakistan’s air force using Chinese-made J-10 fighter jets in May to shoot down an Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft, made by France.

The altercation between the nuclear-armed neighbours surprised many in the military community and raised questions over the superiority of Western hardware over Chinese alternatives.

Under the terms of the submarine agreement — reportedly worth up to \$5 billion — the first four diesel-electric attack submarines will be built in China, with the remaining vessels assembled in Pakistan to improve the South Asian nation’s technical capabilities.

Pakistan has already launched three of the submarines into China’s Yangtze River from a shipyard in the central province of Hubei.

“Chinese-origin platforms and equipment have been reliable, technologically advanced and well-suited to Pakistan Navy’s operational requirements,” Ashraf told the tabloid.



অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫

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২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের জন্য)

অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ এ ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক ও ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতে নিয়ে বর্ণিত বিভাগ সনুহে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হবেঃ

১। অ্যাভিয়েশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অ্যান্ড টেকনোলজি অনুষদ (স্নাতক):

- বিএসসি ইন অ্যারোস্পেস ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
- বিএসসি ইন অ্যাভিওনটিক্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
- বিএসসি ইন এয়ারক্রাফ্ট মেন্টেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যারোস্পেস)
- বিএসসি ইন এয়ারক্রাফ্ট মেন্টেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যাভিওনটিক্স)

ক। মাদামিক ও উচ্চ মাদামিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে (পদার্থ, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন) ২০২২ বা ২০২৩ সালের মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ পেয়েছেন এবং ২০২৪ বা ২০২৫ সালের উচ্চ মাদামিক সার্টিফিকেট/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে অথবা বিদেশি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

খ। ২০২২ বা ২০২৩ সালে GCE "O" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় ৫টি বিষয়ে (পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন, গণিত ও ইংরেজি)সহ ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড অথবা সমমান এবং ২০২২ বা ২০২৪ সালে GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় অন্ততম ০৩ টি বিষয়ে (পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন ও গণিত) ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড অথবা সমমান প্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন।

৩। অ্যাভিয়েশন ম্যানেজমেন্ট অনুষদ (স্নাতকোত্তর):

- এমবিএ ইন অ্যাভিয়েশন ম্যানেজমেন্ট

ক। মাদামিক ও উচ্চ মাদামিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা সমমানের দেশী/বিদেশি বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশকৃত অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের (ইউজিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ অথবা প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর বেশে কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৩.০০ পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

খ। মাদামিক ও উচ্চ মাদামিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা সমমানের দেশী/বিদেশি বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে উচ্চ মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। উচ্চ মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ অথবা প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর বেশে কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৩.০০ পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

গ। ইউজিসি স্বীকৃত ও অন্তর্ভুক্ত শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা সমমানের দেশী/বিদেশি বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে উচ্চ মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের (ইউজিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ অথবা প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর বেশে কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৩.০০ পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

৪। অ্যাভিয়েশন স্নাতকোত্তর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বেসুপেলপ অ্যান্ড সেন্ট্রাল অনুষদ (স্নাতকোত্তর):

- এমএসসি ইন অ্যাভিয়েশন সেন্ট্রাল অ্যান্ড অ্যাভিয়েশন ইনস্টিটিউশন

ক। মাদামিক ও উচ্চ মাদামিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা সমমানের দেশী/বিদেশি বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে (পদার্থ, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন) ২০২২ বা ২০২৩ সালের মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ পেয়েছেন এবং ২০২৪ বা ২০২৫ সালের উচ্চ মাদামিক সার্টিফিকেট/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে অথবা বিদেশি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের (ইউজিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ অথবা প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর বেশে কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৩.০০ পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

খ। ইউজিসি স্বীকৃত ও অন্তর্ভুক্ত শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড অথবা সমমানের দেশী/বিদেশি বোর্ড থেকে প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং/প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে উচ্চ মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের (ইউজিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। মাদামিক ভুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগ অথবা প্রোগ্রামিং পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর বেশে কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৩.০০ পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

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৫। অ্যাভিয়েশন স্নাতকোত্তর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বেসুপেলপ অ্যান্ড সেন্ট্রাল অনুষদ (স্নাতকোত্তর):

- এমএলএম ইন ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এয়ার অ্যান্ড স্পেস সিস্টেম

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ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা

ক।	Master of Science in Satellite Communication Engineering (M. Sc Engg)	EEE/ECE/ETE/CSE/ICE/ICT/আবহেলাবিহীন/অব
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Govt must act on power sector corruption

Controversial electricity deals need further probe

A damning interim report by a national committee has laid bare entrenched corruption in the country’s power sector during the Awami League regime. It uncovered a corrosive nexus of private entities, high-ranking bureaucrats, and top government officials, including now-ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. For instance, the so-called “zero-risk” power purchase agreements (PPAs) guaranteed immense profits for investors, even when the power was not used. They were meticulously engineered, allegedly under the direct influence of Sheikh Hasina, who also held the power ministry portfolio. This dual role centralised control and removed critical checks and balances. The report highlights the repeated interference of officials from the Prime Minister’s Office, lending weight to the claim that the rot was structural, not incidental.

The committee also probed the abuse of the now-repealed Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010, passed to address power shortages but instead used as a license for impunity. It allowed the government to bypass competitive bidding and oversight, enabling a culture of “rent-seeking” that enriched a handful of influential people while trapping the nation in long-term financial obligations. Capacity payments were fundamentally designed to protect private greed at public expense.

The case of the Adani Power deal to import electricity from India stands as a high-profile example of this procedural decay, according to the report. The revelation that Adani Power itself allegedly drafted the PPA and that Bangladesh Power Development Board officials were simply instructed to sign it exposes the staggering lack of regulatory independence. It suggests that the nation’s energy policy was dictated by the interests of a foreign entity rather than the oversight of its own civil servants.

It is therefore essential that the interim government act with firm resolve to reverse this damaging trend. First, the interim report must be made public immediately. Secrecy is the oxygen of corruption, and the first step towards reform is full, unvarnished transparency. Second, the authorities must aggressively pursue the procedural flaws and evidence of fraud found in the Adani contract and others. The interim government, however, faces serious legal and economic challenges ahead. Power Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan has rightly acknowledged the dilemma: cancelling these contracts without cause entails the risk of incurring massive liquidation damages. Therefore, these deals require urgent investigation, potentially by the Anti-Corruption Commission, to establish a definitive legal basis for action.

Bangladesh is currently caught in a multi-billion-dollar energy trap, but accountability is the key to escape it. Dismantling the legacy of impunity requires more than just re-negotiating excessive profits; it demands prosecution for the “massive corruption, collusion, frauds, irregularities and illegalities” that took place during the Awami League regime. Only by holding the architects of this system to account can the nation ensure that its future energy security serves public interests.

Mob violence cases need firmer police pursuit

Police’s business-as-usual approach cannot rein in this trend

We are quite disturbed to learn of the business-as-usual approach that the police have seemingly adopted in dealing with the cases of mob violence. According to a report by Prothom Alo, there has been negligible progress on the 46 incidents of fatal mob violence that its correspondents have followed up on. Out of these 46, only 36 had formal cases filed, while 10 had none. In the 36 cases filed, more than 9,000 individuals were “named” as suspects, mostly unidentified. Among them, 27 cases saw 114 arrested – representing an arrest rate of just 1.27 percent – while nine saw zero arrests. Moreover, chargesheets have been submitted only in six cases.

This state of affairs is frustrating, as it shows that the sheer scale of the problem has not been met with commensurate action, despite repeated promises. While the government keeps saying that mob violence will not be tolerated, its resolve has not translated into better police performance. One could understand why certain officers on duty might be hesitant or afraid to act in the face of a seemingly spontaneous mob outburst, but what’s preventing them from taking effective legal action afterwards? In the 13 months since August 2024, at least 220 people have been reportedly killed in mob violence across the country. Add to that the numerous non-fatal incidents reported every now and then. How many incidents had cases filed, or properly followed up on? Leave alone trial or conviction, the picture that emerges from the assessment of primary legal interventions like arrests and chargesheets is deeply troubling.

Ironically, it is this very lack of legal action, and the trust deficit it creates, that are also responsible for why the so-called “mob justice” happens in the first place. Add to the mix personal motives like vengeance, political rivalry, or trade/property disputes, and the whole thing becomes extremely dangerous and exploitative. Even women, children, and persons with disabilities have not been spared from this madness. The Prothom Alo analysis also reveals another disquieting pattern: mob incidents that drew media attention or public outrage saw greater police activity, while those that remained “unnoticed” saw slower progress or none at all. After many such incidents, families of victims were too scared to even file cases, while the police simply chose to look the other way.

We, therefore, urge the government and police leadership to immediately bring mob violence cases under central monitoring, so that the real status of every case is known and acted on. The state must also support and rehabilitate the families of victims. Overall, it must show greater sincerity in dealing with such cases so that mob violence doesn’t occur.

Central bank autonomy is key to economic stability



MACRO MIRROR

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Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

An independent central bank is the cornerstone of economic stability and public trust as it can make operational and technical decisions, such as setting interest rates, regulating banks, and managing foreign reserves, without political interference. Independence ensures that economic realities—not short-term political interests—guide monetary policy decisions. A central bank’s independence signals professionalism, credibility, and commitment to long-term stability, essential for maintaining confidence among citizens, investors, and markets.

Unfortunately, in Bangladesh, successive governments have undermined the autonomy of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), established under the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972, with the mandate to safeguard monetary stability. BB has increasingly been treated as an extension of the government rather than as an independent authority, eroding its freedom to take timely and effective decisions vital for maintaining the country’s financial health and price stability. The prolonged interference is now evident in the fragility of the banking sector, which is suffering from weak governance, poor oversight, and delayed or misguided policy actions.

Non-performing loans (NPLs) have reached alarming levels. As of March 2025, total NPLs accounted for 24.13 percent of all loans, while those of state-owned banks stood at a staggering 45.79 percent. The Asset Quality Reviews (AQRs) conducted by international auditors have exposed the severity of the problem. Five Shariah-based Islamic banks were found to have NPLs almost equal to their total disbursed loans, revealing symptoms of deeper institutional weaknesses, often stemming from the central bank’s inability to act independently of political and vested interests.

Sadly, without institutional autonomy, the central bank cannot respond to the challenges Bangladesh is currently facing—high inflation, currency volatility, and weak banking discipline—with the speed and consistency required. When key policy decisions, such as raising interest rates or allowing the exchange rate to adjust, depend on political clearance, credibility erodes, and policy effectiveness diminishes.

Under these circumstances, the BB’s recent initiative to revise the 1972 order is timely and necessary. The proposed

amendments include granting greater administrative and financial autonomy, reducing the number of bureaucrats on its board to curb government influence, strengthening tenure protection for the governor, and establishing a formal Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). These steps, if implemented sincerely, could restore the central bank’s credibility.

However, the new law must clearly state BB’s primary objective. The central goal should be price stability. Other goals should include promoting economic growth and employment generation. In recent years, BB refrained from tightening monetary policy and instead capped lending interest at nine percent and deposits



FILE ILLUSTRATION: **BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY**

at six percent, despite persistent double-digit inflation. This policy served politically connected borrowers but penalised ordinary savers, whose returns remained far below inflation. Therefore, price stability must take precedence, even if high interest rates temporarily burden businesses already facing higher costs from corruption, infrastructure gaps, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Delay in adopting a contractionary monetary policy, coupled with incoherent fiscal policy, kept inflation elevated for nearly three years. Now that inflation is easing, interest rates should be adjusted gradually—guided by data, not politics—to reduce business costs.

Also, the appointment and removal of the governor and deputy governors must be transparent and merit-based. Their tenures should be fixed and protected from arbitrary dismissal. A search committee should oversee appointment processes to ensure

rate regime, but operational control over interventions should rest with BB. The central bank should have a clear and published foreign exchange intervention policy, supported by regular reporting. The previous government’s decision to maintain an artificially high value of taka, while competitor countries allowed their currencies to depreciate, damaged Bangladesh’s export competitiveness and distorted market signals. When taka was finally allowed to depreciate, it did so abruptly, contributing to inflationary pressures and import disruption. A gradual, market-based adjustment, monitored by the central bank within a coherent framework, would have mitigated these shocks.

Meanwhile, the government’s borrowing practices must be disciplined. In recent years, weak domestic resource mobilisation and high public expenditures have driven the government to increasingly rely on borrowing from both commercial

Rethinking our ties with Malaysia



Md Shameem Ahsan
served as the high commissioner/ambassador to Malaysia, Italy and Nigeria and the elected president of the executive board of the World Food Programme in Rome.

MD SHAMEEM AHSAN

Bangladesh enjoys cordial bilateral relations with Malaysia, the first Southeast Asian country to recognise our independence. Since then, bilateral relations between the countries have grown in depth and dimensions. Our vibrant expatriate community in Malaysia has strengthened the economies of both countries while deepening the people-to-people bond.

There have been notable developments between Bangladesh and Malaysia in recent times. During my tenure as high commissioner to Malaysia, two high-level visits took place: the Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim visited Bangladesh on October 4, 2024, the first visit of any head of the government since the assumption of office by the interim government, and the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus’ visit to Malaysia around mid-August this year.

The chief adviser’s visit witnessed the signing of five MoUs and three Exchange of Notes in areas such as energy, higher education, defence, training of diplomats, halal ecosystem, collaboration between think tanks, and the business communities. This

added substance to the visit widely considered as a watershed moment in the bilateral relations. Three more instruments were signed relating to research, pharmaceuticals and fertiliser during my tenure in Malaysia. All these serve as significant steps for shifting the current narrative of Bangladesh-Malaysia relations from a labour export-import prism to eventually a strategic partnership. I have been advocating for this shift as the large Bangladeshi community in Malaysia should not be the only defining factor of our Bangladesh-Malaysia relationship.

It is encouraging that during the visits, both the leaders identified trade and investment, digital economy, halal economy, renewable energy, STEM research, entrepreneurship, and people-to-people contacts, among others, as potential areas for cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to transform Bangladesh-Malaysia relations into a “deeper, future-oriented strategic partnership.” Malaysian dignitaries earlier expressed their desire to reset the labour relations with Bangladesh

and diversify the bilateral relations by exploring potential for collaboration as development partners in other areas, such as trade and investment.

Around 8,000 of the approximately 18,000 stranded workers who missed the May 31, 2024 deadline—the final day before Malaysia’s recruitment freeze on Bangladeshi labourers—are expected to enter Malaysia once a roadmap for their recruitment is finalised. It is noteworthy that Bangladeshi expatriates currently comprise 37 percent of the foreign workforce, putting us as the top source country for Malaysia. During the two high-level visits, both sides agreed to work towards establishing a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory recruitment process. Thanks to vigorous persuasion, in August 2025, the Malaysian government agreed to grant multiple-entry visa facilities to the Bangladeshi workers. Besides, the country has become one of the most preferred destinations for higher education for Bangladeshi students, with over 10,000 currently residing there.

Moreover, Bangladesh is Malaysia’s second-largest trading partner in South Asia. Trade and investment were high on the agenda during the latest visit, which was marked by business forums with top business leaders in the audience. To further promote our bilateral relationship, the signing of a free trade agreement (FTA) will be critical. Both countries are currently working on it. Although Malaysia is Bangladesh’s third-largest source of foreign remittances, contributing over

banks and the BB to meet fiscal shortfalls. Borrowing from commercial banks squeezes out private sector credit, while borrowing from the central bank effectively amounts to printing money. This fuels inflation and erodes macroeconomic stability. To prevent fiscal dominance and encourage prudent debt management, such borrowing must be strictly limited. The government should, instead, focus on improving revenue collection and reducing inefficiencies in public spending.

Independence, nevertheless, must be balanced with accountability to prevent opacity and mismanagement. BB should enjoy full control over its budget, staffing, and operations, while being subject to rigorous ex-post oversight. This means publishing audited financial statements, submitting performance reports to the parliament, and maintaining transparent communication with the public. The credibility of an independent central bank ultimately depends on both integrity and transparency.

Lastly, the central bank’s internal capacity and culture must change. Even with legal independence, BB’s effectiveness will remain limited if it lacks professional competence and analytical strength. The bank must invest in building expertise in monetary analysis, data-driven decision-making, and financial supervision and promote a culture of integrity, evidence-based policymaking, and ethical conduct.

True independence of the central bank will inevitably face resistance because it reduces the discretion of powerful interest groups. Finance ministry’s Financial Institutions Division (FID) may view the central bank’s increased autonomy as a loss of control, while vested interests within the banking sector may resist stronger supervision and tighter regulations. Overcoming these barriers requires strong political commitment and public awareness. The independence of the central bank is not a technocratic concern; it is central to ensuring economic stability and protecting citizens’ savings from the consequences of poor policymaking.

Ultimately, passing a new law is only the beginning. The real challenge lies in implementation and its effectiveness will depend on future governors’ handling of political pressure, BB’s transparency in communicating its policy decisions, and consistently applying rules across all banks—whether public, private, large, small, politically connected or not.

Institutional independence is not achieved overnight. If the principles of integrity, professionalism, and accountability are upheld, then Bangladesh Bank can finally function as the independent guardian of monetary and financial stability that the country urgently needs.

What does ‘good history’ look like?



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ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

It is impossible not to ask this question, given the current state of *history* as a public discourse in Bangladesh. But what is “good history” in the first place? What does the qualifying adjective *good* imply? The question, ahem, might be understood less as an inquiry than as a provocation—a prompt for indulging in a bit of soul-searching about such perennially indeterminate concepts as nationhood and national identity, and about their intersection with history.

Since Bangladesh’s independence in 1971, the history of the country’s liberation war has been the site of competing political claims, denials, suppressions, glorifications, centralisations, and partisan orthodoxies. In the wake of the August 2024 uprising, a new generation of spontaneous efforts has emerged to revisit the “history” of Bangladesh’s Liberation War, ranging from reassessments of the roles of different historical figures to renewed debates over the political origins of the war itself. What has unfolded since independence—especially before and after August 2024—is a systematic erosion of history as a subject of critical inquiry, one grounded in evidence and pluralism.

Given our civil society’s failure to cultivate a robust public understanding of history, one driven by fact-based research and reasoning rather than personal beliefs or social-media-driven partisanship, it is crucial to articulate what “good history” is or could be in the sociopolitical context of Bangladesh. It would not be illogical to assume that the question—*what does good history look like?*—should be a worthwhile public conversation on history as a key driver of human capital, citizenship, and nation-building.

When, last year, Badruddin Umar stated, albeit in a sensationalising tone, that 80-90 percent of the “official” history of Bangladesh’s Liberation War is false, he must have had some thoughts on what “not

false” history might be instead. I wish he were alive today to articulate his thoughts on the question of good history.

No historian should be able to answer the question on good history without a degree of trepidation, ambivalence, and uncertainty. Yet a serious historian, or anyone who believes in history as a reasonable way of understanding the past, would at least pose a counterquestion: How does one define “good history”? And that, in turn, gives rise to another difficult question: What is history in the first place?

Let’s imagine some hypothetical scenarios. If we asked Aristotle what a good history of Bangladesh’s Liberation War would look like, he might suggest examining the war objectively and sincerely, narrating what actually happened on the ground and what caused those events. He would recommend distinguishing between history and poetry or philosophy, which, in his view, are primarily concerned with what could or should happen.

German philosopher Hegel would answer the question differently. He would present history of the war as the Bangalee nation’s progressive journey toward reason and freedom, a piece in the puzzle of macro-history’s self-rationalising movement toward the highest consciousness. If we posed the same question to another German, Leopold von Ranke, he would advise us to write the war’s history based on empirical sources. The task of the historian, he would argue, is not to judge, but to understand how things happened by examining hard evidence, while avoiding philosophy and speculation.

How would Rabindranath Tagore define the history of the Liberation War? If Hegel’s history represented the forward march of reason—of which Bangladesh’s Liberation War was one part, as was the French Revolution—then Tagore’s history of the war would be the Bangalee nation’s journey towards spiritual realisation, a humanist and

moral unity that transcended nationalist and *swadeshi* narratives. If we asked Mahatma Gandhi the same question, he would likely encourage us to write the history of the war from the perspective of the masses (*aamjonota*) and the *Muktijoddhas* with their armed struggles, rather than from the grand narratives of heroic leaders.

Thus, the question—what is history?—depends on whom you ask. The diversity of

how peoples, regions, nations, and cultures have encountered one another through broad networks of trade, human mobility, cultural exchange, technology transfer, and what the American sociologist and historian Immanuel Wallerstein called world-systems—a unitary economic system that binds all nation-states of the world.

The interaction of macro- and micro-histories produces a wide range of perspectives

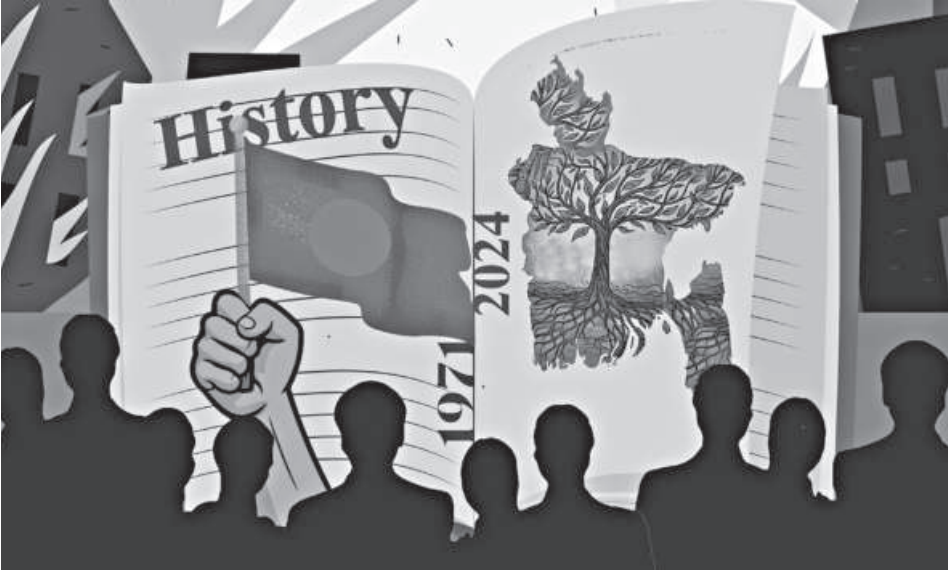
exuberance, and sweeping generalisation. Unfortunately, critical, unafraid-to-tell-the-whole-truth histories have faced severe backlash over the last few decades, particularly in the United States. What has been pejoratively described as “woke” histories—those that bring to the fore the experiences of marginalised peoples and uncomfortable truths—have become political targets. In these uncertain times, many nations and their political leaders continue to weaponise history to advance partisan or nationalistic agendas.

The current US administration, for instance, seeks to create a “beautiful” American history—one unblemished by the histories of slavery, racial and gender discrimination, the traumatic struggles for civil and human rights, and genocide. In this discriminatory view, history must serve as an uplifting project that reinforces political domination. Similarly, anti-immigrant politicians in Europe frequently invoke the historical and racial unity of European civilisation, now allegedly threatened by the “invasion” of incompatible communities.

In Bangladesh, the recent “reset button” proclamation has unwittingly promoted a history of erasure in the name of building a brand-new future. The reset argument seems to imply: *What is the point of getting stuck in the past?*—as if the past has nothing to do with the ways the future takes shape.

We are indeed passing through a crisis of conscience. We find ourselves increasingly unsettled by the militarisation of history—its ability to divide and make people confrontational, to invent new nationalist myths and alternative triumphs, to provoke radical religiosity, and to cultivate a convenient culture of amnesia in which the past becomes a playfield for selective remembrance. Can a public conversation on “good history” serve as an antidote to this growing culture of weaponised history?

Is there a “good” history that we can champion, one that keeps us committed to the pursuit of knowledge as a fundamental means of understanding our existence, or to public interests greater than ourselves, our parties, and our self-comforting, social-media-shaped beliefs? Ultimately, the question about a “good” history should be understood less as a question than as an aspiration, one essential to a democratic society.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

answers itself indicates history’s power to tell human stories from myriad angles. There is, indeed, a history of histories.

Today, within liberal academic circles, the fair-minded historian tends to view history as a broad disciplinary practice in which the “grand old histories” of civilisational scale—meta-narratives, causation, teleological progress, hagiography, and “Western civilisation”—have been extensively challenged by critical histories of “other” peoples and their experiences, social history, cultural history, economic history, gender history, histories of technology, and, more importantly, an empathetic and justice-oriented search for historical evidence that has been traditionally ignored or silenced in favour of the triumphant narratives of victors.

Contemporary critical historians tend to avoid either-or dichotomies, linear narratives, and false nation-centrism. Instead, they reveal

on any historical event. The global and the national interweave in infinite varieties to give rise to histories of multiple dimensions, scales, and philosophies. From this angle, any contemplation of “good” histories must be a dynamic and open-ended process of thought. How, then, can we begin to situate 1971 within the broad arc of “good” histories?

Muyeedul Hasan’s *Muldhara* ’71 (1986), M. R. Akhtar Mukul’s *Ami Bijoy Dekhechi* (1993), Archer Blood’s *The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh* (2002), Nurul Islam’s *Making of a Nation* (2003), and Gary Bass’s *The Blood Telegram* (2013), among others, are all valuable sources for constructing an intellectually nuanced history of Bangladesh’s Liberation War.

Whether a particular approach to history is acceptable or not is less important than understanding history as a vigorous inquiry that avoids the traps of deterministic certainties, linear causalities, hagiographic

BTRC’s new policy undermines the affordable internet goal



Mahmudul Hasan
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

MAHMUDUL HASAN

After assuming office as Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) chairman, Maj Gen (ret’d) Md Enad ul Bari, known for his practice of listening to all stakeholders before making any decision, expressed his intention to lower internet prices, stating that they should be brought down to the cost of water to increase digital penetration.

He took multiple steps, from simplifying the complex licensing process and lowering bandwidth costs to ultimately reducing broadband prices.

Though many users alleged they were still paying the previous prices and some broadband providers claimed they had recently doubled bandwidth while keeping prices unchanged, the initiative demonstrated a commitment to affordability.

However, in the proposed guidelines, which are part of the broader Telecommunication Network and Licensing Policy 2025, the internet regulator seems to take a complete U-turn.

The introduction of new taxation provisions by the BTRC to different licensing layers could increase costs for broadband service providers, potentially pushing up prices for end users and undermining the chairman’s previous efforts.

On the other hand, the new “Regulatory and Licensing Guidelines for Fixed Telecom Service Providers” could have a significant impact on broadband internet providers, particularly small and mid-sized operators already operating with thin profit margins.

The most contentious aspect of the guideline is the mandatory 5.5 percent annual revenue sharing with the regulator, in addition to a one percent contribution to the Social Obligation Fund (SOF). Earlier, BTRC used to collect a SOF fee only from top ISPs. In the proposal, the charge applies to all, including small and medium providers.

While these provisions mirror those imposed on mobile operators, the two industries operate under vastly different market dynamics.

Unlike mobile operators, broadband providers cannot adjust their internet prices freely, as the internet regulator has imposed a price cap for broadband internet.

This restriction prevents providers from offsetting the new financial burdens

through pricing adjustments. It could also erode profitability, forcing many small internet service providers (ISPs) to scale back operations, delay infrastructure expansion, or even exit the market.

Investment in network upgrades and service quality could also take a serious hit, as providers may struggle to expand fibre coverage or adopt newer technologies like Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) with reduced financial flexibility.

The cost pressure could also slow innovation in customer service and local content delivery networks, ultimately affecting user experience and internet speed.

The BTRC’s new move appears rooted in its dual role as regulator and revenue-collector. The experts have long been arguing that BTRC is increasingly functioning more like the National Board of Revenue than a sector-enabler. The commission has shifted its focus from facilitating growth to imposing higher fees, revenue shares, and licensing burdens.

According to the World Bank’s “Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023,” Bangladesh remains behind its regional peers in overall internet usage, smartphone penetration, and connection speed, despite notable progress in affordability, digital transactions, and coverage expansion.

The report, published in March 2024, shows that only 39 out of every 100 people in Bangladesh use the internet—higher than Pakistan (36 percent) but lower than India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

In terms of speed, the World Bank cites International Telecommunication Union (ITU) data showing that Bangladesh’s average mobile download speed is 16.1 Mbps, while fixed broadband average is 36 Mbps—both below the South Asian averages of 26.7 Mbps and 43 Mbps, respectively.

However, according to experts, Bangladesh performs relatively well in broadband affordability, as a single broadband connection costs only Tk 400–500 per month.

The BTRC’s recent proposals could undermine this sole advantage of low broadband prices in Bangladesh, where broadband internet penetration stood at 8.24 percent as of September, 2025. Fixed broadband contributes more to economic output than mobile internet does because it provides stable, high capacity and low-latency connectivity, essential for digital industries, cloud computing, e-commerce, and remote work.

While mobile internet expands access, fixed broadband drives productivity and innovation across sectors. According to a research finding, a 10 percent increase in broadband penetration can raise GDP per capita by 1–1.5 percent, and research across the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries shows that doubling broadband speed can increase GDP by 0.3 percent. If broadband becomes more expensive or less accessible, these potential economic gains could be reduced, limiting Bangladesh’s ability to leverage digital infrastructure for sustainable growth.

According to the ICT use survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics published in August, only 48.6 percent of individuals in Bangladesh use the internet, but just nine percent use a computer in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2024–2025. This indicates that participation in computer-based activities, which generally rely on broadband connections and contribute more directly to economic output, is already very low. If fixed broadband becomes less accessible or slower, the potential for growth in sectors that depend on high-speed, reliable internet, including e-commerce, IT services, and digital entrepreneurship, could be negatively affected.

However, the financial burden does not stop at broadband providers’ revenue-sharing and SOF contributions. The BTRC has also proposed higher taxes on the international broadband supply chain and increased licensing fees across different categories under the new guidelines. These measures could lead to higher internet prices for both broadband and mobile internet users, making access less affordable.

The BTRC’s new move appears rooted in its dual role as regulator and revenue-collector. The experts have long been arguing that BTRC is increasingly functioning more like the National Board of Revenue than a sector-enabler. The commission has shifted its focus from facilitating growth to imposing higher fees, revenue shares, and licensing burdens.


The regulator should revert to its foundational role, such as promoting

competition, safeguarding service quality and easing market entry rather than prioritising tax-like collections.

The fixed broadband sector in Bangladesh is already in a precarious state, partly due to the previous regime granting thousands of licenses without ensuring quality or capacity. If the BTRC seeks to streamline the sector through new levies, it risks burdening users and providers without addressing the root problems. A more effective approach would be to rationalise the number of

licenses and cancel those held by operators who fail to maintain compliance or service standards.

For BTRC to function as a true sector regulator, it must prioritise improving service quality, fostering investment, and ensuring market efficiency rather than relying on fees and levies. Strategic innovation in licensing and enforcement would strengthen the broadband ecosystem without penalising consumers or responsible operators.



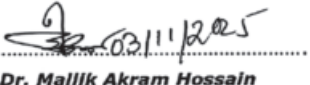
Jagannath University
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences
Master of Pharmacy (Professional) Program
Department of Pharmacy
Admission Circular (Batch: 09P)
Spring 2026 (February-July)

Key Features of the program
Degree/Award: Master of Pharmacy
Major: 1. Industrial Pharmacy, 2. Pharmaceutical Marketing
Course duration: One year (2 semesters)
Class time: Friday and Saturday
Application fee: Tk. 1,000.00
Application open: Till January 14, 2026 (9 am – 3:30 pm, week-days only)
Admission test: January 16, 2026, Friday. Test Result: January 19, 2026
Admission period: January 20, 2026 to February 05, 2026.
Orientation: February 06, 2026.

Eligibility for submission of application
A. Minimum 16 years of schooling; having S.S.C. (or equivalent) 10 years, H.S.C. (or equivalent) 2 years and Graduation (or equivalent) 4 years. **B.** Graduated in Pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences or relevant areas (CGPA 3.00 or more out of 4.00). **C.** No third class/division (or equivalent).

Application submission
A. Filled-up application form (available in www.jnu.ac.bd or <http://jnu.ac.bd/departments/pharmacy>), **B.** Attested 3 copies of passport size photographs, **C.** Copies of the certificates and mark-sheets of all the previous examinations (attested by the Chairperson of the department of graduation) and **D.** Application fee.
Completed application can be submitted to the office of Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences, Jagannath University. Or, the application fee (1000 taka and transfer charge 20 taka) can be sent to 01670117946 by bKash and then the full application set can be mailed to monir@pharm.jnu.ac.bd as the PDF file along with the bKash reference number.

N.B. The authority keeps the right to cancel the application/admission at any time due to submission of incorrect application or misleading information

Contact (Application form and further information)
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences
6th Floor, New Academic Building (029587900 Office)
Department of Pharmacy (02226638755, 01731742040 Office)
Dr. Md. Monir Hossain, Program Director (01670117946)

Prof. Dr. Mallik Akram Hossain
Dean
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences
& Convener, M. Pharm. (Professional) Program Admission Committee

GD-2314

RITWIK GHATAK AT 100

Rajshahi home lies in ruins

Ritwik’s early exposure to Rajshahi’s culture and landscape left a profound imprint on his filmmaking,” Liton said. “When he made ‘Ajantrik’, a story about a car, it was a radical departure from the mythological themes dominating Indian cinema at the time.



SHOHANUR RAHMAN RAFI

Once a proud ancestral residence, the Rajshahi home of legendary filmmaker Ritwik Kumar Ghatak now stands in ruins—its walls weathered, rooms overrun by wild growth, and memories fading into dust. Today marks the 100th birth anniversary of this iconic filmmaker.

The remnants of the house in the Ghoramara area of Miyapara sit like a chronicle of neglect: mounds of red bricks under the open sky, a moss-covered broken boundary wall, and fragments of the structure strewn across the ground. Faded murals on cracked walls, including one commemorating Ghatak’s birth anniversary, offer a final glimpse of a place that once nurtured a cinematic mind.

The dilapidated structure was demolished last year. What remains are piles of brick and a few fragments of its former form—markers of the childhood home of one of Bengal’s most brilliant filmmakers.

Born in 1925, Ghatak spent



his early years here, studying at Rajshahi Collegiate School and Rajshahi College before his family migrated to India after Partition. The home was later listed as vested property under the district administration, as the family had left the country in 1947.

In 1985, Rajshahi Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital authorities purchased the leased land. The building, however, remained intact for decades.

“We did not want the house to be demolished,” said Dr Anisur Rahman, principal of the college. “We used it as an outdoor facility for the hospital. Some of our former students planned to demolish it, but we had forbidden them. Unfortunately, one evening they went ahead and brought it down. Still, the annual programme marking Ritwik Ghatak’s birth anniversary will continue there, as it does every year.”

Ritwik Ghatak Film Society President Ahsan Kabir Liton said the filmmaker spent one of the most important periods of his life in Rajshahi, and the city’s environment deeply influenced his later work. “The Padma River, the Varendra Museum, and even the nearby public library—all these shaped his sensibility,” he said. “When we formed our film society in 2008, most people didn’t even know Ghatak had lived here. We

began organising festivals and tributes from his ancestral home and renamed the group Ritwik Ghatak Film Society in 2009.”

He added that the house once had a drawing room, bedrooms, a courtyard, and an old well, with a homoeopathic college established on the vacant land during the Ershad regime. “We demanded preservation and even received an official estimate of Tk 52 lakh from the administration for its restoration. But the initiative never materialised,” he said.

“Ritwik’s early exposure to Rajshahi’s culture and landscape left a profound imprint on his filmmaking,” Liton said. “When he made *Ajantrik*, a story about a car, it was a radical departure from the mythological themes dominating Indian cinema at the time. His thought process was far ahead of his era.”

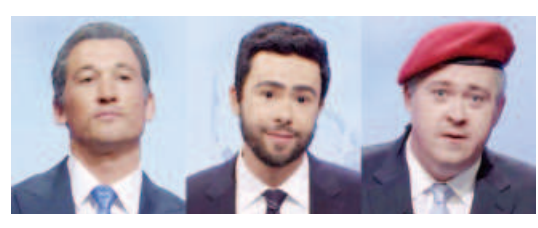
The society continues to commemorate Ghatak’s birth anniversary on November 4 each year. “This year, however, there is no house left to hold the event,” Liton continued. “Still, we hope the site can someday be turned into a museum or film institute in his memory.”

Mahmud Hossain, general secretary of the Ritwik Ghatak Film Society, echoed the demand. “We have long urged that something be established there in Ghatak’s name. With the help of the then deputy commissioner, we found records showing the land was originally under the name of Indubala Devi, Ghatak’s mother. The college authorities cannot simply claim ownership—it was leased to them during the Ershad government,” he said.

Professor Mozammel Hossain Bokul, moderator of the Rajshahi University Film Society and chairman of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, said that after the demolition, legal steps became difficult. “They took the leased land and prepared documents to declare it as college property,” he said.

When contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and ICT) Tuktuk Talukdar, who chairs the governing body of the college, said, “When the building was demolished, I was not in charge. So, I am not fully aware of the circumstances. The principal can better explain the ownership and demolition issues.”

Despite the loss, those who cherish Ghatak’s legacy remain determined to keep his memory alive in Rajshahi. To them, the decaying remains of his ancestral home are fragments of history that once nurtured a filmmaker who reshaped Indian and Bangla cinema.



‘SNL’ spoofs NYC mayoral debate with Miles Teller and Ramy Youssef

The latest episode of *Saturday Night Live* opened with a sharp parody of the New York City mayoral debate, featuring an ensemble of spot-on impersonations. Miles Teller portrayed former Governor Andrew Cuomo, poking fun at his past controversies, while Ramy Youssef played Assembly member Zohran Mamdani, satirising liberal guilt and gentrification.

Shane Gillis appeared as Curtis Sliwa, and Kenan Thompson took the moderator’s seat in the hilariously chaotic exchange. The sketch captured the absurdity of political showmanship, from Sliwa’s bizarre anecdotes to Mamdani’s flirtatious charm. It wrapped up with James Austin Johnson’s Donald Trump crashing the stage, announcing he might enter the mayoral race himself.

Adnan Al Rajeev’s ‘Ali’ wins another international accolade



Bangladeshi filmmaker Adnan Al Rajeev’s short film *Ali* has won the Youth Jury Award at the 70th Valladolid International Film Festival (Seminci) in Spain, one of Europe’s oldest and most prestigious cinematic platforms.

The film, which continues to earn international acclaim, has already received a Special Mention at the 78th Cannes Film Festival and another at the Kyiv International Short Film Festival.

It was also nominated for Best Short Form (Scripted) at the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2025. The latest recognition at Valladolid further cements Adnan Al Rajeev’s reputation as one of Bangladesh’s most promising contemporary filmmakers.

NEWS

Design, building

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audit will guide replacement of any defective components.

Both the incidents – the latest and the one last year – occurred under Contract Package CP-05.

“The defect liability period for this contractor was supposed to end on June 29, but we have not accepted it because a number of outstanding works, deficiencies and defects still exist. Until these are repaired, we will not accept the defect notification period.”

The financial implications like performance bond, performance security and the final bill could not be released as the work had not been fully completed.

“The project remains under the defect notification period, and the contractor has to address all remaining defects.”

Following last year’s incident in September, DMTCL conducted a full-corridor drone survey in October and recorded visuals of each pier.

The company then carried out physical inspections of every pillar, with the report completed two months ago.

“We found deformation in some locations. Notifications were issued immediately and rectification and mitigation measures taken. We installed barricades beside the columns to prevent further movement,” he said, adding that the contractor had been instructed to replace certain bearings.

Teams had revisited all piers after the latest incident.

“Where minor displacements within tolerance were observed, we placed barricades and tightened mechanical fixtures as immediate measures. But the ultimate solution is replacement. Wherever defects have been notified, we are seeking bearing replacement.”

He also announced a new monitoring initiative using CCTV cameras on metro rail bearings to track their functionality in real time, calling it “a new concept”.

However, he clarified that this would only be a temporary measure.

“It might offer some relief or quick response, but it can’t be the ultimate solution. If we start putting CCTV everywhere, the whole country would fall under surveillance. What we need is a permanent solution,” he said.

On October 26, a pedestrian died when a bearing pad from pillar 433 of a metro rail station fell on him in Dhaka’s Farmgate area. Two other people were also injured.

Animal welfare demands

FROM PAGE 12

on private organisations, while feeding unsterilised dogs has since driven the population from 38,000 to 73,000.”

Rubaiya added that while vaccination drives have halved rabies deaths since 2014, culling continues. “There’s still time.... But humane management cannot be sustained without regulation, funding, and political will.”

Legal expert Dr Cynthia Farid said animal welfare faces an enforcement crisis rather than a legislative one. “There are many shortages in Bangladesh, but the shortage of laws is not one of them – the real challenge lies in enforcement.”

She said welfare is an intersectional issue tied to governance and science. “Whether it’s controlling dog populations or managing city pollution, we must rely on data and expert guidance – not emotion.”

Farid pointed out that while the Animal Welfare Act-2019 exists, the rules are yet to be framed, leaving gaps in jurisdiction and enforcement. “Even well-intentioned efforts fail without legal clarity. Coordination and education must be our priorities.”

Lawyer Saqueb Mahub cited the 2021 case against Dhaka South City Corporation’s removal of stray dogs as evidence of institutional resistance. “Section 7 of the act clearly bans relocating or culling ownerless animals, yet political pressure stalled enforcement.”

“Public interest litigations have helped in certain cases, but without administrative will, legal victories alone cannot ensure lasting reform,” he said, adding that section 18 of the act limits citizens’ ability to file abuse cases, calling for revision of the provision.

Dr Nusrat Jahan, senior associate veterinarian at Bangladesh Animal Care Centre, said veterinary care remains costly due to dependence on imported medicines and instruments. “If local production or easier imports were possible, treatment costs would fall,” she said, urging policy reforms to ensure 24/7 government and university-run veterinary services. She also warned against unethical breeding and untrained rescuers, stressing the need for regulation and accreditation.

Actor and activist Jaya Ahsan called for clear policies and ethical guidelines for using animals in Bangladesh’s film and television industries. “Many think feeding

animals or keeping them under a shade is enough – but that’s far from true. They don’t understand the animal’s needs because there are no guidelines or expertise.”

She added that keeping foreign breeds as status symbols reflects “social vanity and a lack of empathy toward local animals”. “Without laws, enforcement, and education, real change will remain out of reach.”

Journalist and lawyer Zafar Sobhan said the media plays a crucial role in shaping humane, fact-based narratives on animal welfare. “How stories are told makes all the difference – media can foster empathy or erode it.”

Recalling his interview with Rubaiya Ahmad five years ago, he said sensationalism still dominates coverage. “Responsible media must educate and fact-check,” he said, urging editors to create dedicated animal welfare beats. “Animal rights reflect our humanity – and readers care deeply about compassion and justice.”

The roundtable concluded with a unanimous call for stronger coordination among the DLS, city corporations, and civil society groups. Participants stressed that animal welfare should no longer be treated as a fringe concern but as part of urban governance, public health, and national development.

The discussion was hosted and moderated by Naziba Basher, senior sub-editor at The Daily Star.

No more RPO edits

FROM PAGE 12

From there, they have announced to organise mass rallies on November 6 to submit a memorandum with their demands to the Chief Adviser.

“The amended RPO must be retained as it is – we do not accept any exclusion, addition, or modification,” said Khilafat Majlish Ameer Maulana Mamunul Haque at yesterday’s briefing.

Besides, they will prioritise three demands: the immediate issuance of the order to implement the July Charter, holding the referendum before the national election and retaining the amended RPO in full.

“These are now our core demands. We hope that through dialogue, all political parties can reach a solution, and the next election will be held based on the legal foundation of the July Charter.”

He also warned that if the demands are not met, the alliance will hold a protest rally in Dhaka on November 11.

Mamdani leads as NYC votes today

FROM PAGE 12

as an independent after losing his party’s primary contest to Mamdani.

The Republican party candidate polling in third place is Curtis Sliwa, 71, who has a colourful past as founder of the Guardian Angels vigilante group, a prolific broadcaster and cat lover.

The latest Quinnipiac University poll conducted October 23 to 27 gives Mamdani 43 percent of the vote, followed by Cuomo on 33 percent and Sliwa on 14 percent.

The race has centred on cost of living, crime, and how each candidate would handle Trump, who has

threatened to withhold federal funds from the city.

“Mamdani is an unusual political figure and really captures the spirit of the moment. This is a moment where a loud anti-Trump voice in America’s biggest city is going to get news,” Lincoln Mitchell, a politics professor at Columbia University, told AFP.

“Frankly, a Muslim candidate for mayor of New York is an enormous story.”

Mamdani, 34, has attacked his opponents for Islamophobic rhetoric and smears, calling out both Republicans and Democrats for “anti-Muslim sentiment that has grown so

endemic in our city”.

NYC Board of Elections data showed 275,006 registered Democrats had cast ballots, as had 46,115 Republicans, along with 42,383 voters unaffiliated with any party in the first five days of early voting, which ends November 2.

Mamdani’s ascent has highlighted the gulf between the left and centre-right of the Democratic Party.

New York’s state governor Kathy Hochul, a centrist, appeared at a Mamdani rally on October 26 but was drowned out by “tax the rich” chants, an AFP correspondent saw.

Renewed, betrayed, manipulated

FROM PAGE 12

It is this document, a contract of sorts between the people and the government, that differentiates a monarchy from a democracy. And the beauty of this charter lies in its adaptability. Since it is seldom perfect, the constitution has the ability to adapt to the needs of the times. Bangladesh’s constitution has gone through 17 amendments itself. But some of these were hardly in the interest of the people and they did not bode well for the republic.

Only two and a half years after Bangladesh’s constitution was adopted, the fourth amendment transformed the democratic constitution into a one-party system on January 25, 1975. The parliamentary system was changed into a presidential one where the president was vested with sweeping powers and it was made mandatory for all MPs to join the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BaKSAL) or lose their seats. The 14th amendment on May 16, 2004, was an attempt to extend the retirement age of judges and thereby influence the position of the then head of the caretaker government, which eventually led to two-year state of emergency in 2007-08 when a military controlled caretaker government was at the helm.

The 15th amendment on July 3, 2011, abolished the provision for a caretaker government to oversee elections and virtually paved the path to a series of questionable elections that eventually led to the July uprising.

There have been other amendments, the fifth and the eighth, that were

necessary to ensure continuity of the constitution since both were means to legitimise the martial law regimes of Ziaur Rahman and Hussein Mohammad Ershad. The constitutional amendments in their own way also recount history of the country and helps gain understanding of the events of those times.

One must also look back to the events that preceded the Bangladeshi constitution to truly appreciate the efforts and commitment behind it. After independence from British rule in 1947, one of the expectations of the people of both Pakistan and India was that they would have a new constitution. India managed to draft one within two and a half years (on November 26, 1949).

Pakistan took nine years (until March 23, 1956) to produce its first constitution. Within just two and a half years, however, Ayub Khan’s military dictatorship suspended it on October 7, 1958. Under the second military ruler, Yahya Khan, a legal framework order (LFO) was issued, and the 1970 general election was held with two clear objectives: first, that the elected representatives would frame a constitution within 120 days in the constituent assembly; and second, that they themselves would govern the state under that new constitution. But the Pakistani junta did not allow that to happen either.

After independence, Bangladesh succeeded in drafting a constitution within nine months – a task Pakistan had failed to accomplish in 24 years. Fifty-three years on, this constitution day finds us confronting divisive

questions over reforms, many of which aim to undo changes that undermined public interest in favour of those in power. Yet that, too, is a testament to the strength of the document. Through vibrant discussion and impassioned debate, the constitution should, as always, continue to evolve, adapt, and embody the aspirations of the people.

ICT-1 expresses

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The tribunal intervened immediately, asking, “What benefit do you expect from this question? The fact remains that her husband was killed. The witness did not even name your clients.”

When Amir responded that such questions might help his clients, the tribunal then said, “You talk too much. You make remarks that embarrass the court. Earlier, you dragged a simple point into a long discussion. What will you gain from such questions?”

In her testimony, Niha also alleged that police tried to take away her husband’s body after locals brought it home. “We hid the body. Protesters gathered around our house and suddenly teargas shells were fired from a helicopter targeting our building,” she said, adding that her mother narrowly escaped injury when a shell exploded on their rooftop.

Another witness, Md Yakub of Rampura also testified as the fourth prosecution witness in the case. He described how the area turned into a “war zone” on July 19.

Maha Rasleela returns with festive spirit



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Members of the Manipuri community in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar are passing busy days preparing for the Maha Rasleela. This year, the festival will be celebrated on November 5, coinciding with Ras Purnima. Sounds of drums, ceremonial bells, songs and dance rhythms have created a vibrant ambience ahead of the community's most significant religious and cultural event that celebrates devotion and joy through a blend of tradition.

Two major celebrations will take place this year -- the 183rd Maha Ras festival of the Bishnupriya (Manipuri) community at Jora Mandap in Madhabpur, and the 40th Maha Ras festival of the Meetoi (Manipuri) community at the Adampur Manipuri Cultural Complex.



According to community elders, King Bhagyachandra of Manipur first introduced the Maha Ras festival. The first Maha Ras festival outside Manipur was held in 1842 at Madhabpur in Kamalganj upazila. The festival begins with the Gosthaleela or Rakkhal Dance performance from dawn to dusk. The main event, Sri Sri Krishna's Maha Rasleela, begins around 11:30pm and continues till dawn the next day, as dancers in traditional attire perform devotional dances celebrating Lord Krishna.

Sonaton Hamom, a prominent Manipuri author, said the Rasleela is not only a religious occasion but also a profound cultural tradition for the Manipuri people.

Kamalganj UO Makhon Chandra Sutradhar said stringent security measures have been taken to ensure a peaceful celebration.



PHOTO: STAR

NASIRNAGAR OF B'BARIA

Silted canals put boro cultivation at risk

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

The Goalnagar union in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria lies on the eastern bank of the Meghna river, with adjoining wetlands through which water flows into two canals -- Kainchar khal and Chikondia khal.

The lives and livelihoods of locals largely depend on these waterbodies. The wetlands and canals provide water for irrigation for paddy cultivation on around 19,000 bighas of cropland in 10 villages of the union.

At present, however, farmers are passing days in distress, unsure whether they will be able to cultivate Boro paddy this year as the two canals have dried up.

Locals said years of unchecked sand extraction in Austagram upazila of Kishoreganj, across the Meghna, has changed the river's course and caused heavy siltation,

blocking the mouths of the two canals and causing them to dry up.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed that the two-kilometre-long Kainchar khal has turned into narrow trench due to siltation, with sandy stretches on both sides. The four-kilometre-long Chikondia khal was seen in a similar condition. The adjoining crop fields, which should now be filled with farmers preparing paddy saplings, lie silent and empty.

"For the past few years, water flow in Kainchar khal has not been adequate. Last year, I had to spend a considerable amount only to extract water from the canal for irrigation. This year, the canal has completely dried up. There will be no water for irrigation -- how will I cultivate paddy this time?" said Ananda Sarkar, a local farmer.

Standing next to him, another farmer, Kashem Mia, said, "If the

government does not excavate these canals by November, there will be no paddy cultivation in the entire Goalnagar union."

According to the Upazila Agriculture Office, water from the Kainchar canal supports cultivation across six villages of the union -- Goalnagar, Noagaon, Mashma, Ashanagar, Dakshindia and Rampur -- covering around 15,000 bighas. Another 4,000 bighas in Sonatola, Jhamarballi, Kadamtali and Maizkhola villages depend on the Chikondia canal.

"This year, Boro cultivation is targeted in 16,000 bighas in Goalnagar union. However, if the silted canals aren't excavated, at least 14,000 bighas will remain uncultivated. That would mean a production loss of around 3.3 lakh maunds of rice," said Imran Hossain, upazila agriculture officer of Nasirnagar.

Goalnagar Union Parishad Chairman Md Azharul Haque

said farmers have been submitting written appeals for years to the Water Development Board and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation for steps to remove silt from the canals to facilitate cultivation, but no action has been taken yet.

Shahina Nasrin, upazila nirbahi officer of Nasirnagar, said they received the farmers' written appeal and discussed it with the deputy commissioner and relevant agencies.

"We've also spoken to BWDB and BADC officials. Hopefully, the problem will be resolved soon," she added.

Akash Dutta, executive engineer of BWDB in Brahmanbaria, said the department had received applications regarding excavation of the silted canals. "We'll forward the proposal to the headquarters. Once funds are approved, excavation work will begin," he said.

Appeal filed to scrap 15th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday seeking cancellation of the entire 15th amendment to the constitution, which abolished the non-party caretaker government system and brought several major changes to the charter.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the 15th amendment on June 30, 2011, repealing the 13th amendment that had introduced the caretaker government system in 1996.

Four citizens -- Badiul Alam Majumdar, M Hafizuddin Khan, Md Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan, and Zahrah Rahman -- filed the leave-to-appeal petition with the Appellate Division through lawyers Sharif Bhuiyan and Reduanul Karim.

They challenged the High Court verdict that had scrapped part of the 15th amendment and restored the provision for holding referendums on constitutional amendments.

The petition stated that the HC "erred in law" by not declaring the entire amendment unconstitutional for failing to hold a referendum as required by Article 142 of the Constitution.

Lawyer Sharif Bhuiyan told reporters that partial cancellation of the amendment had created complications, as several caretaker government provisions remain unsettled. He said while sections related to the caretaker system were restored, some related constitutional clauses were not.

Rain submerges croplands in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Heavy rains over the past few days have flooded vast stretches of croplands in Tanore, Paba, Mohonpur and Godagari upazilas of Rajshahi, leaving farmers worried that their crops will yield far less than expected.

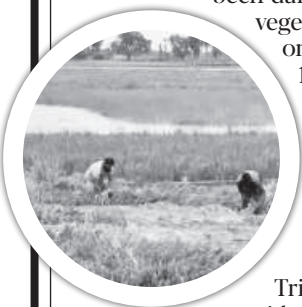
According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Rajshahi, Aman paddy has been damaged on 276 hectares of land, vegetables on 175.5 hectares, onion on 48.5 hectares and mustard on 169 hectares, along with several other crops across the district.

With large swathes of Aman fields under water, farmers were forced to dig temporary channels to drain the stagnant water.

Ram Chandan, a farmer from Trimohoni in Mohonpur upazila, said, "Even after offering higher wages, we can't find labourers to harvest the paddy. The yield will be less than half of what we expected," he said.

Farmers Mozahar Mondal and Abdul Aziz echoed him.

Sharmin Sultana, additional deputy director (crops) of the DAE in Rajshahi, said, "We have already begun visiting affected fields to assess the losses. Water levels have started receding in some areas."



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১। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা

(ক) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোনো মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে (গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়নসহ) ৫.০০ এর ক্ষেলে জিপিএ ৫.০০ এবং উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয়সমূহের প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম জিপি ৫.০০ পেয়ে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে।

প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোনো মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর ক্ষেলে জিপিএ ৫.০০ এবং উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয়সমূহের প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম জিপি ৫.০০ পেয়ে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড/নম্বর পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে।

যে সব প্রার্থী ২০২২ সালে মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২৪ সালে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন কিন্তু উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় তাদের সংশোধিত ফলাফল ১৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ তারিখের পরে শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে প্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন, সেক্ষেত্রে তাদেরকে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর ক্ষেলে জিপিএ ৫.০০ এবং উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয়সমূহের প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম জিপি ৫.০০ পেয়ে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড/নম্বর পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে।

সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীর মধ্য হতে বাছাই করে ১ম থেকে ১০,০০০ তম পর্যন্ত সকল আবেদনকারীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে। এই বাছাইয়ের জন্য যথাক্রমে আবেদনকারীর উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয় তিনটিতে প্রাপ্ত মোট নম্বর এবং উচ্চতর গণিত ও পদার্থবিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে প্রাপ্ত নম্বরকে অগ্রাধিকারের ক্রম হিসাবে বিবেচনা করা হবে। তবে ১০,০০০ তম আবেদনকারীর ক্ষেত্রে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয় তিনটিতে প্রাপ্ত মোট নম্বর একই হলে উচ্চ নম্বর প্রাপ্ত সকলকেই ১০,০০০ তম আবেদনকারী হিসেবে বিবেচনা করে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ প্রদান করা হবে।

(খ) GCE “O” লেভেল এবং GCE “A” লেভেল পাশ করা প্রার্থীদের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য GCE “O” লেভেল পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে পাঁচটি বিষয় (গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং ইংরেজীসহ) এর প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড এবং GCE “A” লেভেল পরীক্ষায় গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন এই তিন বিষয়ের যে কোনো দুইটিতে ন্যূনতম A গ্রেড এবং একটিতে ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে।

ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা পূরণ সাপেক্ষে GCE “O” লেভেল এবং GCE “A” লেভেল পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রাপ্ত সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীর মধ্য হতে উপরে উল্লেখিত নির্ধারিত গ্রেডের ভিত্তিতে বাছাই করে ১ম থেকে ৩০০ তম পর্যন্ত সকল আবেদনকারীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে। এই বাছাইয়ের জন্য যথাক্রমে আবেদনকারীর GCE “A” লেভেল পরীক্ষায় গণিত ও পদার্থবিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে প্রাপ্ত গ্রেডকে অগ্রাধিকারের ক্রম হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।

(গ) ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা পূরণ সাপেক্ষে ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে।

(ঘ) ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত আবেদনকারীদের তালিকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে (www.buet.ac.bd) প্রকাশ করা হবে।

২। আসন সংখ্যা

পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম ও অন্যান্য এলাকার ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত প্রার্থীদের জন্য প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহ ও নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগের জন্য মোট

৩ টি এবং স্থাপত্য বিভাগে ১ টি সংরক্ষিত আসনসহ সর্বমোট আসন সংখ্যা ১৩০৯ টি।

৩। আবেদন করার নিয়ম

আবেদন করার নিয়ম ভর্তির নির্দেশিকা (Guidelines for Admission to Undergraduate Program) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.buet.ac.bd)-এ পাওয়া যাবে। ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক আবেদন ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে তা অনলাইনে Submit করতে হবে। Submit করা শেষে একটি Application Serial No. প্রদান করা হবে। পরবর্তীতে এই নম্বরের বিপরীতে BUET এর website-এ বর্ণিত পদ্ধতিতে আবেদন ফি জমা দিতে হবে এবং আবেদন ফরমটি চূড়ান্তভাবে দাখিল করতে হবে।

নিম্নের ছকে বর্ণিত গ্রুপ অনুযায়ী আবেদন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে (অফেরতযোগ্য):

গ্রুপ	বিভাগ	আবেদন ফি
“ক”	প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহ এবং নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ	৳ ১৩০০/- (এক হাজার তিনশত টাকা মাত্র)
“খ”	প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহ, নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ এবং স্থাপত্য বিভাগ	৳ ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)

আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি : আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের (www.buet.ac.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে যথাসময়ে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

৪। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ইত্যাদির তারিখ ও সময়সূচী

১। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও জমা শুরু	১৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৫, রবিবার সকাল ১০:০০ টা		
২। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও জমা শেষ	২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫, মঙ্গলবার বিকাল ৩:০০ টা		
৩। মোবাইল/অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং-এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন ফি প্রদান শেষ	৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫, বুধস্পতিবার বিকাল ৩:০০ টা		
৪। E, T, S, R চিহ্নিত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি রেজিস্টার অফিসের ভর্তি শাখায় জমা দেয়া অথবা রেজিস্টার ডাক যোগে/কুরিয়ারের মাধ্যমে রেজিস্টার অফিসে প্রেরণ।	১৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ মঙ্গলবার থেকে ৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ বুধস্পতিবার (শুক্রবার ও অন্যান্য সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)। সকাল ১০:০০ টা - বিকাল ৩:০০ টা (সরাসরি জমা দেয়ার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য)		
৫। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য আবেদনকারীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	১৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫, বুধবার		
৬। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা	১০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬, শনিবার		
মডিউল A	“ক” গ্রুপ এবং “খ” গ্রুপ	উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান এবং রসায়ন	সকাল ৯:০০ টা থেকে দুপুর ১২:০০ টা
মডিউল B	“খ” গ্রুপ	মুক্তহস্ত অংকন (Freehand Drawing) এবং দৃষ্টিগত ও স্থানিক বীশক্তি (Visual-Spatial Intelligence)	বিকাল ২:৩০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০ টা
৭। ভর্তির জন্য নির্বাচিত ও অপেক্ষমান প্রার্থীদের নামসহ মেধাক্রমের তালিকা প্রকাশের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ			৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬, শনিবার

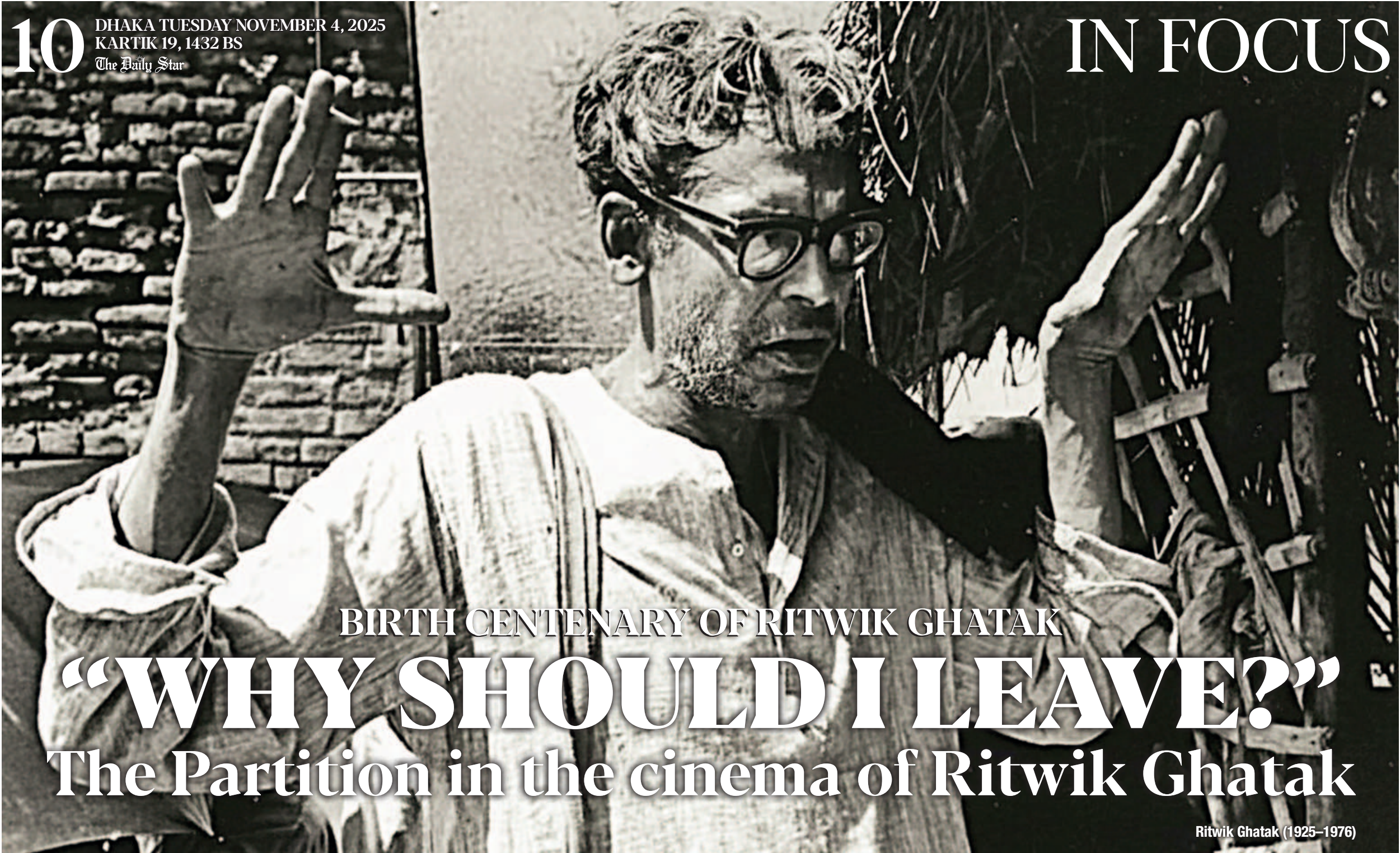
ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী কার্যক্রমের সময়সূচী BUET-এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.buet.ac.bd) যথাসময়ে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য:

- শুক্রবার ও অন্যান্য সরকারী ছুটির দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকবে।
- ২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ মঙ্গলবার, বিকাল ৩:০০ টার পর অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ আর শুরু করা যাবে না এবং ঐদিনই বিকাল ৫:৩০ মিনিটে অনলাইনে আবেদনের সার্ভার বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে; এরপর অনলাইনে আর কোন আবেদনপত্র Submit করা যাবে না।
- বিভাগীয় অপশন প্রদান করার পরে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশ পত্র ডাউনলোড করতে হবে।
- ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় মডিউল A এবং মডিউল B এর প্রতিটি বিষয়ের সকল প্রশ্ন ও মূল্যায়ন প্রচলিত পদ্ধতিতে করা হবে।
- মোবাইল ফোন, স্মার্ট যন্ত্র বা টেলিযোগাযোগ যন্ত্র, জ্যামিতি বক্স, পেন্সিল বক্স, স্কেল, সেট-স্কয়ার, কম্পাস ও কোন প্রকার ব্যাগ পরীক্ষা কক্ষে নিয়ে আসা যাবে না।

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BIRTH CENTENARY OF RITWIK GHATAK

“WHY SHOULD I LEAVE?”

The Partition in the cinema of Ritwik Ghatak

Ritwik Ghatak (1925–1976)

DEBALI MOOKERJEA-LEONARD

Author, playwright, and film director Ritwik Kumar Ghatak was born on November 4, 1925, to Rai Bahadur Suresh Chandra Ghatak, district magistrate, and Indubala Devi. During the 1940s, the Ghatak family, originally from Dhaka, relocated—first to Berhampore, and later to Kolkata. Ghatak was profoundly affected by the social and political events of the 1940s—the Second World War, the Great Bengal Famine, and, particularly, the Partition. His fiction, the plays he composed for the leftist collective—the Indian People’s Theatre Association—and his films chronicle the upheaval caused by the Partition, the displacement of numerous Hindu families from eastern Bengal to India, and the ensuing crisis of a syncretic Bengali culture.

Beginning with Ramu’s multiple relocations in *Nagarik* (*The Citizen*, 1952, released in 1977) and his mother’s dreams of a better home, many of Ghatak’s films allude to the Partition, but it is *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (*The Cloud-Capped Star*, 1960), *Komal Gandhar* (*E Flat*, 1961), and *Subarnarekha* (1962, released in 1965) which constitute his Partition trilogy. His contemporary Satyajit Ray noted in the foreword to *Ghatak’s Cinema and I* that “Thematically, Ritwik’s lifelong obsession was with the tragedy of Partition. He himself hailed from what was once East Bengal, where he had deep roots. It is rare for a director to dwell so single-mindedly on the same theme; it only serves to underline the depth of his feeling for the subject.” Film scholar Bhaskar Sarkar has described him as “the most celebrated cinematic auteur of Partition narratives” (*Mourning the Nation*).

Ghatak’s *Komal Gandhar* opens sometime after Partition with the

evoking refugee migrations.

The agony over Partition-related uprootings from home and homeland suffuses Ghatak’s cinema. If the above scene dramatizes the torment of emigrating from the land of one’s birth, a later sequence in the film captures the melancholy of the displaced. Actors Anasuya and Bhriгу (who plays the reluctant migrant in the opening scene) arrive in Lalgola, where they are scheduled to perform. Lalgola is an Indian border town situated on the banks of the Padma. The two pause on the riverbank at a set of stopped train tracks and gaze meditatively across the waters into the far horizon. Then, Anasuya says, “On the other side of the river is East Bengal, you know! ... Somewhere on that bank is my ancestral home. ... The word, I think, is tranquillity. That’s what my grandma used to say, and that tranquillity, it seems, is something we’ll never get back. ... Whenever I think of home, the

in the Indian subcontinent during the mid-1940s reached their horrific climax in the Partition of August 1947. Decolonisation was achieved at the cost of partitioning the colony into India and Pakistan as sovereign nation-states. As a result of Partition, provinces were allocated to independent India or Pakistan according to a census logic of ethno-religious majoritarianism, with two provinces—Punjab in the northwest and Bengal in the east—being split between the two countries. The process of Partition was marked by unprecedented violence, violence that led to the largest migration in human history.

Countering Partition’s logic of religious incompatibility, in *Komal Gandhar* Ghatak interlaces Muslim boatmen’s songs with Hindu wedding songs to articulate a syncretic Bengali culture. The wedding songs, according to Ghatak, prefigure more than just

Express. Reporting on the event, *The Times of India* (April 15, 2008) noted that “Ritwik Ghatak’s immortal scene from *Komal Gandhar* had captured the grief of a generation torn asunder by Partition and war. But had his protagonist Bhriгу lived now, his dream of reaching there wouldn’t have remained just a dream.”

If *Komal Gandhar* addresses Partition-related melancholia, *Meghe Dhaka Tara* explores the struggle for survival and the social crisis engendered by Partition, particularly its impact on the lives of women. In this film, Neeta’s participation in wage labour is indicative of wider social changes ushered in by the Partition. The political and economic vicissitudes attending Partition compelled women in displaced families to pursue gainful employment. The family’s economic collapse, whether due to looting or forced evacuation and the consequent loss of landed property, could be



Poster of the film
Komal Gandhar (1961)

stoked by memories of the 1943 Bengal Famine—compel Neeta’s mother to plot to keep her daughter single. The family’s survival depends on Neeta’s earnings, so her mother refuses to let her daughter marry and take her salary elsewhere. With low cunning, she foils Neeta’s romance with Sanat.

The shot of Neeta—tubercular and self-isolating—standing at the window of her room, watching her mother and siblings in the courtyard, with crisscrossing bamboo bars fragmenting her face, suggests her incarceration within the family, together with alluding to the Partition. Nurturing and generous but exploited and dying, she embodies post-Partition “crumbling Bengal” (*My Films*). The refugee woman as an analogue for Bengal reappears in *Komal Gandhar* in Anasuya’s question when compelled to choose between Bhriгу and her fiancé Samar: “Am I also divided in two?” Similarly, about *Subarnarekha*, Ghatak writes that “The divided, debilitated Bengal that we have known ... is in the same state as Seeta in the brothel” (*My Films*).

Finally, Neeta’s words to her elder brother Shankar, when he visits her at the sanatorium—“Dada, ami je banchte boro bhalobashi” (“Dada, I really love living”)—illuminate the resilience of displaced women who picked up the pieces of their broken lives and set about rebuilding new ones in new places, among people they had not known before—people who had different food habits and spoke a different dialect of Bangla.

In *Subarnarekha*, the third film in Ghatak’s Partition trilogy, ten-year-old Seeta asks if the Nabajiban refugee colony in Kolkata, where she has recently relocated with her brother Ishwar—her only surviving family member—is her new home. As her life unfolds, Seeta, like her mythical namesake, is serially displaced—from her village in East Bengal to the refugee colony in Kolkata, from there to Chhatimpur (her brother’s workplace) on the banks of the River Subarnarekha in the interiors of western Bengal, and, eventually, to

a refugee colony in Kolkata after she marries Abhiram. Seeta’s question, “Is this my new home?” ricochets through the film, and when her son Binu asks Ishwar, “Are we going to our new home?” the plot suggests that the trauma of homelessness has filtered into the next generation.

In addition to the political division of Bengal, *Subarnarekha* also exposes other social fault lines—provincialism and caste. Kaushalya and her son Abhiram from Dhaka district are denied a place in the refugee colony because the occupants of that section are from Pabna; in a seemingly ironic reflection on the Partition, a former Pabna resident tells her, “What would be left of us if we can’t even hold on to the differences between the districts?” But was the refusal of shelter based on Pabna–Dhaka differences alone, or was caste prejudice also in the mix, given that Kaushalya is of a lower caste? The disruptive potential of caste is brought up later in the film when Seeta’s brother Ishwar, a Brahmin, learns that Abhiram, the child he adopted after his mother Kaushalya was abducted from the refugee colony, is of the Bagdi caste. Ishwar, worried that his “pious” employer might dismiss him for sheltering a lower-caste man and, further, to thwart his sister’s romance with Abhiram (for the same reason), asks the latter to leave.

Subarnarekha brings to a full circle a question broached by the first film in the trilogy, *Meghe Dhaka Tara*—who is responsible for so much suffering? Upon learning of his daughter’s tuberculosis, Neeta’s father exclaims, “I accuse!” looking directly into the camera, his index finger also pointing towards it, thus including the viewer within the scope of his gaze and his accusation; but he withdraws it. Ishwar, on the other hand, drunk and sightless without his glasses, staggers into a brothel in Kolkata, unaware that he is his widowed and penniless sister’s first client; upon seeing him, Seeta kills herself. (Ishwar’s “He, Ram!” in response to her suicide connects her death with Gandhi’s assassination and the political turmoil in the subcontinent.) After Ishwar’s claim that he is guilty of murdering Seeta is dismissed by the court, he tells a journalist, “You are guilty too ... you, me, all of us.” The faltering “I accuse!” has transformed into a definitive assertion of collective responsibility for the making of a “divided, debilitated Bengal” (*My Films*).

I conclude with Ghatak’s reflections on the condition of Bengal in the twentieth century:

In our boyhood, we have seen a Bengal whole and glorious. ... This was the world that was shattered by the War, the Famine, and when the Congress and the Muslim League brought disaster to the country and tore it into two to snatch for it a fragmented independence. Communal riots engulfed the country. ... Our dreams faded away. We crashed on our faces clinging to a crumbling Bengal, divested of all its glory. ... I have not been able to break loose from this theme in all the films I have made recently. (*My Films*)

Ritwik Ghatak passed away on February 6, 1976.

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A scene from the film Komal Gandhar

waters and the little crossings come to mind.”

They wander along the riverbank. Then, after a long pause, Bhriгу replies: “My ancestral home is also over there. There—you can see the houses. So close, and yet I can never reach them—it’s a foreign country. Do you know what I was doing when you said that somewhere on that side is your ancestral home? I was looking for my own home, because my home is there and nowhere else. On the train tracks where you and I were standing, there I used to get off the train from Calcutta. A steamboat would take me to the other side, where Ma would be waiting ... The train lines, then, denoted a bond; now they mark a split. The land has been ripped in two.”

For Anasuya and Bhriгу, like others displaced by the Partition of India, the ancestral homeland—their *desh*—is a place of memories: memories of childhood, memories of an accustomed way of life. It is also a place of tranquillity, a place whose topography and ecology were theirs. And it is a place they lost. Their *desh*—homeland or ancestral land—is now *bidesh*, foreign land, and inaccessible. The Partition wrenched apart Anasuya’s and Bhriгу’s birthplace from their homeland, rewriting in the process the histories and geographies of belonging.

Escalating communal hostilities

Anasuya and Bhriгу’s relationship: “I desire a reunion of the two Bengals,” noted Ghatak in his 1966 essay *Amar Chhobi* (“My Films”), “hence the film is replete with songs of union.” Similarly, Anasuya’s mother, in her diary entry from November 1946 in the aftermath of the riots in Noakhali, quotes Tagore’s lines “God, may the brothers and sisters in Bengali homes be united” from *Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol* (“Bengal’s Soil, Bengal’s Waters”), a poem composed to protest the first partition of Bengal in 1905. The lines testify to Ghatak’s longing. (He stated, in an interview, “I am not talking about a political union of the two [parts of] Bengal ... I am talking about a cultural [re]union.”) The boatmen’s “Dohai Ali” chant—“In the name of Ali” or “Mercy, Ali”—invokes protection against misadventures on the Padma’s waters, and it returns in a subsequent scene, this time with women frantically pleading “Dohai Ali” as the camera speeds down the train tracks to the buffer on the disabled railroad (where Anasuya and Bhriгу were standing in a previous scene). When the camera encounters the buffer, the screen goes dark, indicating that “the old road to eastern Bengal has been snapped off” (*My Films*).

On April 14, 2008, Bengali New Year’s Day (1415), train service between Dhaka and Kolkata was restored with the launch of the *Maitree* (Friendship)

salvaged, at least partly, through women’s labour in white, pink, and blue-collar occupations.

Like so much of Bangla literature of the period, Ghatak’s cinema celebrates the quiet courage of these formerly homebound women who, without knowing or intending to, set off a transformation in the mindscape of both displaced and non-displaced women, especially middle-class women—making their employment outside the home socially acceptable. That Neeta, the elder daughter, becomes the family’s economic crutch bears testimony to this.

However, Neeta’s entrance into the labour market is tantamount to enslavement to the needs of everyone she loves. Overextending herself at work and living in insalubrious conditions, she contracts tuberculosis. The disease operates as a metaphor on two levels: (i) to intensify her feeling of entrapment within her needy family, where there is no air left for her to breathe; and (ii) to indicate a broader social rot, by which norms of ethical conduct and decency have withered away to the point that the compassionate and unselfish suffer. Displacement-induced poverty and the very real fear of starvation—fears



A scene from Meghe
Dhaka Tara



Poster of the film Subarnarekha (1965)

“Niriksha” theatre troupe staging a play. In the play, an elderly man speaking an East Bengali dialect of Bangla asks angrily, “Why should I leave?” adding, “Why should I leave behind this lovely land, abandon my River Padma, and go elsewhere?” His interlocutor tells him that emigration is his only chance of survival and advises him to register as a refugee. The old man responds with only a string of “chhee!” (shame). While this proceeds in the foreground, a steady stream of human silhouettes treks across the white screen in the background,

FROM MOGA TO SUMMIT

Kaur's 1983 moment



AGENCIES

Many years ago in the fields of Moga, Punjab, a young girl with a dupatta tied around her waist sent leather thudding into turf with astonishing pace.

Her school uniform flapped as she bowled to boys twice her size, undeterred and unafraid. Coach Kamaldeesh Singh Sodhi still remembers that morning jog when destiny introduced itself. "I had never seen any girl of her age bowl with that kind of pace and guile," he recalled. "I knew she was special."

That girl -- Harmanpreet Kaur -- would go on to redefine Indian cricket. On a glorious night in Navi Mumbai, she became India's



first-ever ICC Women's World Cup-winning captain, completing a circle that began in the dusty nets of Moga.

Her father, Harmandar Singh Bhullar, a district court clerk, had unknowingly foretold

"1983 inspired an entire generation to dream big and chase those dreams. Today, our women's cricket team has done something truly special. They have inspired countless young girls across the country to pick up a bat and ball, take the field and believe that they too can lift that trophy one day. This is a defining moment in the journey of Indian women's cricket."

India legend **Sachin Tendulkar**

her future the day she was born.

He bought a tiny shirt that read "Good Batsman." "I just did it out of joy," he once said. "But I always knew she'd be a sportsperson." The dream, however, was not easily funded.

Training in a private academy 30 kilometres away seemed impossible -- until Kamaldeesh promised to bear the cost himself. Thus began a partnership built on faith, sweat and unyielding belief.

From captaining Moga to nine straight Punjab Inter-District titles to breaking window panes with sixes in Patiala, Harmanpreet's rise was fuelled by a fearless heart.

Her coaches remember her learning to hit against stronger boys -- an apprenticeship in courage that later produced the 91-metre six against Ellyse Perry and that legendary 171 not out against Australia in 2017. "She's been hitting sixes on her own will since the start," Yadwinder Sodhi said proudly.

That fearless spark now illuminates an entire generation. In the 2025 World Cup

semifinal, Harmanpreet's 89 in partnership with Jemimah Rodrigues symbolised calm authority and tactical genius.

And though she made only 20 in the final, her decision to toss the ball to young Shafali Verma changed the match -- and India's history. As the final wicket fell, the tears that rolled down her face carried years of heartbreak and resilience.

"We have lost so much, and from every loss, we have learned something," she told the ICC, voice trembling with emotion.

When she lifted the trophy -- eyes wet, smile trembling -- the echoes of 1983 seemed to return. Kapil Dev's men had once shocked the world at Lord's, winning their first-ever World Cup title, and forty-two years later, Kaur's women rose in Navi Mumbai, igniting another revolution.

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar called it "a defining moment in the journey of Indian women's cricket."

For Harmanpreet, the triumph was more than victory -- it was redemption. She had played five World Cups, endured near-misses, and carried the weight of expectation on her shoulders. "I'm numb," she confessed after the win. "We only looked at our goal [and] nothing else."

Standing alongside her that night were her mentors -- Jhulan Goswami, Mithali Raj, Anjum Chopra -- the pioneers who paved the road she walked. "It was emotional," she said.

"We were all waiting for this. Finally, we touched the trophy."

In that moment, under the roaring lights of DY Patil Stadium, the little girl from Moga finally came home, rewriting history in her own handwriting of grit, grace, and glory.

PHOTO: ICC/INSTAGRAM

BCB counters boycott threat with relegation rule

SPORTS REPORTER

The standoff between several Dhaka-based clubs and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) deepened yesterday, with the clubs issuing a letter to threaten a boycott of all leagues and the board responding by adding a clause guaranteeing relegation for non-participation.

A total of 43 Dhaka-based clubs from across four divisions sent a letter to the BCB after a meeting yesterday, claiming grievances over the recent BCB elections and said they will refrain from all leagues organised under the current administration.

Eight Premier Division, eight First Division, 12 Second Division and 15 Third Division clubs signed the letter which was sent to the BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

"We had a meeting regarding the letter we sent and discussed that we have to be united and together on this move through thick and thin," Legends of Rupganj owner Lutfor Rahman Badol told The Daily Star following their meeting at Dhanmondi on Monday.

The letter read that clubs had already lodged a formal complaint on October 22 to the BCB Chief Election Commissioner concerning "grave irregularities and procedural violations" surrounding BCB elections, demanded the current board be dissolved and a fresh elections be held.

Just hours later, the BCB endorsed a non-participation and withdrawal clause in the rules, regulations, and playing conditions of all leagues under the jurisdiction of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM).

"If any team fails to participate in the league, either in full or partially, including complete withdrawal from the competition after its commencement, such action shall result in the immediate disqualification and relegation of the defaulting team," the BCB said in a press release sent on Monday night.

The impact of this standoff could be felt in the upcoming First Division Cricket League, scheduled from November 18. The league usually consists of 20 teams, but if the aggrieved clubs follow through on their threat, it could end up becoming a 12-team competition.

Khoi Khoi, Ridoy claim Fed Cup TT titles



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SPORTS REPORTER

There may have been little noise in the gallery of the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday, but the energy on the tables was unmistakable as Khoi Khoi Marma and Mohutasin Ahmed Ridoy were crowned women's and men's singles champions in the Federation Cup.

In the women's singles, promising Khoi Khoi faced experienced national player Sonom Sultana Soma in a match that stretched to a gripping fifth set. Khoi Khoi ultimately triumphed 3-2 (11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7), claiming the title for the first time.

"Actually, it was a tough fight against Soma apu, but I gained confidence after beating number one Mou in the semifinals," said Khoi Khoi, who had also defeated Soma in the women's team event.

Despite her third title in the last four competitions, Khoi Khoi remained humble, praising her seniors for their experience. "I have yet to reach the level of Soma apu and Mou... I've followed them since childhood."

On the other hand, the men's final was far more one-sided, with former national champion Ridoy

dominating current champion Ramhim Lian Bawn 3-0 (11-6, 11-8, 11-3).

"Yes, I am a bit more serious now compared to the past because I am trying to hold the position I gained before," Ridoy said. "Ramhim is a really good player but he looked a bit tired in the final and couldn't carry his semifinal performance through, which made the contest easier for me."

Both champions now shift focus to the Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, starting November 7, with the team scheduled to leave Bangladesh on November 5. The Federation Cup, held after a four-year gap, provided an ideal platform for preparation.

"A good number of strong teams will compete at the Games, and we will try to produce better results than the last edition, where we reached the quarterfinals," Ridoy said.

Khoi Khoi echoed the sentiment, saying her Federation Cup performance has boosted her confidence for her first appearance at the Islamic Solidarity Games. Soma also expressed optimism, noting that the competitive matches have strengthened the squad's determination to deliver a medal, whether from the men's or women's events.

Alonso returns to Liverpool with high-flying Real

Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso returns to Anfield to face his former side Liverpool in the Champions League after an almost flawless start in Spain. While Liverpool have won just twice in eight Premier League games, Alonso's Madrid are thriving, having won 13 of 14 matches this season. A 4-0 rout of Valencia and a Clasico triumph over Barcelona highlight their intensity and defensive solidity. Stars like Mbappe, Vinicius, and Bellingham are flourishing under Alonso, who has reshaped Madrid with pressing, discipline, and a renewed identity. He aims to make his Anfield return a statement in Europe.



****Real Madrid have won seven of their 12 meetings against Liverpool in the past, with the Reds having only won four times.**

****This will be the eighth time that Liverpool and Real Madrid have met in the Champions League since the start of the 2017-18 season, with the Spanish side winning five**

of the previous seven.

****Liverpool have won 20 of their last 22 home Champions League group stage games.**

****Mohamed Salah is set to play his 200th game at Anfield for the Reds and needs two more goals to become the first African to score 50 times in the Champions League.**



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

Harry Kane does keepy uppies as Bayern Munich travel to European champions Paris Saint-Germain in a top-of-the-table clash of the UEFA Champions League in Paris tonight. Bayern have won 15 from 15 matches in all competitions so far this campaign, setting a new record for the best start to a season in the top five European leagues, and their English skipper has scored 22 goals in those 15 games.

SHORT CORNER

Fitness race on for Sohan, Shoriful

Fast bowler Shoriful Islam and wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan are expected to recover in time for Bangladesh's three-match T20I series against Ireland later this month, according to team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan. Both players picked up injuries during Friday's T20I against the West Indies in Chattogram, with Sohan twisting his right ankle and Shoriful suffering a right hamstring strain.

Trott to step down as Afghanistan coach

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott will leave the position after next year's Twenty20 World Cup, the country's cricket board (ACB) said on Monday.

International cricket returns to Faisalabad

International cricket is set to return to Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium after 17 years with the three-match one-day international series between Pakistan and South Africa from Tuesday. The central city in Punjab province last staged an international match in 2008 when Pakistan and Bangladesh played an ODI.

Oldest former Olympic champion dies

The world's oldest former Olympic champion, ex-track cyclist Charles Coste, has died aged 101, French sports minister Marina Ferrari announced Sunday. Coste won gold at the 1948 London Olympics and was a torch bearer at the 2024 Paris Games.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.



No more RPO edits

Says eight-party bloc led by Jamaat; calls rallies on Nov 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolon Bangladesh, have reiterated their firm stance on retaining the recently amended Representation of the People Order (RPO).

No further exclusion, addition or modification of the RPO would be accepted under pressure from a particular party, they said.

The BNP stood against Article 20 of the recently amended RPO, which states that candidates of any party must carry their own party's electoral symbol, even if they are part of an alliance with a larger party.

Earlier, it was possible to carry the alliance's electoral symbol.

The Jamaat-led parties have been in a simultaneous movement with a five-point demand since October 18. Yesterday, the parties held a meeting at the central office of Bangladesh Khilafat Majlish in the capital's Paltan area.

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A man buys a cauliflower from a vegetable vendor in Hatirpool Bazar for Tk 65 yesterday. Even though there is adequate supply of winter vegetables, prices remain high in kitchen markets across the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

THE CONSTITUTION

Renewed, betrayed, manipulated but still enduring

BAHARAM KHAN

The constitution of Bangladesh was finalised amid joy and celebration on this day in 1972. After nine months of discussions and debates at the constituent assembly, agreement was reached on the national charter on the fourth of November. The constitution, however, came into effect on 16 December 1972, exactly a year after Bangladesh's victory in the Liberation War.

This supreme law of the country essentially lays down the blueprint of the state, the rules that the government must follow and, perhaps most importantly, enumerates the rights of the citizens. It stipulates the inalienable fundamental rights and the basic needs of the people and the basic principles of the state.

Although the now-toppled Awami League regime declared November 4 as "National Constitution Day" in 2022, none of the past administrations observed it with any notable reverence. The current government even revoked its status as a national day a few months after taking office.

This year's constitution day comes against the backdrop of months of intense negotiations over constitutional reforms, with consensus still elusive. The constitution was drafted immediately after the Liberation War. This time too, the reforms under discussion – the most significant in the 53 years the constitution has been in force – follow a bloody uprising.

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NCP preparing list of 150 polls candidates

SHAMIMA RITA

After accepting "Shapla Koli" (water lily bud) as its electoral symbol, the National Citizen Party is now gearing up to finalise 150 candidates in as many seats.

According to party sources, the newly formed party has prepared a candidate list and some on the list have received the party's green signal to start election preparations in their constituencies.

Three of the party's top leaders have already hit the ground, ramping up campaigns and preparations in their constituencies.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam is being considered for Dhaka-11 constituency.

Speaking to this correspondent, he said, "I grew up in Badda, but I spent part of my childhood in Khilgaon, where many of my relatives still live. So, I could contest from either Dhaka-11 or Dhaka-9. Dhaka-11 is my first choice, but I'll decide for certain when the election gets closer."

Joint Convener Tasnim Jara may run in Dhaka-9. Her husband, Khaled Saifullah, a member of the party's central committee, may run from Rajbari-1.

The spokesperson of the party, Nasiruddin Patwary, will most likely contest from Dhaka-18.

Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser of the NCP's southern region, has obtained the green signal to contest the polls from Cumilla-4.

Other members of the top leadership, NCP's Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain and Chief Organiser of the northern region Sarjis Alam have been given the nod to run from Rangpur-4 and Panchagarh-1 respectively.

Senior Joint Chief Coordinator Abdur Hannan Masud may contest from his home constituency, Noakhali-6.

The neighbouring constituency, Noakhali-2, may go to Sultan Muhammad Zakaria, joint convener and international media cell editor, who has already announced his candidacy under the NCP banner.

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Animal welfare demands political will, not sympathy

Cruelty rising amid weak enforcement, poor coordination, say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gaps in laws, enforcement, education, and coordination continue to undermine animal welfare in Bangladesh, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Organised by The Daily Star, the discussion titled Toward Humane Cities: Animal Welfare into Urban Policy brought together experts, activists, lawyers, and policymakers to examine the state's responsibility in animal welfare, humane stray population control, legal



"No single institution can enforce the law alone – citizen awareness and social responsibility are equally crucial. When an act of cruelty occurs, preventing it is not just the government's duty – it is everyone's."

Dr Md Shahinur Alam, director (livestock medicine store), Department of Livestock Services



shortcomings, challenges in seeking justice, illegal breeding practices, the role of the media, and access to veterinary care.

Dr Md Shahinur Alam, director of the Livestock Medicine Store under the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), said cruelty persists despite strong laws. "Recent cases in Gopalganj and Khulna show dogs still being poisoned or beaten – often with local administration involvement. We need stronger accountability and coordination to protect animals under the Animal

Welfare Act 2019."

Stressing that CNVR (catch-neuter-vaccinate-release) and vaccination are "scientific imperatives", he said only a structured, humane, nationally led approach can ensure sustainable population control and genuine welfare.

Brig Gen Imrul Quais Chowdhury, chief health officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, said humane dog population management has been "inconsistent" due to legal and institutional gaps. "CNVR is the only proven method for sustainable control. DNCC coordinated with organisations to sterilise 25,000 dogs under a 2016 MoU, but later tenders failed to attract qualified partners."

He noted that the City Corporation Act lacks provisions for large-scale welfare initiatives and urged greater coordination with the DLS and integration of animal welfare into public health policy.

Rubaia Ahmad, founder and chairperson of Obhoyaronno Animal

Welfare Foundation, said disease and injury among street dogs are at record highs due to state inaction. "Dogs have become the orphaned children of urban governance," she said, adding that no ministry has been tasked or equipped to manage dog populations humanely since culling was banned in 2012.

"Our CNVR programme was never meant to be ad hoc. Since 2009, our mission has been to end dog culling and promote humane, science-based population control. We signed MoUs with the two city corporations and Humane Society International in 2012, but the plan was never fully adopted."

She said Obhoyaronno has sterilised 25,000 dogs – the cost of which would be around Tk 60 crore – but the initiative faltered after former DNCC mayor Anisul Haque's death. "Bureaucratic delays and lack of state support left the programme dependent

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ICT-1 expresses annoyance at defence counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday rebuked state-appointed defence counsel Md Amir Hossain, saying that he "talks too much and often makes remarks that embarrass the court."

Tribunal member Justice Md Shofiul Alam Mahmood said this during the cross-examination of a prosecution witness in a case filed against five police officials, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman. Among the accused, only ex-assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarker is in custody.

The case involves the killings of two people and the injury of two others on July 19, 2024, in Rampura during the July uprising. Amir was representing four absconding accused, including Habibur.

Witness Tabassum Akhter Niha, wife of victim Nadim Mizan, testified about how police and BGB personnel opened fire that day, killing her husband. "Locals brought him home around 2:30pm, shot and bloodied. I saw blood pouring from his abdomen, and I fainted," said Niha, the third prosecution witness in the case.

During cross-examination, Amir asked her, "Did you see who shot your husband?" The prosecution immediately objected, saying, "Chanchal's lawyer had asked the same question earlier, and you [tribunal] objected to it."

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Design, building fault behind metro pad fall

Says DMTCL MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The collapse of a metro rail bearing pad was not a sudden mishap but likely stemmed from faults in design, construction, installation or consultancy, said Dhaka Mass Transit Company (DMTCL) Managing Director Md Faruk Ahmed.

"This didn't happen by chance – there are four possible causes," he told reporters at a press briefing yesterday at the DMTCL office in Uttara.

Faruk cited structural design errors, poor construction, non-compliant installation and consultancy lapses as potential factors for the incident.

More than Tk 1,000 crore was spent on consultancy and it is possible that they misunderstood key technical aspects, he said, adding that the causes may be interlinked.

While an investigation committee is already working, DMTCL has initiated an independent safety audit of the metro infrastructure by an international firm.

"This is a 100-year structure. Bearings are meant to last 50 years. Yet we are seeing failures within two years."

Two French firms have expressed interest in conducting the audit.

"It won't happen overnight, but we are expediting the process with ministerial support," he said, adding that the

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Afghan earthquake survivors search through the remains of a damaged house in a village in Tashqurghan, Khulm district of Samangan province, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mamdani leads as NYC votes today for mayor

AGENCIES

New Yorkers are set to pick a new mayor today after an unpredictable race that has drawn attention from far beyond the largest city in the US, with President Donald Trump branding frontrunner Zohran Mamdani "a communist".

New York City's mayoral race is always watched closely as the city is the nation's financial capital and its leaders' decisions often influence national political discourse, at least for the locally dominant Democratic Party.

Breakout Democratic Party candidate Mamdani, a naturalised Muslim American who represents Queens in the state legislature, leads former governor and sex assault-accused Andrew Cuomo, running

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