



New York City may-or-elect Zohran Mamdani waves to his supporters at an election night rally in Brooklyn on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## BNP nominee for Ctg-8 shot, one killed

Incident occurred at a voter outreach event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

One person was killed and two others were injured in an attack on a political programme of Ershad Ullah, convener of the Chattogram city unit of the BNP and the party's nominated candidate for Chattogram-8, in the city's Purbo Bayezid area yesterday.

Sarwar Babla sustained bullet injuries and died while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in the port city, said Officer-in-Charge Jasim Uddin of Bayezid Bostami Police Station. Ershad Ullah is among the injured.

The OC said another person, Erfanul Haque Shanto, was also injured in the attack.

Mohammad Aziz, a witness and younger brother of Sarwar, told The Daily Star that after Asr prayers,

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## 'A new era for New York'

Mamdani makes history in Big Apple mayoral win, challenges Trump; boost for Democrats ahead of midterms

AGENCIES

New Yorkers elected leftist Zohran Mamdani as their next mayor, while Democrats won two key state governor races, sending an early warning signal to Republican President Donald Trump ahead of the 2026 midterms.

The clean sweep among several ballots nationwide on Tuesday has boosted morale among Democrats bruised by Trump's return to the White House and has set alarm bells ringing among Republican circles.

Mamdani, 34, is the city's first Muslim mayor and the youngest to serve in more than a century.

A day after his victory, Mamdani yesterday said, "New Yorkers deserve a government they can trust."

He said that when he is inaugurated on 1 January 2026, it will mark "a new era for our city -- one that we all feel invested in".

The Democratic socialist's victory came in the face of fierce attacks on his policies and his Muslim heritage from business elites,

'MAMDANI MUBARAK!' - PAGE 16

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## Biggest banking shakeup in motion

BB takes over 5 Shariah lenders in rescue merger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday took over the five troubled Shariah-based banks on a temporary basis by dissolving their boards as part of the formal merger process.

Before dissolving the boards of directors, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur met with the chairmen and managing directors of the five banks -- First Security Islami, Union, Global Islami, Social Islami and EXIM -- to inform them about the matter.

In a circular, the central bank said the five banks have been brought under the resolution process to restore good governance, ensure accountability, bring overall discipline in the banking sector, protect the interests of depositors and regain public confidence in the overall banking system.

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Five banks' boards dissolved

Temporary administrators appointed

New 'Sammilito Islami Bank' to launch soon

Paid-up capital to be Tk 35,000cr

Depositors with Tk 2 lakh or less to get money back this month

75 lakh depositors' funds will remain protected

Merger to take more than a year to complete

## Draft law forbids unlawful surveillance

If passed, it will dismantle the NTMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has drafted a new ordinance that seeks to penalise unauthorised surveillance by anyone, including state actors.

The ordinance also abolishes "any previously existing interception agency or telecommunications monitoring centre or platform".

If passed, the law could lead to the elimination of the National Telecommunications Monitoring Centre, known for large-scale surveillance.

The Daily Star had previously investigated how the NTMC, police, and Rab collectively purchased surveillance equipment worth over Tk 1,382 crore between 2016 and

2024 to unlawfully surveil citizens.

A draft of the law titled "Bangladesh Telecommunications Ordinance 2025" and prepared by the Posts and Telecommunications Division, was uploaded to its website on Tuesday for stakeholder feedback.

The draft says interception and surveillance will have both

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# 5 of a family die in bus-microbus collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five members of a family were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a microbus in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased are Farzana Majumdar Liza, 25, wife of Aminul Haque of Batisa area in Chaudhagram upazila of Cumilla; Aminul's mother, Rumena Begum, 60; his sister, Sadia Haque, 24; his mother-in-law, Rizwana Islam, 50; and his sister-in-law, Farhana Majumdar, 24.

Aminul, his father, Enamul Haque, and his six-year-old son, Sadman, were injured in the crash.

Officer-in-Charge Mehedi Hasan of Malumghat Highway Police Station said the accident occurred around 9:00am in the Malumghat area on the Cox's Bazar-Chattoogram highway when Aminul's family was on their way to Cox's Bazar for a holiday.

A Chattogram-bound bus collided with their microbus, leaving two people dead on the spot and five others injured, he said.

The injured were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared three of them dead, the OC added.

# 6 jhut depots gutted in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

A fire gutted six warehouses filled with jhut (garment scraps) in the Ambag area of Gazipur city yesterday morning.

The fire broke out around 6:30am at a warehouse located at Barbuchi Mor under ward No. 11 of Konabari Police Station, locals and fire officials said. It soon spread to five adjoining warehouses, triggering panic among residents.

Locals initially tried to bring the blaze under control but failed and later called firefighters.

On information, four firefighting units – two from Konabari Modern Fire Station and two from Chowrasta Fire Station – rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control after about two hours of effort, reports UNB.

Inspector Saiful Islam of Konabari Modern Fire Service said it was not yet clear what caused the fire or the extent of the damage.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Palestinian boys walk past the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

# US may seek UN Gaza force for two years

## Document shows; Nasser hospital receives 15 Palestinian bodies under ceasefire exchange deal

REUTERS, United Nations

The United States has drafted a United Nations resolution that approves a two-year mandate for a Gaza transitional governance body and an international stabilization force in the Palestinian enclave, according to the text seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

The draft – which is still being developed and could change – was shared with some countries this week, but has not yet been formally circulated to the 15-member Security Council for negotiations, diplomats said. It was not immediately clear when Washington planned to do that.

A State Department spokesperson said discussions with UN Security Council members and other partners on how to implement President Donald Trump's Gaza plan were ongoing and declined to comment on "allegedly leaked documents."

The two-page text would authorise a so-called Board of Peace transitional governance administration to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza that could "use all necessary measures" – code for force – to carry out its mandate.

The ISF would be authorised to

protect civilians and humanitarian aid operations, work to secure border areas with Israel, Egypt and a "newly trained and vetted Palestinian police force, which the ISF will be responsible for training and supporting.

» Draft shared with some countries, not yet circulated to Security Council

» ISF to demilitarize non-state armed groups in Gaza

» Hamas has not yet agreed to disarm or demilitarize Gaza

The ISF would stabilize security in Gaza, "including through the demilitarization of non-state armed groups and the permanent decommissioning of weapons, as necessary."

Meanwhile, Gaza's Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis yesterday said it had received the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners under the US-brokered ceasefire exchange deal.

"The tenth batch of the bodies of Palestinian martyrs has arrived at Nasser Medical Complex in the Gaza Strip, numbering 15 martyrs," the hospital said in a statement, noting that 285 bodies were received under the agreement in total.

The next phase of the plan, which the draft UN resolution would endorse, is to establish the Board of Peace and the ISF.

The Trump plan also ends Hamas governance of Gaza and says the enclave would be demilitarized. Hamas has not said whether it will agree to disarm and demilitarize Gaza – something the group has rejected before.

The ISF would deploy under a unified command agreed by the Board of Peace and in close consultation with Egypt and Israel after detailed status of mission and forces agreements have been reached, according to the resolution.

While the Trump administration has ruled out sending US soldiers into the Gaza Strip, it has been speaking to Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and Azerbaijan to contribute to the multinational force.

It remains unclear whether Arab and other states will be ready to commit troops to the international force and Israel has repeatedly objected to the deployment of Turkish troops.

# 'Why force Awami League to join polls?'

Jamaat ameer says imposing election on those who dislike it amounts to oppression

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said forcing the Awami League to take part in the upcoming national election would amount to "oppression".

He made the remark while talking to journalists at Sylhet Osmani International Airport in the morning.

Shafiqur said, "There is no scope for the Awami League to participate in the next election. They don't even like elections. If something they dislike is imposed on them, that would be oppression. So, there is no question of involving them in the election."

He also said no election could be legitimate without a referendum. "We demand a referendum first so that the people can express their opinion."

"We are not forming any alliance but entering the electoral field with the people. Alongside Islamic parties, patriotic, committed, and honest citizens are joining us. Together, we want to rebuild the nation," he said.



# NCP candidate list by Nov 15: Nahid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said the party is preparing to field candidates in the highest number of constituencies in the upcoming 13th national election and will not join any alliance for now.

The party's candidate list will be announced by November 15, he added.

Speaking to journalists after visiting the family of late "July fighter" Gazi Salauddin in Godnail, Narayanganj, Nahid said the NCP aims to contest in all 300 constituencies.

However, as a mark of respect for those who played leading roles in the anti-fascism and pro-democracy movement, the party will refrain from fielding candidates in a few seats.

"The constituency of former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will remain uncontested by the NCP," Nahid said.

On the question of alliances, Nahid said any political understanding must be based on shared principles.

"If such a possibility emerges – for example, alignment with the reform demands outlined in the July charter – we may consider joining hands. But for now, we are moving forward independently," he said.

Following his visit to Salauddin's home, Nahid expressed dissatisfaction over the treatment provided to the injured activists.



# 'A new era for New York'

FROM PAGE 1

conservative media commentators and Trump himself.

Mamdani wasted no time calling out Trump, formally kicking off the battle that will likely define relations between the 34-year-old mayor and the president whose celebrity is tied to the city.

"Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: turn the volume up!" Mamdani said during a Tuesday night speech to a raucous crowd of supporters shortly after being declared the victor.

His win, as well as the Democratic Party's victories in the governor's races in Virginia and New Jersey, suggest a shift in the political mood across the United States as it looks to next year's midterm elections, when control of Congress will be up for grabs.

"If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him," Mamdani told supporters. "And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power. This is not only how we stop Trump, it's how we stop the next one."

Trump has repeatedly turned the massive powers of the presidency on political rivals, and already before the

election had threatened to possibly withhold billions of dollars in federal funding from New York City if Mamdani was elected.

"If you have a communist running New York, all you're doing is wasting the money you're sending there," Trump told CBS' 60 Minutes on Sunday, previewing how Republicans will use Mamdani's embrace of a socialist agenda as a line of attack against the Democratic Party.

Mamdani acknowledged his win poses a challenge in implementing what he calls "the most ambitious agenda to tackle the cost-of-living crisis this city has seen" since the 1940s – including a proposed rental freeze, universal childcare and other government actions targeting the private sector.

But, in the meantime, Mamdani pledged to fight.

"So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: To get to any of us, you will have to go through all of us," Mamdani added.

Yesterday, he said he would take on Trump and light antisemitism.

In another significant win for Democrats, voters in California also approved a proposition to redraw electoral districts in a bid to neutralise gerrymandering efforts ordered by

Trump in other states.

Trump refused to take any blame for Tuesday's results and tried to make an eleventh-hour intervention in the race, calling Mamdani a "Jew hater."

In a post on his Truth Social network, he also cited anonymous "pollsters" suggesting the Republican defeats were down to the government shutdown and the fact that his own name wasn't on the ballot.

Mamdani, a state lawmaker for New York's Queens borough, appealed to voters by pledging to tackle the soaring cost of living, offering free city bus travel, childcare and city-run grocery stores.

He focused on living costs facing ordinary New Yorkers, building support through his informal personal style, social media savvy and a massive canvassing ground game.

Mamdani was virtually unknown before his upset victory to secure the Democratic nomination over former governor Andrew Cuomo, whom he trounced again on Tuesday.

When the race was called in his favour, excitement was palpable across the city.

It was a "local victory" that offered a means of "resisting and pushing back" against the political establishment in

Washington, Ben Parisi, 40, told AFP, adding that the night stood in stark contrast to Republican Trump's victory a year ago.

Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels citizen crime patrol group, came in third after weeks of Cuomo insisting he bow out to increase his chances.

Turnout was high in this year's vote with 2.06 million ballots, or 98 percent of votes cast, counted by 12:31am yesterday – more than the total number of voters in the 2021 race.

Mamdani's improbable rise highlights the Democratic Party's debate over a centrist or a leftist future, with some leading national figures offering only tepid endorsements of Mamdani ahead of voting.

Syracuse University political science professor Grant Reeher said ahead of the result mayor Mamdani would face an uphill battle.

"Everybody's got their knives out, and it's a very difficult city to govern," he told AFP.

In New Jersey, Democratic Party candidate Mikie Sherrill beat out a Trump-backed businessman and in Virginia, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger took back the governor's mansion from the Republicans.

will remain protected. This merger process is for the people, the country and the long-term stability of the financial sector. Its successful implementation will bring significant positive stability for the next government and help rebuild confidence in the economy."

While it usually takes about two years to merge two banks, merging five banks will take even longer, he said.

"It will not be completed in a day, a month, or even six months – it will progress step by step. We hope that the future government will continue this initiative."

The shareholders of the five banks will not receive any shares in the new bank as the value of assets tied to their existing shareholding is already negative.

The BB found in its calculations that while the face value of each share is Tk 10, the net asset value for each is Tk 350 to Tk 420 in the negative, Mansur said.

"So, the central bank is not taking them into consideration, as they hold zero liability."

# Draft law forbids

FROM PAGE 1

parliamentary and judicial oversight. It also introduces multiple oversight bodies tasked with governing how "lawful interception" will be executed.

It defines lawful interception as government-authorised surveillance of communications for specific legitimate purposes such as evidence gathering, criminal investigations, protection of life, and national security.

The new law will penalise unauthorised interception with prison terms of up to 10 years and fines of up to Tk 10 crore. In the case of institutions, fines of up to Tk 100 crore may be imposed.

The draft states that a Central Lawful Interception Platform (CLIP) will be established under the home ministry, which will be tasked with carrying out all lawful interception.

"Any previously existing interception agency or telecommunications monitoring centre or platform shall be deemed abolished, and all its infrastructure, data, technical capabilities, systems, and assets shall be considered transferred to the Central Lawful Interception Platform."

"Accordingly, any central or regional technical platform or agency that continues to operate interception activities outside of CLIP shall be considered unlawful under this act," it adds.

Under the law, the CLIP cannot initiate interception independently. It can only act on behalf of authorised agencies, based on court directives or orders issued by an Independent Oversight Council to be formed under the law.

The draft further specifies that any interception-related request must be submitted exclusively by authorised agencies through the CLIP.

This independent oversight council will be a five-member body, with the president, the prime minister, and the Speaker of parliament nominating one representative each. The remaining two members will be retired judges of the High Court Division and the District and Sessions Court.

The council will be tasked with receiving and reviewing applications for interception and surveillance, and will meet twice a week. Each member will have a four-year term and can be either reappointed or replaced.

Furthermore, the council will have the authority to investigate complaints related to lawful interception.

However, law enforcement agencies filing such requests can appeal against the council's decisions.

Intercepted audio and video cannot be retained for over a month unless extended by court approval.

The draft also states that no evidence may be collected through interception beyond what is necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised.

The agencies allowed to seek interception include the Bangladesh Police – covering the Special Branch, counterterrorism units, and the Criminal Investigation Department – and the National Security Intelligence, which will be authorised solely for matters relating to national security.

Disciplined forces or intelligence wings within such forces can only intercept communications involving their own personnel or threats linked to foreign actors.

To intercept communications of Bangladeshi civilians, they must obtain a court order, and can only request such authorisation when investigating criminal offences involving those forces.

The CLIP will include representatives from all agencies authorised to conduct interception, who will operate the platform according to the rights of their parent organisations.

While the draft states that all interception requests must be registered and processed through the single, centralised CLIP system, it adds that such interception must adhere to the principles of necessity, proportionality, legality, and accountability.

The data types subject to interception include calls, messages, internet traffic, and social media metadata.

The draft also strictly prohibits interception for political, personal, or competitive purposes.

Meanwhile, an additional oversight, comprising the secretaries of the home, posts, telecommunications and information technology, and defence ministries, as well as the Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division and the Chairperson of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, will oversee CLIP's operations and determine the access rights afforded to each agency.

The law also mandates that "National Interception Reports" must be prepared, published, and presented to parliament annually.

A relevant parliamentary standing committee, comprising members from both the government and opposition, will meet monthly to review interception operations, procedures, and institutional capabilities under the lawful interception framework.

# Biggest banking shakeup in motion

FROM PAGE 1

In the biggest banking shakeup, the central bank also sent letters to the chairmen of the five banks stating that the lenders have been brought under the resolution process in accordance with Section 15 of the Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025.

The central bank has declared the five banks non-functional, Mansur said at a press conference after the meeting with the bank chairmen and MDs.

Each bank will have one administrator along with an assisting team to carry out responsibilities.

The temporary administrations have been assigned four key responsibilities: to ensure that the banks remain operational and that large payments, remittances, and LC settlements continue smoothly; and to integrate and centrally manage the IT infrastructure, Mansur said.

The administrative teams will also assess staffing levels and the overall human resource situation and make necessary reorganisations, as well as

rationally merge multiple branches of the banks located in the same area.

"The main objective of this initiative is to overcome weak financial management and establish a viable banking institution," Mansur said.

Sammilito Islami Bank, a new Shariah-based state-run bank that will be formed through the merger of the five troubled banks, is set to launch soon.

Although the new bank will initially be state-owned, it will be operated under professional management and a board, like a private bank.

The bank's paid-up capital will be Tk 35,000 crore, the highest among all banks in the country, said Mansur, adding that it will be the strongest financial institution in Bangladesh.

The authorised capital of the bank will be Tk 40,000 crore (each share of Tk 10, totalling 4,000 crore shares).

Finance ministry officials said that they have already prepared the application and relevant documents for

the bank's licence, which were sent to the law ministry for vetting last week.

Once the vetting is completed, they will be forwarded to the BB, the officials said.

At the press conference, Mansur said that small depositors are likely to get back their money by the end of this month.

Since the new bank will be state-owned, there is no reason for depositors to worry, he said.

"From the very first day of the merger, profits will be provided based on market-based profit rates. Necessary safeguards have been put in place to prevent massive withdrawals."

Depositors with Tk 2 lakh or less will be able to withdraw their full amount soon.

For deposits above that limit, a phased withdrawal system will be introduced that will be announced later through a gazette notification.

"Through this merger process, the funds of more than 75 lakh depositors



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## Asaduzzaman to resign, eyes BNP ticket for Jhenaidah-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday announced that he will step down from his post to contest the upcoming national election as a BNP candidate from the Jhenaidah-1 constituency.



"I will contest as a candidate for the post of lawmaker in the upcoming parliamentary election. Before that, I will quit the post of attorney general," he said while addressing a press briefing at his office.

Asaduzzaman said he is hopeful of receiving the party's nomination.

In response to a question about who might succeed him, Asaduzzaman said, "Bangladesh will appoint whoever it feels suitable as the next attorney general."

Asaduzzaman, a former human rights affairs secretary of the BNP, was appointed attorney general on August 8 last year by the president.

BNP has announced a list of 237 potential candidates for the upcoming national election, but Asaduzzaman's name was not included.

| PRAYER TIMING              |       |      |         |      |  |
|----------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|--|
| NOVEMBER 6                 |       |      |         |      |  |
| 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 |       |      |         |      |  |



A farmer carries a basketful of cabbages to load onto a truck bound for major markets. This year's cabbage yield in the Rajshahi region has been good, although recent rainfall has caused minor damage to some crops. Cabbages from Rajshahi are now selling at Tk 13-14 per piece in retail markets. The photo was taken from Fultali village in Godagari upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Dengue deaths cross 300 mark this year

Experts blame lack of testing facilities, late hospitalisation

HELEML ALAM

With 10 more deaths reported yesterday, the total number of dengue fatalities this year has reached 302, reflecting an alarming trend in the ongoing outbreak.

Health experts say late hospitalisation remains the major reason behind the growing number of deaths, as most patients ignore early testing and treatment.

According to DGHS, most deaths occurred in Dhaka South City Corporation (145), followed by Dhaka North City Corporation (47), Barishal (41), Chattogram (25), Rajshahi (16), Mymensingh (12), Khulna (9), other areas of Dhaka (6), and Sylhet (1).

The total number of dengue cases this year stands at 74,992 as

of yesterday morning, according to DGHS data.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said most deaths occur among patients who arrive at hospitals in extremely



critical condition -- often too late to be saved.

He explained that most deaths occur soon after admission, not among patients who deteriorate during their hospital stay.

Many also suffer from complications such as severe bleeding, multi-organ failure, pregnancy, or chronic diseases like diabetes and kidney or heart problems, which raise the risk of death.

Nazmul said delays happen because patients wait too long or are referred late from outside Dhaka.

"Many wait until their condition becomes critical, while many are referred from districts like Barishal, Pirojpur, or Barguna. They often deteriorate on the way because if fluids are not given properly in those first few hours," he said.

"Some start their journey in pre-shock and arrive after several hours

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## 15 ARMY OFFICERS

### Govt yet to issue directive on their job status: army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to issue a clear directive regarding the job status of the 15 army officers facing trial before the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), said Brig Gen Md Mustafizur Rahman, director of the PS Directorate under the AG's Branch at the Army Headquarters, yesterday.

The 15 serving officers were produced before the tribunal on October 22 to face trial for their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances under the Awami League regime and for killings during the July uprising.

Responding to a question on whether the officers remain in service, Mustafizur said the issue falls under a legal and procedural framework.

"You are referring to the third amendment to the ICT Rules, which was published on October 6. In that amendment, the issue of disqualification to hold any public office has arisen. There is no problem of legality, but rather a question of interpretation, as it can be understood in various ways," he said during a press briefing at the Dhaka Cantonment.

He added, "We are in engagement with the government on this matter and are awaiting a clear directive. If disqualification means

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## MEDICERAM IN MALAYSIA

### Dream turns into despair for 10 deported migrants

PORIMOL PALMA

Like many others, Sufian Khan borrowed a large sum of money, hoping to go to Malaysia to change his fortune.

He spent over Tk 4.5 lakh to make the arrangements, dreaming of a better life for his family.

But his dream soon turned into despair when he, along with nine others, was deported by Malaysian authorities early yesterday.

"I still have a loan of over Tk 1 lakh," he told The Daily Star from Barishal.

Sufian said they were forcibly taken to Kuala Lumpur International Airport by executives of Malaysian glove manufacturing company Mediceram, based in Selangor.

The company terminated all 180 Bangladeshi workers on October 31 after they protested the non-renewal of visas for more than 90 of them.

Following their termination, some of the workers went to the Bangladesh High Commission seeking help, but received none.

A Mediceram executive was present at the high commission and held a meeting for about two and a half hours, while the workers were kept waiting outside.

said another deportee, Nironjan. "When we finally got to speak, the high commission officials told us they could do nothing about it," he said.

The migrants also turned to the immigration and labour departments in Kuala Lumpur, but no one accepted their complaints, said Nironjan.

"On November 4, Mediceram executives dragged us onto a bus to the airport. We were literally crying," said Sufian.

He said Mediceram had been irregular in paying wages since they joined in April 2023 through the recruiting agency Greenland Overseas.

"We were paid as little as 200 Malaysian ringgit a month," he said, adding that the company also failed to renew their work visas on time.

After repeated demonstrations and complaints, Mediceram eventually paid the recruitment fees, but most of the migrants were left in uncertainty and faced the threat of police detention due to expired visas.

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Dhaka North City Corporation workers remove illegal roadside shops that occupied valuable road space and obstructed pedestrian movement. The drive is part of DNCC's ongoing initiative to clear the city's streets of illegal structures. The photo was taken near Tejgaon College in the Farmgate area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## TIB calls for revisions to draft police commission ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government to comprehensively revise the draft Police Commission Ordinance, 2025.

The anti-graft watchdog warned that the draft's current provisions could undermine the independence and effectiveness of the proposed Independent Police Commission.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said a clause-by-clause review of the draft revealed several flaws that, if not corrected, could turn the commission into a body under government control and a "workplace for former bureaucrats

and police officials".

He noted that the proposed composition of the seven-member commission, which would include one retired bureaucrat and two police officials, poses a risk of transforming the body into a centre that rewards past loyalty.

TIB demanded that the provision be scrapped and that the commission be composed of impartial experts in law, justice, law enforcement, human rights, and good governance.

The organisation also said the ordinance must clearly outline the process for inclusion in the committee.

Iftekharuzzaman said government approval in staff appointments must be abolished, with full authority

resting with the commission.

"Deputation appointments should not exceed 10 percent of total positions, and the commission's decision should prevail if it disagrees with any proposed deputation," he said.

"The provision allowing a retired police officer to serve as the member-secretary must be repealed. Instead, the secretary should be recruited through an open, competitive process," he also said.

The organisation also proposed that the commission be empowered to make recommendations on formulating or amending laws, rules, and policies related to police operations, security, intelligence, and surveillance agencies.

## ASHULIA KILLINGS

### 'I couldn't save him amid relentless gunfire'

Witness tells ICT-2 about fellow protester

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite being shot in both legs with pellets near Ashulia Police Station on August 5 last year, 23-year-old garment worker Shahariar Hossen Shajib dragged another injured protester to a nearby house, trying to save him.

"But the man's condition worsened after 10 to 15 minutes," Shajib told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday. "I tried several times to move him to safety, but relentless gunfire made it impossible. He died there," he said.

Testifying as the 22nd prosecution witness, Shajib said when he came out of the house around 6:00pm, he saw several burnt bodies piled on a police pickup near the station.

His testimony came in the crimes against humanity case over the killing of seven people in Ashulia that day, allegedly by police and armed Awami League men, and the burning of five bodies and one injured person on a police vehicle.

A resident of Ashulia's Jamgora, Shajib said he joined the anti-discrimination movement at Baipail intersection that morning.

Around 2:30pm, he heard that Sheikh Hasina

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY WITH

The Daily Star

The Daily Star is seeking highly organized, innovative, and detail-oriented professionals for the position of **Scheduling & Client Service** in its **Business Development Department**.

### Executive, Scheduling & Client Service

Number of Vacancies: 2 (Two)

#### Job Responsibilities:

- Communicate with respective Advertisers and Ad agencies.
- Ensure advertisement bookings are confirmed and executed in line with client expectations and publication timelines.
- Develop and maintain the daily, weekly, and monthly publication schedules.
- Coordinate with Newsroom, Production, and Distribution teams to ensure smooth workflow and timely delivery of content.
- Monitor and manage deadlines, making adjustments as needed to accommodate changes in content or production schedules.
- Collaborate with the advertising department to integrate ad placement into the publication schedule.
- Utilize scheduling software and tools to track progress and maintain accurate records of the production process.
- Stay up to date with industry trends and best practices to continuously improve scheduling efficiency.

#### Educational Requirements:

- Minimum Graduate in any respective field.

#### Job Requirements:

- Proficiency in MS Excel at an intermediate level is mandatory.
- Excellent communication skills.
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- Should display a positive, team-man attitude and leadership quality.

#### How to Apply:

If you feel worthy, you can apply by scanning the QR Code or sending your CV to [career@thedailystar.net](mailto:career@thedailystar.net).



#### Human Resources Department

The Daily Star Centre  
64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Dhaka-1215

N.B: "Application for Executive, Scheduling & Client Service" must be clearly mentioned on the email subject line.

**Application Deadline: November 15, 2025**



## Govt watching activities of Hasina

Says CA's press secy

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the interim government would take legal action against any Awami League members who defy the ban and act on instructions from former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

He made the remarks when a journalist sought his comment on Hasina's recent statements from India.

The ICT-1 will fix the date for delivering its verdict in the crimes against humanity case against Hasina and two of her top aides on November 13.

"Hasina is the butcher of Bengal. It is certainly under our monitoring what she is doing or directing from is [India]," Alam said.

He said law enforcement agencies have been instructed accordingly, as the activities of the Awami League are banned.

The press secretary said Hasina has been seen speaking on various issues through social media platforms, even labelling those who joined the July uprising as terrorists.

"Let the verdict [against Hasina] be delivered. After the verdict, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs will probably take up the matter with India," he said.



**A large number of rickshaws remain parked along Green Road in Dhaka, occupying much of the roadway and disrupting traffic flow. The photo was taken recently.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Digitise community clinics

Health experts urge government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts yesterday stressed the need to digitise Bangladesh's community clinics to improve service delivery and meet growing health demands.

They said digital systems could help address key community-level challenges, especially in managing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and maternal and child health, at an event organised by the Community Clinic Health Support Trust at BMRC Bhawan in Dhaka's Mohakhali.

The Trust currently oversees around 14,500 community clinics

across the country.

At the event, the Global Health Team of Kyushu University presented a survey report on 42 Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs), conducted between October 1 and 15.

Rafiqul Islam Maruf, associate professor at the university's Division of Healthcare Digital Transformation, said 24 percent of respondents found manual recordkeeping time-consuming, while 64 percent reported no major difficulties.

Awareness of telemedicine is high, and acceptance for future implementation is strong, he added.

The team recommended a centralised online monitoring and logistics system to manage equipment and supply chains more effectively.

Shah Ali Akbar Ashrafi, former DGHS director (MIS), said digitisation would help track disease trends and support policy planning.

Prof Abul Kalam Azad, former DGHS director general, stressed deploying dedicated telemedicine staff, while Trust Managing Director Md Akhtaruzzaman called for integrating existing health data to improve coordination and service delivery.

## 'Pay our arrears'

Demand health care providers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around a hundred Community Health Care Providers yesterday continued their demonstration for the second consecutive day to press home their demand for payment of 16 months' arrears and regular salaries.

The protesters gathered in front of the Community Clinic Health Support Trust office at BMRC Bhawan in Mohakhali in the morning.

Bilkis Akhter Mithila, a CHCP who travelled from Jamalpur to Dhaka with her five-month-old daughter, said, "My baby has a fever, but I had no choice but to bring her with me... Living without a salary for 16 months is nearly impossible."

Fahim Uddin, another CHCP, said, "We will start a hunger strike until death from tomorrow [today] unless our demands are met."

Md Akhtaruzzaman, managing director of the Community Clinic Health Support Trust — which oversees around 14,500 community clinics nationwide — said, "There's no legal barrier. We believe they should receive their salaries, and if the health ministry issues directives, we'll release the payments immediately."

## Bank Asia holds event on gender equality



CITY DESK

Bank Asia PLC organised a daylong awareness programme on "Gender Equality and Prevention of Sexual Harassment" at the Bank Asia Institute for Training and Development, Lalmatia, Dhaka, on November 4, said a press release.

Rumana Akhter Tulee, assistant vice president of Bank Asia, conducted the session as the resource person. The programme was designed to further enhance awareness and understanding of gender equality and the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace.

Officials from various branches and the corporate office of the bank participated in the session, reflecting Bank Asia's continued commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful work environment.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC observed Lung Cancer Awareness Month 2025 with a seminar and the 'Plant the Flag Campaign' at Mymensingh Factory in Mymensingh yesterday. Clinical oncologist Dr ATM Sajjad Hossain delivered the keynote speech at the seminar. SM Mahmudul Haque Pallab, head of oncology, biotech, and palliative care divisions of the pharmaceuticals, was also present.**

## Dream turns into

FROM PAGE 3

As a result, they went on a work abstention on October 27 but were soon terminated.

Another migrant, who is still staying at Medicram's hostel, told this correspondent that the remaining 170 Bangladeshi workers are living in fear, as company executives have also threatened them with deportation.

Back home, the deportees say they feel abused, defrauded, and deprived of justice and have no idea what to do next.

"I have my parents and wife at home. I still have to repay my loan. I am totally

undone," said Sufian.

Contacted, Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner in Malaysia, Shahanara Monica, said the mission has sent a report to Dhaka regarding the incident.

"Until we hear back from them, we cannot make any comment," she said yesterday evening.

There are around 8,00,000 Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, including 4,50,000 who migrated between 2022 and 2024 through a syndicate of 101 recruiting agencies.

Recruitment has remained suspended since May last year.

## I couldn't save him amid relentless

FROM PAGE 3

had fled the country and joined a victory procession. Hearing gunfire near the police station, he and others moved towards it.

He saw his friend Sajjad Hossain Sajal being held by Roni Bhuiyan, an Awami League leader close to then-MP Saiful Islam. When Shajib protested, Roni released Sajal but grabbed him instead. Moments later, a gunshot rang out.

As Shajib tried to flee, pellets hit both his legs, and he collapsed. Finding

another wounded protester nearby, he took shelter in a house where the man later died.

The next day, he learned that Sajal's body had been recovered from the same area. Later, he saw videos on Facebook showing police loading bodies onto a van and setting them on fire — the same vehicle he had seen earlier.

Two defence lawyers later cross-examined Shajib.

At one point, defence counsel Syed Mizanur Rahman, representing accused police officer Abdullah Hil Kafi, asked whether Shajib had seen bodies of two police officers hanging from a footbridge. Shajib said he had not.

When prosecutor Abdus

Sobhan Tarafder objected, saying the question implied policemen had been killed, Tribunal Chair Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury said the question did not necessarily suggest that.

When the defence accused Shajib of giving a "tutored and untrue statement", he replied, "That is not true."

The tribunal set November 12 for the next testimony. Meanwhile, the tribunal ordered jail authorities to produce Tanzir Ahmed Rajib, general secretary of Mymensingh Swachhchaseab League, on November 27 in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of three people during the July Uprising in Gauripur.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী

| অঙ্গীকারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সুস্থিত বাগানের বাড়া, বহুতল বাড়ি, ভদ্রকৃত ও আর্থিক বনজন্ম বিকল্পের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ১   | বাগানের কার্যকরী স্থান              |
| ২   | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ         |
| ৩   | কাজের বিবরণ ও স্থান                 |
| ৪   | দরপত্র প্রদানের সময়                |
| ৫   | অগ্রিম মূল্য                        |
| ৬   | দরপত্র প্রদানের সময়                |
| ৭   | কর্মের স্থান                        |
| ৮   | কর্ম সম্পাদনের সময়                 |
| ৯   | দরপত্র সিটিউন বিকল্পের স্থান        |
| ১০  | দরপত্র সিটিউন বিকল্পের তারিখ ও সময় |
| ১১  | দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়        |
| ১২  | দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান               |
| ১৩  | দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় |
| ১৪  | দরপত্র সিটিউন মূল্য                 |

| তফসিল                   |                           | বাগানের অবস্থান |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| ক্র. সের/এসএফএলটি/নং/নং | বাগানের ধরণ ও সূচকের সন   | বাগানের পরিমাণ  |
| ০১                      | চর অংশাধীন চরে            | ৩.০ সিকি.       |
| ০২                      | চর অংশাধীন চরে            | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৩                      | মাইদুলি এসএফএলটি          | ৭.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৪                      | নোয়াখালী চরে             | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৫                      | নোয়াখালী চরে             | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৬                      | নোয়াখালী চরে             | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৭                      | নোয়াখালী চরে             | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৮                      | চাটালি উপজেলা এসএফএলটি    | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ০৯                      | চাটালি উপজেলা এসএফএলটি    | ৩.০ সিকি.       |
| ১০                      | লক্ষীপুর চরে              | ৩.০ সিকি.       |
| ১১                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ১২                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৩.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৩                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৪                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৬.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৫                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৭.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৬                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৭                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ১৮                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১৫.০ সিকি.      |
| ১৯                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ২০                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১.০ সিকি.       |
| ২১                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ২.০ সিকি.       |
| ২২                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৮.০ সিকি.       |
| ২৩                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১.৫ সিকি.       |
| ২৪                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১০.০ সিকি.      |
| ২৫                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ২৬                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১.০ সিকি.       |
| ২৭                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ৫.০ সিকি.       |
| ২৮                      | নোয়াখালী উপজেলা এসএফএলটি | ১.০ সিকি.       |

**Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC.**

**Corporate Head Office: Shahjalal Islami Bank Tower**  
Plot-04, Block- CWN(C), Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212  
Bangladesh, Phone: +88 02 222283457

**TENDER NOTICE**

**Name of the Work: Procurement of 08 (eight) unit Servers of the Bank.**

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC. is inviting tenders from the reputed firms/suppliers for the above mentioned job. Individual Request for Quotation (RFQ) with detailed specifications, terms & condition of the job will be available at the office of the undersigned on payment of **BDT. 2,000/- (Two Thousand only) (non-refundable) in cash** with a request letter in company's letter head pad from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. of 06/11/2025 to 18/11/2025.** The deadline of tender submission is not later than **3:00 p.m. on November 18, 2025** and the same would be opened at **3:15 p.m. on November 18, 2025** in presence of the participating vendor(s) (if any).

Bank reserves the right not to purchase the item(s) from the lowest bidder and to accept or reject any or all of the tender(s) without assigning any reason. Bank also reserves the right to negotiate with all the participating vendors regarding price, warranty and specification of the item(s).

**Head of Common Services Division**

**www.sjibld.com**

**Mass Notification**

It is hereby informed to all Concerned that the Company Lucky Fisheries Ltd Fishing Trawler F.V.Usha, F.V.Shuktara & F.V.Crystal-7 Reg. F-7500, F-7499 & F-8633 by change Managing Director & One Director Change Of the Said Company, in Case Of any objection within 7 day's of the Publication of this Notification Hon'ble Principal Officer Directorate of Maritime & trade CGO Building Agrabad Chattogram. Requested to inform the applicant.

D-87

**Legal Notice**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH**  
**HIGH COURT DIVISION**  
**(SATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)**  
**COMPANY MATTER NO. 1945 OF 2025**  
**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
**Winly Harbour Ltd represented by Wong Chi Yu Benjamin**  
**- Versus -**  
**Win Champion (BD) Ltd. and another**  
**- Respondent**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act 1994 was filed before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** was pleased to admit the same on 02.11.2025. Anyone desues of opposing the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through an authorized advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed charges.

**Md. Saifur Rahman**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Room No.605 (Annex Extension Building)  
Supreme Court bar Association. Mobile: 01714647096

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Chudanga PWD Division, Chudanga.  
e-mail: ee\_chuad@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.1800.001.007.713(Part-9),19/1498 Date: 5-November-2025

**Tender Notice (e-GP-OTM)**

Tender is invited through national e-GP portal for the procurement of following work:

| Tender ID | Name of work   | Last Selling Date and Time | Closing Date and Time | Tender Document price |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1168917   | Construction of Darsana thana building (rural type-2) in Chudanga District under the project "Construction of administrative and barrack buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country" | 26-Nov-2025 23:26          | 27-Nov-2025 11:10     | TK-5000               |

Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal only. No hard copy will be accepted. Further information available in the e-GP system.

**(Md. Mohsin)**  
Executive Engineer  
Chudanga PWD Division, Chudanga.

GD-2351

**ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ**  
**দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| ১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম                    | ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ  |
| ২। কাজের বিবরণ                         | খাদ্য/দ্রব্যসামগ্রী সরবরাহ এবং সেবা ও দ্রব্যসামগ্রী সরবরাহ, অসাব্যবহার্য সরবরাহ ও মেসারামত কাজ    |
| ৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু তারিখ           | পরিকল্পনা বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশনার দিন থেকে, প্রতিদিন ০৮০০-১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) |
| ৪। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়   | ১৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৫, সময় ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত  |
| ৫। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও শেষ সময় | ২০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫, সময় ১১০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত  |
| ৬। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়           | ২০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫, সময় ১১৩০ ঘটিকা  |

বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন **www.fcc.army.mil.bd**

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/ ৭২০

**অধ্যক্ষ**  
ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ

GD-2340

GD-2341



POST-UPRISING  
ELECTION  
Nepal govt  
registers  
125 political  
parties

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Election Commission said yesterday that 125 political parties had registered to contest the first parliamentary polls since a mass uprising in September ousted the government.

Many are established parties, but some of the movements vying for seats in the March 2026 vote were formed by youth activists who helped launch the anti-corruption protests that shook the country earlier this year.

"We are working with a belief that all political parties and citizens are eager to bring a new leadership to the country through the election," commission spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told AFP. Registration remains open for another two weeks. The final list, including the exact number of new parties and those associated with youth groups, will be released after the November 18 deadline.

The September protests, triggered by a brief ban on social media, quickly morphed into a nationwide movement against government corruption.



Police stand in front of migrants as authorities clear a camp beneath the overhead railway at Stalingrad metro station in Paris, France early yesterday.

PHOOT: AFP

Attack on key city in  
Sudan’s Kordofan kills 40  
Says UN; US working with other countries to end war

AGENCIES

An attack on a funeral in the key city of El-Obeid in Sudan's central Kordofan region killed 40 people, the UN said yesterday, as paramilitaries looked poised to launch an offensive.

The United Nations' humanitarian office did not specify when the attack took place or who was behind it, but said that the situation in the Kordofan region was continuing to worsen.

The war in Sudan, which has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions more, has spread to new areas in recent days, sparking fears of an even greater humanitarian catastrophe.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), at war with the military since 2023, was preparing to

launch an assault in Kordofan after capturing El-Fasher, the last army stronghold in the vast western Darfur region, reports AFP.

"Local sources report that at least 40 civilians were killed and dozens injured yesterday in an attack on a funeral gathering in El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan State," the UN's OCHA agency said.

"Once again, OCHA calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for all parties to protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law."

The US is working with other nations to end the conflict in Sudan, the White House said on Tuesday.

The Rapid Support Forces' capture of Al-Fashir marked a milestone in the African country's civil war, giving the paramilitary group de facto control of more than a quarter of the territory, reports Reuters.

Modi readies  
bellwether  
polls in  
poorest state

AFP, Patna

India's poorest state Bihar goes to the polls today, and for many of its 130 million people, one issue overshadows all others: money.

That's what Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hopes to capitalise on, wooing voters with economic incentives in a bid to win full control.

A win here, strategists say, could "energise" the BJP's prospects in other key states heading into next year's elections.

Hindu-majority Bihar, the country's third most populous state -- roughly equal to Mexico -- is a bellwether battleground.

It remains the only state in the Hindi speaking north where Modi's Hindu nationalist party has never ruled alone.

For housewife Rajkumari Devi, feeding her three children depends on the daily wage her husband earns as a labourer in the Muzaffarpur district.

He takes home about 400 to 500 rupees on the days he does find work. "There is no stability," said the 28-year-old, outside her modest one-room home overlooking agricultural land.

EU strikes last-  
ditch deal on  
climate targets  
as COP30 looms

REUTERS, Brussels

EU climate ministers agreed a 2040 climate change target in the early hours of yesterday after watering down the goal in last-minute negotiations, as they raced to clinch the deal before the UN COP30 summit in Brazil.

After negotiating late into Tuesday night, climate ministers from European Union countries approved in a public vote a compromise to cut emissions 90 percent by 2040, from 1990 levels, but with flexibilities to weaken this aim.

The weakened target would let countries buy foreign carbon credits to cover up to 5 percent of the 90 percent emissions-cutting goal. That would effectively weaken to 85 percent the emissions cuts required from European countries to cut emissions on Europe's behalf to make up the rest.

The EU also agreed to consider the option, in future, to use international carbon credits to meet a further 5 percent of the 2040 emissions reductions - potentially shaving another 5 percent off the domestic target.

Additionally, countries agreed a 2035 target to cut emissions in a range of 66.25-72.5 percent. The UN asked all governments to submit 2035 climate plans before the COP30 climate summit opens today. "Setting a climate target is not just picking a number, it is a political decision with far-reaching consequences for the continent," said Danish climate minister Lars Aagaard.



BNP nominee for Ctg-8 shot, one killed

FROM PAGE 1

Ershad Ullah and his supporters were distributing leaflets in Khandaker Para of the Bayezid Bostami area when seven to eight armed assailants arrived in a microbus, opened fire, and fled.

After visiting the injured at the hospital, CMP Commissioner Hasib Aziz told the media that Sarwar, not BNP candidate Ershad Ullah, was the target of the attack. "Sarwar had a criminal history. The assailants wanted him dead," the commissioner said.

Mohammad Alamgir, brother of the deceased, said, "Sarwar had been receiving death threats from his rivals."

The Chief Adviser's Press Wing, in a statement, strongly condemned the attack. "An immediate investigation by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police indicates that Ershad Ullah was not the target of the attack but was hit by a stray bullet. The government wishes him a speedy recovery. A full probe has been ordered," the statement said.



"Violence and intimidation have no place in our political or social life. The CMP has already launched a manhunt for the attackers," it added, noting that the chief adviser has directed the security forces to spare no effort in identifying and apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them swiftly to justice.

According to reports, on March 30, Sarwar narrowly escaped after miscreants on motorbikes opened fire on a private car on the Bakalia access road in Chattogram. Two of Sarwar's

companions were killed in that attack. He was reportedly the intended target.

Over the years, several cases have been filed against Sarwar at different police stations. He had been in and out of jail multiple times on charges of possessing firearms, including an AK-47. According to locals, Sarwar was an associate of Sajjad Hossain Khan, one of the accused in the murder of eight Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders (from a now-banned organisation) in Chattogram city.

Later, Sarwar formed his own group.

In large parts of the Bayezid and Chandgaon areas, there have been recurring reports of disputes and clashes between the followers of Chhoto Sajjad, a close confidant of Sajjad Hossain Khan, and Sarwar over various criminal activities, including extortion. Locals claimed that Chhoto Sajjad's gang was behind the March attack on Sarwar.

জেলা পরিষদ  
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www.zprajbari.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice-01/2025-2026

Memo No.46.30.8200.002.07.001.25-147/10(1)      Date : ২০ কার্তিক, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

| Sl no | Package No           | Tender ID | Name of Method of Tender | Tender Last selling Date & Time | Closing & Opening Date & Time | Publishing date and time |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-12 | 1159587   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 2     | RZP/ADP/25-26/G-4    | 1159586   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 3     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-11 | 1159585   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 4     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-10 | 1159584   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 5     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-9  | 1159583   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 6     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-8  | 1159582   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 7     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-7  | 1159581   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 8     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-6  | 1159580   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 9     | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-5  | 1159579   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 10    | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-4  | 1159578   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 11    | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-3  | 1159577   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 12    | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-2  | 1159576   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 13    | RZP/ADP/25-26/R-S-1  | 1159575   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 14    | RZP/ADP/25-26/K-5    | 1159574   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 15    | RZP/ADP/25-26/K-4    | 1159573   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 16    | RZP/ADP/25-26/K-3    | 1159572   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 17    | RZP/ADP/25-26/K-2    | 1159571   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 18    | RZP/ADP/25-26/K-1    | 1159570   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 19    | RZP/ADP/25-26/G-3    | 1159569   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 20    | RZP/ADP/25-26/G-2    | 1159568   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 21    | RZP/ADP/25-26/G-1    | 1159567   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 22    | RZP/ADP/25-26/B-4    | 1159566   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 23    | RZP/ADP/25-26/B-3    | 1159565   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 24    | RZP/ADP/25-26/B-2    | 1159564   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 25    | RZP/ADP/25-26/B-1    | 1159563   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 26    | RZP/ADP/25-26/P-4    | 1159562   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 27    | RZP/ADP/25-26/P-3    | 1159561   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 28    | RZP/ADP/25-26/P-2    | 1159560   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |
| 29    | RZP/ADP/25-26/P-1    | 1159559   | LTM                      | 23.11.2025, 16:30               | 24.11.2025, 12:30:00          | 06.11.2025, 10:30:00     |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline / hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 23.11.2025, 16:30 P.M. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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GD-2348

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food

Directorate General of Food

Procurement Division

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.

www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.010.25-802

Date: 05/11/2025.

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE FOR IMPORT OF NON-BASMATI PARBOILED RICE.**  
**(Package-06, FY- 2025-2026)**

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (±5%) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

| GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1   | Ministry/Division  | :   | Ministry of Food  |
| 2   | Agency   | :   | Not applicable  |
| 3   | Procuring Entity Name  | :   | Director Procurement  |
| 4   | Procuring Entity Code  | :   | Not applicable  |
| 5   | Procuring Entity District  | :   | Dhaka   |
| 6   | Invitation for   | :   | Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice   |
| 7   | Invitation Ref. No. & Date   | :   | 13.01.0000.093.46.010.25-802, Dated: 05/11/2025   |
| <b>KEY INFORMATION:</b>   |  |   |   |
| 8   | Procuring Method   | :   | International Open Tender Method  |
| <b>FUNDING INFORMATION:</b>   |  |   |   |
| 9   | Budget and Source of Fund  | :   | GoB Fund  |
| 10  | Development Partners (If applicable)   | :   | Not applicable  |
| <b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION:</b>  |  |   |   |
| 11  | Project/ Programme / Code (If applicable)  | :   | Not applicable  |
| 12  | Project/ Programme Name (If applicable)  | :   | Not applicable  |
| 13  | Package No.  | :   | Package-06  |
| 14  | Package Name   | :   | Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice   |
| 15  | Notice publication date  | :   | 06 November, 2025   |
| 16  | Selling of Tender schedule   | :   | 06 November, 2025 to 19 November, 2025 up to 4.30 PM (BST)  |
| 17  | Date and Time of closing   | :   | 20 November, 2025, Upto Time 1.00 PM (BST)  |
| 18  | Date and Time of opening   | :   | 20 November, 2025, Time 2.00 PM (BST)   |
| 19  | Name and Address of the Office(s):   | :   | Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.  |
|   | Selling Tender Documents   | :   | 1) Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.   |
|   | Receiving place of Tender  | :   | 2) Office Chamber of Additional Secretary, Room No. 114 (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.  |
|   | Opening Place of Tender  | :   | Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.  |
| 20  | Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting  | :   | Not applicable  |
| <b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>   |  |   |   |
| 21  | Eligibility of Tender  | :   | Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender documents.  |
| 22  | Brief Description of Goods or Works  | :   | 50,000 (±5%) (Fifty thousand) MT. of Non-basmati Parboiled rice at Chattogram (60%) and Mongla (40%) port on CIF Liner Out term. Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring, Overseas Handling and Lightering are on seller's account. Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$. |
| 23  | Brief Description of Related Services  | :   | Not applicable  |
| 24  | Price of Tender Document (Tk.)   | :   | Tk 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.  |
|   | Mode of Payment  | :   | Through Letter of Credit (L/C).   |
|   | Crop Year  | :   | 2025 or latest  |
|   | Validity of the offer  | :   | 04 December, 2025 Upto 5.00 PM. (BST)   |
| <b>25 Quality &amp; Specification:</b>  |  |   |   |
| Quality parameters  |  | Specification   | Margin of tolerance with claim for deviation beyond specification   |
| Moisture (maximum)  |  | 13.5%   | 14.0%   |
| Broken grain (Maximum)  |  | 5.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%)  | 6.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 3%)  |
| Foreign matter (Maximum)  |  | 0.3%  | 0.5%  |
| Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (Maximum)  |  | 3% in total   | 4.0%  |
| Radio-Activity (maximum)  |  | 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)  | 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)  |
| All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately. |  |   |   |
| Pack no   | Identification of  | Country of origin   | Location  |
| Pack-06   | 50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled rice on CIF Liner out term   | Any country of the world except Israel  | Chattogram port-60% and Mongla port-40%   |
| Tender Security Amount (US\$.)  |  | US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand) in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (±5%) in the form of a Bank draft/pay-order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed) |   |
| Shipment period   |  | 40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.                             |   |
| <b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:</b>  |  |   |   |
| 26  | Name of official inviting tender   | Md. Moniruzzaman  |   |
| 27  | Designation of official inviting tender  | Director (Procurement)  |   |
| 28  | Address of official inviting tender  | Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.  |   |
| 29  | Contact details of official inviting tender  | Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd">dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd</a>   |   |
| 30  | (i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.<br>(ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sailed for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender.<br>(iii) Tenderer who had been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders.<br>(iv) Tenderer whose bid-bonds had been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.<br>(v) Tenderer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not. |   |   |

GD-2344

Md. Moniruzzaman  
Director  
Procurement Division  
Directorate General of Food  
Phone: +88-02-41050178  
e-mail: [dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd](mailto:dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd)





# Annual Sculpture Exhibition 2024 opens at Dhaka University

FAIZA RAMIM

The Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, inaugurated its Annual Sculpture Exhibition 2024 on November 2. This year's exhibition carried special significance as the awards were dedicated to the memory of sculptor Abdur Razzaque, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of Bangladeshi artists. The exhibition featured works from students across all departments and classes, with two rooms of Zainul Gallery filled with sculptures and artworks in diverse media.

The first prize was awarded to Prottoy Saha, a second-year BFA student from the

**The first prize was awarded to Prottoy Saha, a second-year BFA student from the Department of Sculpture, for his animation 'Croyance Trompeuse'. He calls it an "Animation based on my own delusions".**

Department of Sculpture, for his animation *Croyance Trompeuse*. He calls it an "Animation based on my own delusions". Presented in a first-person perspective, it explores the intersection between personal experience and imaginative distortion. The piece was created on a fifth-generation iPad using a stylus pen, consisting of 234 separate drawings that together form a two-minute, four-second film.

Saha's second work, *Untitled*, further



PHOTOS: RATUL CHOWDHURY

demonstrated his narrative sensibility. Executed in 2D animation using Blender and consisting of 190 frames, it began as a monochrome experiment that translated loss and memory into visual form. In the words of Prottoy, the project gained deeper resonance following the death of his grandmother, Dida, on October 24. Only eight days later, he received the award for his animation, a work he dedicated to both grandparents, who had encouraged his pursuit of fine arts. Most of the works displayed came from second-year students, with a focus on sculpture, while first-year students presented paintings and basic design projects.

The Experimental Best Award went to Suprio Kumar Ghosh, an MFA student of the 2023-24 session, for his terracotta sculpture of a middle-aged man. The earthen

medium emphasised a tactile realism and an expression of fatigue, contemplation, and resignation with remarkable subtlety.

The Media Best Award was given to Sumit Roy, a fourth-year undergraduate student, for his wooden piece *Ek*, depicting two halves of a broken whole. The diversity of materials was what stood out in the exhibition, with works ranging from Sabrina Zawad Ritu's *Distortedfish* in resin to Alok Kumar Sarkar's *Naval Rest* in iron, and Fatema Tuz Nishat Fawzia's *Women* made out of X-ray films.

Works by women artists, in particular, left a strong impression. Even before looking at the names, it was often possible to identify which pieces were created by female students. Among them, Faiza Fairuz's *Discomfort* particularly caught my eye. Made from paper-mâché, it depicted a slouched silhouette in oversized high heels, an image depicting exactly what the title says: Discomfort.

The Professor Abdur Razzaque Award was awarded to Chinmoy Ghosh for his sculpture *Inexplicable*, portraying a newborn's body wrapped in a blanket, limbs extended outward while the head remained concealed.

On November 5, a feature film was screened to commemorate Professor Abdur Razzaque's 93rd birth anniversary, honouring his role as one of the founding professors of the Department of Sculpture. The exhibiton, open daily from 11am to 7pm, will continue through November 8.

## Shironamhin lights up Toronto with captivating performance



Shironamhin captivated audiences at the Toronto Pavilion with a spellbinding performance that blended rock and classical sounds. Organised by Mixtape, the concert drew members of the Bangladeshi diaspora

eager to witness one of Bangladesh's most celebrated bands live.

Opening with *Jahaji*, the group delivered a 16-song set that kept the crowd enthralled throughout the night. A standout moment came when drummer-composer Kazy Ahmad Shafin performed on the sarod, while young local drummer Nishorgo joined onstage—symbolising a bridge between generations and cultures.

Before leaving Canada on November 4, Shironamhin announced that *Ei Obelay 2* will be released in December, a project that reflects their enduring vision and social commitment through music.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### 'Hirak Rajar Deshe'

Scholastica's Drama, Art, Dance, and Music Club revives Satyajit Ray's timeless satire *Hirak Rajar Deshe*, directed by Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon. Through music, wit, and rebellion, Gupi and Bagha confront tyranny in the Kingdom of Diamonds—where truth, courage, and melody rise against greed and ignorance.

**Date:** Thursday–Friday | November 6–7, 2025

**Time:** 4pm and 6pm onwards

**Venue:** Scholastica Senior Campus, Uttara



# NEWS

## Jamaat, NCP

FROM PAGE 16

Also yesterday, nine parties – NCP, Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, and six from the Ganotantra Mancha – met to discuss the situation and work out ways to break the deadlock.

When approached, Hasnat Quaiyum, coordinator of the Ganotantra Mancha and president of Rastro Sangskar Andolan, told this newspaper that they have plans to sit with all parties, including BNP and Jamaat, to move the process forward.

He, however, said the government has acted "irresponsibly".

"What we're saying is that the government cannot evade its responsibilities. But at the same time, as a political party, we can't shirk our responsibilities either. We're still trying to see how close we can get to a resolution," he said.

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

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

Major political parties remain entrenched in their positions on the mechanisms to implement the July charter, the fate of the dissenting notes, and timing of the referendum.

BNP opposes issuing a constitutional order for implementation of the charter and has also registered its objections over the omission of the notes of dissent from the final implementation draft.

On the other hand, Jamaat and NCP support such an order to give the charter a legal force. The NCP specifically wants the chief adviser, not the president, to issue it.

Both Jamaat and NCP preferred non-inclusion of notes of dissent in the implementation proposals.

On the referendum timing, the BNP insists it should be held on the same day as the national election, while Jamaat is demanding that it be held before the polls.

Jamaat along with several like-minded parties has already launched street protests calling for the

referendum to be held in November.

During the consensus talks, political parties including Jamaat and NCP agreed to have an upper house through proportional representation (PR) based on votes. BNP, on the other hand, issued a note of dissent, saying it prefers that upper house members be allotted in proportion to seats in the lower house.

When contacted, BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said: "Look, we're busy with nomination-related matters. We haven't had the opportunity yet to discuss what steps can be taken regarding these issues."

Asked if the party would take any initiative on its own, he said, "The matter will be discussed at a party forum, and we'll inform you accordingly."

Seeking anonymity, a standing committee member said the party has not yet budged on its stance on the disputed issues.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said that the day before the government made its announcement, the party had already called for dialogue. "That call still stands."

When asked who should take the initiative to begin discussions, he said, "We need a referee to facilitate the talks – every game has a referee."

About their party's position, he added, "Our position remains unchanged. We will make decisions when we sit for talks and during the negotiation process."

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen said the government has not clarified who will take the initiative to hold discussions. "We believe it is the government's responsibility".

He said political parties have held extensive discussions among themselves, and based on those discussions, the commission submitted a set of recommendations to the government. And now the government is skirting its responsibility and shifting the burden onto political parties.

"Our position is clear – we have not deviated from our stance ..." he said.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday said it's only been two days since the announcement, and the parties were given at least seven days. The deadline has not passed yet.

## The crash occurred

FROM PAGE 16

at the Foreign Service Academy in the afternoon.

He said the investigation found that a pilot's mistake during flight training led to loss of control.

The probe committee, formed on July 29, interviewed around 150 people – including experts, eyewitnesses, and victims' families – and collected 168 pieces of evidence. Based on its findings, it placed 33 recommendations to the government, Shafiqul said.

Among the key suggestions, the report recommended that all initial Air Force training be shifted outside Dhaka for public safety.

It also found that the school building had not been constructed in line with the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) of Rajuk, having only one staircase instead of the required three – a lapse the committee said could have greatly reduced casualties.

After receiving the report, Prof Yunus instructed the expansion of runways at Barishal and Bogura airports, Shafiqul said.

He added that the chief adviser observed that several areas under Rajuk's jurisdiction – including Savar, Kanchan, and Tarabo municipalities – were issuing building permits without following BNBC rules. Prof Yunus directed strict enforcement of the code across these areas to ensure construction safety.

## Mamdani

FROM PAGE 16

Mamdani hailed in his victory speech.

Viewers in the restaurant clapped and cheered in that moment. "We've been saying Mamdani Mubarak!" said Shahrukh Ali, the owner of Kabab King.

"He's a people's person for sure. He reminds me what New York City is all about," said 21-year-old Mamdani voter Sameha Jamal. "It's nice to embrace that again."

Jamal's father, who also voted for Mamdani, said most of the democratic socialist's proposals appealed to him, but as a homeowner, he wanted to see more specifics about Mamdani's plan to freeze hikes on rent-stabilized apartments.

He rents out part of his multi-storey family home and hopes that the rent freeze does not affect small homeowners like him. Otherwise, he said he won't vote for Mamdani in the next election.

## Fair polls to pave way for our return

FROM PAGE 16

election and beyond, it will disrupt our training.

"The army has faced difficult situations during this time – situations Bangladesh had not faced before. Therefore, rest and refit are also necessary. We too want a credible election so we can return to our bases."

At the briefing, Brig Gen Dewan Mohammad Monzur Hossain, director of the Military Operations Directorate, said they have received the government directive about the temporary withdrawal of half the army personnel deployed nationwide and will act accordingly, considering overall law and order.

He added that the army, under the direction of the chief of army staff, will extend all-out support to the Election Commission to ensure a free, fair, and festive national election.

Regarding social media propaganda, Lt Gen Mainur said some vested quarters are spreading fabricated and malicious campaigns to malign the army and its leadership.

"It is unfortunate. I assure you that every member of the army is loyal to the chief of army staff and the senior leadership. The army is now

more united than ever before, and our sense of brotherhood has grown stronger.

"The army does not need to react to false campaigns. We have our official website where we share our activities. Falsehood can only be defeated by truth, and we prove that through our actions."

He urged all to avoid such propaganda and move forward with unity.

Regarding the lack of improvement of law and order despite the deployment of army personnel, the army officer said soldiers had to carry out a wide range of tasks over the past 15 months, from flood relief in Cumilla and Noakhali to protecting police stations, managing traffic, and supporting civil administration.

"If we had not been there, the situation could have worsened. We have done our utmost within limited manpower."

Asked about reports of arms and ammunition recovered from a train in Dhaka and the Chattogram Hill Tracts region, the GOC said such recoveries are both concerning and a sign of operational success. "Weapons being seized before reaching their destination shows our vigilance. We

will intensify drives and strengthen surveillance.

"Other agencies are also working on this, and we must remain prepared so that no arms consignment reaches Dhaka. If any do, we must be ready to deal with it."

Responding to a question about the Indian Air Force military exercise in the northeastern region near the Bangladesh border, Lt Gen Mainur said it is an internal matter of a sovereign state.

"Such drills are normal and not a cause for concern. Every country conducts exercises for preparedness. We also carry out drills when necessary. It should be viewed in that light."

At the beginning of the brief, Brig Gen Monzur also highlighted the army's recent operations and activities.

He said that over the past 15 months, the army has been assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order. So far, the army has recovered 81 percent of missing weapons and 73 percent of missing ammunition, and arrested more than 19,000 suspects, including members of teenage gangs, robbers, and extortionists.

## BNP fields new faces

FROM PAGE 16

Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher is likely to run from Cumilla-11. Taher fought the race from this seat in the 9th and 11th national polls, and he was twice elected MP from Cumilla-12 in earlier polls.

BNP's Kamrul Huda, joint general secretary of Cumilla south district BNP and president of Chaudhagram upazila unit of the party, is a first-time candidate in Cumilla-11.

In Khulna-5, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, a former lawmaker, is likely to contest in the polls. He ran from there in 1991, 2008, and 2018 polls and won in 2001 general election.

The BNP last time nominated its candidate in this seat in 1996 national election. But after the formation of the BNP-led four-party alliance ahead of the 2001 polls, Khulna-5 seat was allotted to Jamaat.

The BNP has chosen Ali Asgar (Lobi) in this seat. He did not run there before.

Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem Arman, son of former Jamaat central executive committee member Mir

Quasem Ali, is likely to contest from Dhaka-14 against BNP nominee Sanjida Islam Tuli. Both are new faces.

Shamim Sayeedi, son of Jamaat leader and former lawmaker Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, is likely to run from Pirojpur-2, where the BNP has chosen Soheli Manjur, president of Bhandaria upazila unit BNP and son of former BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Manjur. The two are also fresh nominees.

In Satkhira-2, a Jamaat stronghold, Jamaat leader Muhaddis Abdul Khaleq, who ran in 2018 polls under the BNP-led alliance, may face BNP's first-time nominee Abdur Rauf.

In Dinajpur-6, another first-time nominee, BNP Standing Committee member Prof AZM Zahid Hossain, is likely to run against Jamaat candidate Anwarul Islam, former district ameer of the party. Anwarul has the experience of contesting polls.

### VACANT SEATS

Jamaat has chosen its nominees in at least seven constituencies where the BNP is yet to announce its candidates, as the party struggles to finalise nominations or prepares to leave them for its alliance partners.

In Thakurgaon-2, Abdul Hakim, Jamaat's candidate in every election since 1991, is likely to run this time too.

The BNP has not yet announced any candidate for the seat. Mirza Faisal Amin, younger brother of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, and Abdus Salam, former DAB secretary general, are seeking nomination from there.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, who contested from Cox's Bazar-2 in the 9th and 11th national elections, is likely to run again. Nazibur Rahman, son of former Jamaat ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, is expected to contest from Pabna-1; Dhaka South Jamaat Secretary Shafiqul Islam Masud from Patuakhali-2; Masood Sayeedi, son of Jamaat leader and former lawmaker Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, from Pirojpur-1; lawyer and former Shibir leader Shishir Monir from Sunamganj-2; and Jamaat leader Shahjahan Chowdhury from Chattogram-15.

The BNP has not nominated candidates in the seats.















## At least 40 women in Mymensingh's Char Kalibari survive by scavenging waste

Asma Akter, 45, another woman

Terming the job of collecting trash “risky and hazardous”, Ali said they recently took an initiative to provide the women with gloves and masks for their safety. “We have already prepared a list of some 40 women involved in trash collection to bring them under a safety net. We are also considering financial support as their work assists us,” the official added.

These actions followed protests on the SC premises on October 16, where demonstrators -- mostly students -- demanded the removal of "pro-Awami League fascist judges".

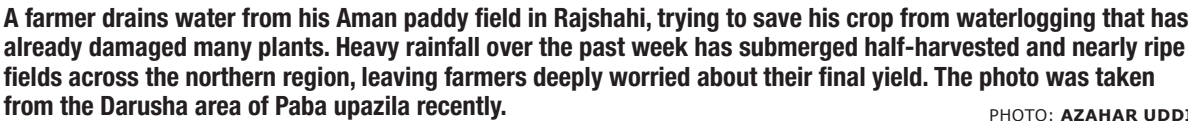




PHOTO: **AZAHAR UDDIN**

"Without decentralisation, mortality will remain high," Mushtuq said.



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নম্বর: ও.৩.০১.০০০০.১৪৩১.১১.০১.২৫-২০৭ তারিখ: ০৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

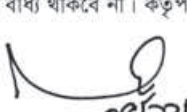
## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরবাহিনী সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত "সহকারী শিক্ষক" এর শূন্যপদে অস্থায়ীভাবে নিম্নবর্ণিত বৈশিষ্ট্যের নিয়োগের জন্য রংপুর, বরিশাল, সিলেট, রাজশাহী, খুলনা ও ময়মনসিংহ বিভাগের সকল জেলা/সকল উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত নির্দেশনা/শর্ত অনুযায়ী সরাসরি আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| পদের নাম      | বৈশিষ্ট্য   | পদসংখ্যা | বয়সসীমা  | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা   |
|---------------|---|----------|---|--|
| সহকারী শিক্ষক | বৈশিষ্ট্য: ঢাকা: ১১০০০-২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড-১৩) জাতীয় বৈশিষ্ট্য, ২০১৫ (অনুযায়ী) | ১০, ২১৯  | ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখে প্রার্থীর ন্যূনতম ও সর্বোচ্চ বয়স হবে যথাক্রমে ২১-৩২ বৎসর। | কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অন্যান্য দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ (৪ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ২.২৫ ও ৫ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ২.৮) স্নাতক বা স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী।<br>(খ) শিক্ষা জীবনে কোনো স্তরে তৃতীয় বিভাগ অথবা সমমানের জিপিএ অথবা তৃতীয় শ্রেণি অথবা সমমানের সিজিপিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। |

**শর্তাবলী:**

- আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন গ্রহণ শুরু হবে ০৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ (সকাল ১০:৩০ মি:) এবং শেষ হবে ২১ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ (রাত ১১:৫৯ মি:);
- <http://dpe.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ করে অনলাইনে Application Form পূরণের নির্দেশনা পাওয়া যাবে। উক্ত নির্দেশনা অনুসরণপূর্বক অনলাইনে Application Form পূরণ করে Submit করা হলে ওয়েবসাইটে হতে প্রার্থীর User IDসহ Unpaid স্ট্যাটাস সম্পন্ন Draft Applicant's Copy তৈরি হবে যা প্রিন্ট করে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্য যাচাই করতে হবে;
- আবেদন ফি জমা দানের পূর্বে Draft Applicant's Copy একাধিকবার পড়ে প্রার্থী তার প্রদত্ত তথ্যের যথাযথতা সম্পর্কে নিশ্চিত হবেন। কোন ভুল পরিলক্ষিত হলে তার বিপরীতে আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়া যাবে না এবং এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির ২নং শর্ত অনুসরণ করে নতুন করে Application Form সঠিক তথ্য দিয়ে পূরণপূর্বক নতুন User ID সংশ্লিষ্ট Unpaid স্ট্যাটাস সম্পন্ন Draft Applicant's Copy প্রিন্ট নিয়ে পুনরায় প্রদত্ত তথ্য যাচাই করতে হবে;
- নিম্নলিখিত প্রদত্ত Application Form-এর বিপরীতে প্রদত্ত User ID ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তী ৭২ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে Draft Applicant's Copy-তে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুসরণপূর্বক যে কোন টেলিটক প্রি-প্রেইড মোবাইল নম্বর হতে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে অফেরতযোগ্য ১০০.০০ (একশত) টাকা আবেদন ফি এবং টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জ ও ভ্যাট ১২.০০ (বার) টাকাসহ একত্রে মোট ১১২.০০ (একশত বার) টাকা পরিশোধ করতে হবে;
- আবেদন ফি পরিশোধের পর আবেদনে প্রদত্ত মোবাইল নম্বর SMS-এর মাধ্যমে আবেদনকারীকে User ID-সহ একটি Password দেয়া হবে। এরপরে <http://dpe.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটের "Download Applicant's Copy" ট্যাবে ক্লিক করে মোবাইলে প্রাপ্ত User ID ও Password Submit করে Paid স্ট্যাটাস সম্পন্ন Final Applicant's Copy পাওয়া যাবে। Final Applicant's-এর রঙিন প্রিন্ট কপি নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার শেখাবিধি আবেদনকারীকে সরাসরি প্রদত্ত হবে। কেবলমাত্র আবেদন ফি পরিশোধের পরেই আবেদনকারী চূড়ান্তভাবে পৃথক হলেই প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোন নম্বর পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক;
- সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় শিক্ষক নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ এ বর্ণিত প্রক্রিয়া অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে নিজ উপজেলা/থানায় নিয়োগ দেয়া হবে। আবেদনকারী যে উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানা/বাসিন্দা তার প্রার্থিতা উক্ত উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার অনুকূলে নির্ধারিত থাকবে এবং তার নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম তদনুযায়ী নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে;
- সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় শিক্ষক নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ এবং উক্ত বিধিমালায় ২ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের সংশোধন অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হবে;
- নির্বাচিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদনে তাদের স্বামী অথবা পিতার স্থায়ী ঠিকানার যে কোন একটিতে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে এ দুটি স্থায়ী ঠিকানার মধ্যে তিনি যেটি আবেদনে উল্লেখ করবেন তার প্রার্থিতা সেই উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার জন্য বিবেচিত হবে;
- অসত্য/ভুল তথ্য সংবলিত/কৃত্রিম/অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত/প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা কাগজপত্র নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম চলাকালে যে কোন পর্যায়ে বা নিয়োগপ্রাপ্তির পরেও অসত্য/ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে তার দরখাস্ত/নির্বাচন/নিয়োগ বাতিল করা হবে এবং মিথ্যা/ভুল তথ্য সরবরাহ করার জন্য তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত/প্রশাসনিক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে;
- উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানাভিত্তিক নিয়োগ করা হবে। প্রার্থী যে উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা তিনি সে উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন। আবেদন নিজে জেলা, থানা/উপজেলা ভুল করলে তার প্রার্থিতা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;
- নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় শিক্ষক নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ অনুযায়ী নিজ উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানায় চাকরি করতে হবে। তাঁর বদলি নিজ উপজেলা/শিক্ষা থানার বিদ্যালয়সমূহের মধ্যে সীমিত থাকবে;
- ধুমপানসহ যে কোন ধরনের মাদক গ্রহণের অভ্যাস থাকলে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই;
- লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচিত/মনোনীত প্রার্থীকে নিম্নবর্ণিত সত্যায়নকৃত কাগজপত্রাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা অফিসে দাখিল করতে হবে:
  - অনলাইনে দাখিলকৃত আবেদনের ফটোকপি এবং পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ (দুই) কপি ছবি;
  - শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পর্কিত সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র;
  - সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র;
  - জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম নিবন্ধনের কপি;
  - লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি;
  - মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোর্সের আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীকে ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ সিদ্ধান্ত অনুসারে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরসন্মানের সন্মানের মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি;
  - শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীকে ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র;
  - সুস্থ ন-গোষ্ঠী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা এবং সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকা হলে জেলা প্রশাসক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সুস্থ ন-গোষ্ঠী পরিচিতি বিষয়ক সনদপত্র;
- প্রার্থীর সনদপত্র ও ছবি সত্যায়িত/কর্মকর্তার (৯ম বা তদুর্ধ্ব গ্রেডের পোজিটেড কর্মকর্তা) স্বাক্ষরের নীচে নামসহ সীল থাকতে হবে;
- লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না;
- Online-এ আবেদন দাখিলের বিষয়ে সহযোগিতার প্রয়োজন হলে [vas.query@teletalk.com.bd](mailto:vas.query@teletalk.com.bd) ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় অথবা যে কোন টেলিটক নম্বর হতে টেলিটকের কাস্টমার কেয়ার ১২১ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। এছাড়া <http://dpe.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটের 'Help' ট্যাবে টেলিটকের নিকটস্থ কাস্টমার কেয়ার সেন্টারের ঠিকানা পাওয়া যাবে;
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্তাবলী পরিবর্তন, সংযোজন, বিয়োজন বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল ও নিয়োগের বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে কোন আপত্তি উত্থাপন করা যাবে না;
- এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ কিংবা প্রার্থিতা পদে নিয়োগ প্রদান করতে বাধ্য থাকবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

  
 (রাজা মুহম্মদ আব্দুল হাউ)  
 মহাপরিচালক (কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়িত্ব)  
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GD-2343



# Bangladesh is the next big market for computing growth

Rex Lee, Corporate Vice President and General Manager of APAC commercial of ASUS talks to Zahidur Rabbi of The Daily Star



For Bangladesh, population is a major factor. It is similar to what we saw in India 10 years ago. Back then, India's PC market was around 3 million units. Today it is over 7 million. As economies grow, productivity tools such as PCs and laptops become essential. Bangladesh is following that same trajectory.

MD. ZAHIDUR RABBI

Rex Lee, Corporate Vice President and General Manager of APAC commercial at ASUS, has been with the company since 2007, leading its global computing strategy and market expansion across Asia and Europe. Over his nearly two decades at ASUS, he has overseen major innovations in AI-driven PCs, sustainability initiatives, and regional growth. In an interview with The Daily Star, Lee outlines how the Taiwanese technology giant is positioning itself for the next decade, both globally and in Bangladesh.

The Daily Star (TDS): How does Bangladesh fit within Asus's global vision for the future of computing roadmap?

Rex Lee (RL): Our global vision centres around creating technology that empowers every individual to achieve more. We see computing evolving

beyond traditional devices into intelligent companions that can think, learn and adapt. AI is at the heart of this evolution, and Asus is investing heavily in AI-driven PCs and next-generation form factors that redefine productivity.

Bangladesh is an exciting part of that journey. With a population of more than 180 million and a young, tech-savvy demographic, it is a country ready for digital transformation. What we are doing here today is laying the foundation for the future. The market might not be huge yet, but it is growing fast, and we want to be part of that growth from the beginning.

TDS: What unique factors make Bangladesh one of the key emerging markets for Asus investment and strategic focus?

RL: For Bangladesh, population is a major factor. It is similar to what we saw in India 10 years ago. Back then, India's PC market

was around 3 million units. Today it is over 7 million. As economies grow, productivity tools such as PCs and laptops become essential. Bangladesh is following that same trajectory. Another important factor is consumer awareness. Through our research, we discovered that even in commercial markets, end-user brand perception matters. People search for ASUS not just as a product but as a brand they want to trust. That's why our marketing strategy here involves strong engagement with content creators and young professionals. Awareness drives demand, even for business-grade technology.

TDS: How do you view the growth of digital infrastructure, IT spending and technology adoption in Bangladesh?

RL: Over the last decade, smartphones changed the way people interact with technology. Initially, they disrupted PC sales because basic digital tasks moved to mobile. But now we are seeing a shift again. As users mature, they need devices with higher productivity potential, particularly for education, creative work and small business management. That is where PCs and AI-powered laptops come in. I think Bangladesh is entering a new stage where digital adoption is not just about connectivity, but capability. The appetite for better devices, more reliable systems, and professional tools is growing.

TDS: What are Asus's expectations from this market over the next 3 to 5 years in both consumer and commercial segments?

RL: Our goal is simple: to be the number one PC brand in the world and a top player in every major market, including Bangladesh. Over the next three years, we expect consistent double-digit growth here. The consumer segment will continue to drive volume, but the commercial side like education,

enterprise and government – will add stability. We are building our presence through strategic investments. For example, the last launch event we organised represented one of our biggest marketing investments in South Asia relative to revenue. We are looking long term, not for short-term returns. Once the market expands, our early presence will help us grow with it.

TDS: What opportunities does Asus see in sectors like government, banking, education, and SMBs in Bangladesh?

RL: We see great potential in all of them, though timing is important. The recent political transition means many government projects are temporarily on hold. We expect things to stabilise by late 2026. Once policies are clearer, we anticipate growth in digital classrooms, smart banking, and e-governance. For now, we're focusing on building awareness and strengthening our enterprise ecosystem – ensuring that when these sectors expand again, Asus is ready to deliver solutions.

TDS: How is ASUS preparing its local channel, service ecosystem, and technology roadmap to support enterprise-level requirements?

RL: In Bangladesh, our team is entirely local, supported by our regional headquarters in Singapore. This gives us agility and local insight. However, we do face some regulatory challenges, such as visa limits and restrictions on establishing large foreign offices.

Despite these, we are building strong partnerships with distributors, resellers, and service centres. We've learned that reliability and after-sales support are crucial. Our roadmap includes more service points, better training, and a smooth customer experience for both consumers and enterprises.

## JOBS SPOTLIGHT

### Helen Keller Intl. Bangladesh

HR Assistant

Deadline: November 8

Eligibility:

● Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, Management, or a related discipline.

Minimum experience: 1-2 years



### BRAC Bank PLC

Business Development Manager, SME Liability

Deadline: November 10

Eligibility:

● Graduation from any reputed university with a satisfactory academic track record, with prior experience in a relevant field in banks/ NBFI's.

Minimum experience: 4-5 years

### Sheltech (Pvt.) Ltd.

Senior Executive/ Assistant Manager, Customer Support

Deadline: November 15

Eligibility:

● MBA (major in Marketing)/ post-graduation in a relevant subject, with prior experience in a relevant field.

Minimum experience: 5-7 years



### Panjeree Publications Ltd.

Graphic Designer, Pre-Press

Deadline: November 30

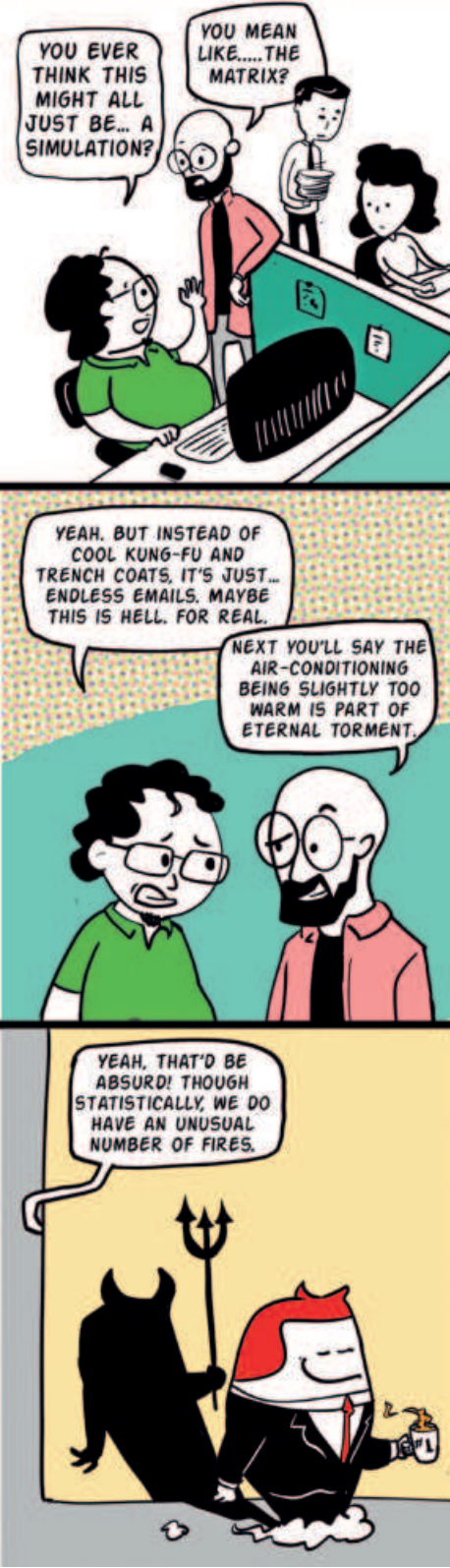
Eligibility:

● Graduation/Diploma in Printing Technology or a related discipline.

Minimum experience: 5-10 years



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



# The trouble with companies using AI for the sake of it

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

It has become almost fashionable for companies to claim they are using AI. Every boardroom, every quarterly report, every strategic offsite seems to revolve around the same language of transformation. But what is quietly emerging beneath all the noise is a pattern of misplaced ambition with businesses applying advanced technology to areas that barely need it, while neglecting the parts of their work that could be fundamentally reimaged.

A recent McKinsey & Company article on the first year of agentic AI argues that this technology, defined by its ability to act autonomously rather than just predict or generate, exemplifies the above misalignment perfectly. According to the report, many organisations are building agents not to solve the right problems, but to showcase that they can. So, the more telling question is not what AI can do, but where it should do it.

This tension is particularly visible in Bangladesh and similar Global South contexts, where firms are experimenting with AI without fully understanding the nature of their own work processes. The temptation to adopt the latest technology is strong. But enthusiasm alone cannot make AI effective. Success with agentic AI requires an understanding of the work itself, while understanding its patterns, variability, and dependence on human judgment.

Not every job benefits from autonomy. Low-variance, high-standardisation tasks like data reconciliation or payroll processing

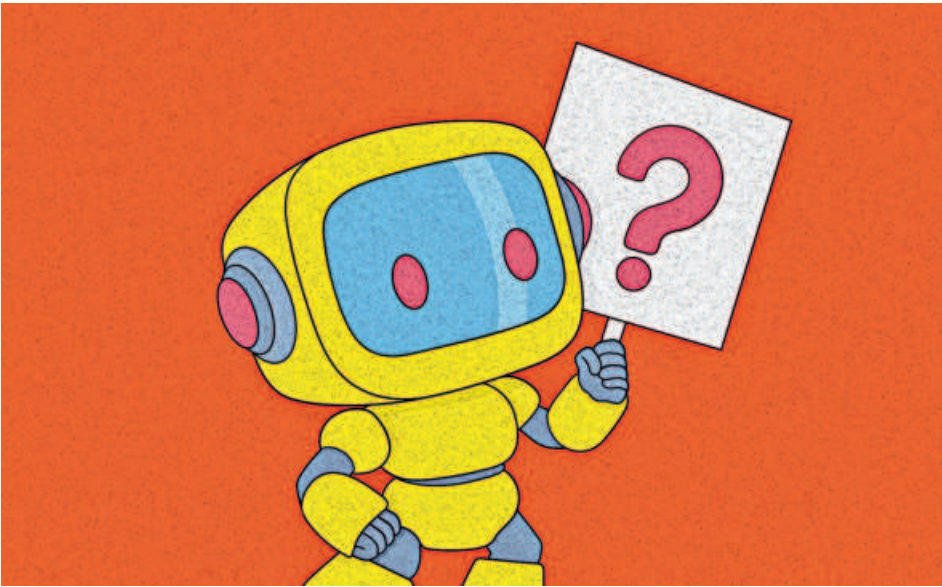


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

do not need a cognitive engine. They need efficiency, not intelligence. High-variance, low-standardisation work, such as strategy, creativity, and negotiation, remains distinctly human. It is the messy space of judgment, instinct, and error, where the cost of misinterpretation outweighs the benefit of speed.

The true potential of agentic AI lies in the middle ground: tasks that have sufficient structure to define workflows but enough variability to require decision-making, judgment, or coordination. These

are workflows that repeat often enough to define, but vary just enough to require decisions along the way.

Examples include supply chain management processes that require adaptive routing, customer service workflows that escalate in complexity, or financial operations where data is standardised but decisions are contingent on market conditions. In these contexts, AI can act as a collaborator rather than a substitute, handling execution while humans focus on oversight, interpretation, and higher-order

judgment. In most use cases, this middle ground is often neglected.

It needs to be kept in mind that agentic systems are not plug-ins; they are co-workers. They demand clarity of process, auditability of action, and a willingness to redefine what roles mean. The companies that fail often do so not because the technology underperforms, but because they refuse to redraw the boundaries of their work. The real shift will come when organisations begin redesigning workflows around the agent itself. The most effective AI deployments so far have been those that respect the tacit knowledge humans bring. A system can decide, but only if someone first defines what good decisions look like.

For many economies still defining their digital maturity, this reflection feels urgent. In places where processes are semi-structured and still heavily dependent on human oversight, the temptation will be to leapfrog directly into agentic AI. But skipping the slow work of standardisation first is a mistake. Before we can build agents that act, we must build workflows worth acting within.

In the end, the real transformation would not come from what AI can do, but from what companies learn to stop doing. The compulsion to automate everything, to equate progress with replacement, blinds us to the nuance of good design. Not all inefficiency is waste; not all human friction is bad. Some parts of work are supposed to stay unpredictable. And agentic AI, if deployed thoughtfully, may help us find balance again.

# GTA VI maker Rockstar Games accused of anti-union firings

NEXT STEP DESK

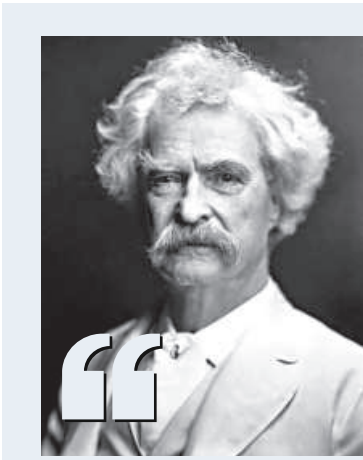
Rockstar Games, the studio behind the popular Grand Theft Auto series, has been accused of anti-union firings after dismissing between 30 and 40 employees, according to a recent report by Bloomberg. According to the report, the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB) claims that every dismissed employee was

involved in a private Discord chat for union organising, was already a union member, or was engaged in efforts to establish a union at the company.

As per a report by The Verge on the matter, IWGB president Alex Marshall described the action as "the most blatant and ruthless act of union busting in the history of the games industry" in a statement. However, Take-Two Interactive, Rockstar's parent company,

provided a different explanation. Alan Lewis, head of global corporate communications, said the terminations were solely "for gross misconduct, and for no other reason", though no specific details were provided, as per The Verge.

The firings occurred across Rockstar's UK and Canadian offices approximately seven months before the scheduled release of Grand Theft Auto VI in May 2026.



"The law of work seems unfair, but nothing can change it; the more enjoyment you get out of your work, the more money you will make."  
MARK TWAIN



## An independent police commission at last

### It will hopefully free the police from politicisation, corruption

We welcome the government’s finalisation of a draft ordinance for forming an independent police commission that aims to ensure accountability within the force and help make it more people-friendly. After decades of politicisation of the police by successive governments, particularly the Awami League regime, the prospect of having a truly professional force that upholds human rights gives us hope. In the wake of severely diminished public trust in the police, as well as low morale within the force itself, this is urgently needed.

According to our analysis of a copy of the draft Police Commission Ordinance 2025, one of the most important functions of the commission will be to investigate citizen complaints against police officers, determine responsibility, and take appropriate action, ensuring the confidentiality and safety of the complainants. It will also have the authority to prevent abuse of power by the police. The politicisation of police in Bangladesh has long been a serious concern as it led to clampdowns by successive governments to repress political opponents and dissenting voices. Among the tools used for that purpose were false cases, arbitrary incarceration, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, etc. Politicisation also created a culture of impunity within the force, providing the scope for unbridled corruption and crimes, including extortion and bribery.

This culture must end, and an independent commission represents a real opportunity to finally begin reversing it. According to the draft ordinance, the commission will have several units to ensure that complaints are handled properly. The police will be required to set up an internal system to handle complaints within 90 days. If a citizen still feels their case has not been handled fairly, they can appeal within 30 days to a divisional Police Accountability Unit, which must then resolve the complaint within 60 days. Another body will hear appeals against the unit’s decisions within 30 days and will have the authority to initiate investigations, summon witnesses, and publish outcomes. A separate Police Grievance Redress Board will address complaints from police personnel regarding unfair treatment, transfers, promotions, or disciplinary actions.

Of course, the success of all this will ultimately depend on the political will of future governments and the sincerity of those in charge. The demand for such a commission has existed for many decades, but proposals have repeatedly been met with bureaucratic resistance. An ordinance can become law only after parliament passes it, and a law is meaningful only when the administration sincerely enforces it. We expect all political parties to commit themselves to upholding the mandate of this commission if elected to power. A professional police force, free of undue influence, is a basic requirement for good governance.

## Halt the DAP amendment

### Govt must heed expert advice to make Dhaka liveable

We are deeply concerned by the government’s move to amend Dhaka’s Detailed Area Plan (DAP), which experts say will further undermine the capital’s liveability. At a recent press conference, urban planners, environmentalists, and civic groups urged the authorities to suspend the amendment process, warning that it would intensify overcrowding and strain the city’s already fragile infrastructure. The proposed amendments would reportedly increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) across many neighbourhoods, doubling building heights and density in several areas. While this may benefit developers, it would allow taller, denser buildings without corresponding upgrades in transport, drainage, and utility systems. In a city already ranked as the third least liveable in the world, such decisions could push Dhaka to the brink of collapse.

The current DAP, gazetted in August 2022, was formulated to ensure balanced population distribution, promote transit-oriented development, and implement sustainable block-based planning. However, within a year, it was revised to favour commercial interests, violating its five-year review cycle. Yet, real estate developers and many architects continued to demand further revision after last year’s political changeover. Clearly, real estate developers support a higher FAR because it allows them to build larger structures and earn greater profits. In contrast, urban planners and other experts see FAR as a crucial tool to control population density, ensure that construction aligns with available utilities and public services, protect residents’ quality of life, and preserve the environment. Therefore, the government’s apparent disregard for expert advice and yielding to pressure from real estate developers and architects is quite disappointing.

Dhaka is already struggling with a shortage of open spaces, walkways, water bodies, and basic utilities due to overpopulation and unplanned urbanisation. If the amendments are approved, developers could raise building heights by two to four additional storeys, pushing population density in some areas to 50,000 people per square kilometre, which is far beyond global standards for liveable megacities. Experts also opined that these repeated revisions to the DAP are self-destructive and undermine sound urban planning practices.

We, therefore, urge the government to resist the influence of real estate developers and prioritise the long-term well-being of Dhaka’s residents. It should thoroughly review and address the concerns raised by urban planners and experts before finally approving the DAP amendments. Moreover, any city planning must be guided by expert knowledge and coordinated under the National Spatial Plan to manage population density and infrastructure effectively. Without such a responsible and forward-looking plan, any amendment to the DAP will only deepen Dhaka’s crisis, further diminishing its liveability and jeopardising its future as a sustainable city.

# Our ports are national assets, not bargaining chips



Anu Muhammad  
is a former professor of economics at  
Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

The interim government seems eager to hand over management of the New Mooring Terminal of the Chattogram port to a company called DP World from Abu Dhabi. Although no formal deal has been signed yet, newspapers report that officials of the company have been visiting the port regularly. In his June 6 speech this year, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus also urged people to resist those opposing this move.

It is no secret that Bangladesh is in a geographically advantageous position due to its seaports, both located in the southern part of the country, opening to the Bay of Bengal. Beyond the obvious benefits for international transport and communication, the Bay holds both known and untapped natural resources, including vast reserves of oil, gas, and minerals, which demand the presence of enhanced security in the area. Since Bangladesh lacks strong national capacity in this matter, many believe the presence of foreign operators in the ports might increase the security risk in the area. Yet, successive governments have continued their attempts to lease out the Chattogram port.

It first began around 1997. We were repeatedly told that the port’s performance was very poor and that its future was at risk. The proposed “solution” was to lease out parts of the port to a US company to build and operate a new container terminal. Between 1997 and 1999, several foreign maritime companies submitted proposals to build a “private port” in the Chattogram area. Among them, the US company, Stevedoring Services of America Inc. (SSA), submitted its proposal on December 29, 1997. Meanwhile, local lobbying groups became active to accelerate the process.

The port authorities had their own development proposal, but it was ignored and buried in files. Meanwhile, the SSA company quickly moved ahead, even without a proper tender process, as the then government began direct negotiations with them.

The proposed terminal site was at the mouth of the Karnaphuli River—right where the port opens to the sea. The contract offered 20.97 acres of land at Patenga on a 99-year lease for the first phase, and another 99 years for later phases, making it effectively a 210-year licence, divided into seven

30-year terms. The proposed deal also stated that if the company wanted more land in the future, the shipping ministry would help secure ownership for them. This raised serious concerns.

A look at various official meetings, decisions, and committees from that time shows how ministries and “experts” shaped the process to suit the foreign companies’ interests. Within a few months, the cabinet



FILE PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Bangladesh must strengthen management of its own ports through a vision rooted in national dignity and self-reliance.

approved SSA’s proposal and sent it to the shipping ministry. By early 2000, the ministry engaged Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC), a so-called government agency allegedly funded and guided by the World Bank, to provide “expert negotiation support” with SSA.

Although a new government took office in 2001, the port deal continued. A “secretaries committee”, formed with six top bureaucrats, strongly recommended SSA’s proposal in its report on April 30, 2002. Apparently, top US and World Bank officials in the country at that time pressed the then government to approve the deal urgently, claiming no tender was necessary since “all discussions were transparent” and the IIFC had given a favourable opinion.

What we see now with DP World

follows a similar pattern.

Back then, however, a strong public resistance grew against this destructive alliance of Bangladesh’s two consecutive governments, foreign interests, and the bureaucratic elite. Alongside the movement by port workers, the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports organised a long march from Dhaka to Chattogram in 2002. Meanwhile, former port chairman Engineer Mahmud-ul-Islam and others filed a petition at the High Court, represented by Dr Kamal Hossain and Harisadhan Dev Brahman.

By the end of 2002, court hearings revealed the project was fraudulent. A newly created company had used the name of SSA to secure a massive loan

under the port deal, and both local and foreign forces were backing it. Thanks to the court verdict and public movement, the fraudulent project was finally cancelled.

After that plan was scrapped, their activities took a new turn, especially during the caretaker government of 2007, towards turning the Chattogram port into a shell under private capital control. At first, local businessmen were happy, but it later became clear that the policies were taken mainly to serve multinational interests. Now the interim government, to serve a foreign company’s interest, did not hesitate to raise all port tariffs even at the risk of negatively affecting national economy and local businesses.

It is true that because of Bangladesh’s strategic location, its

waters have drawn the attention of many powers, particularly the United States, followed by India and China. US diplomats, military or naval officials, or corporate lobbyists often show special interest in Bangladesh’s maritime area and talk about “ensuring its security.” Experiences from around the world show that foreign powers talking about a country’s security or peace is often an ominous sign!

Those promoting foreign control over the ports often justify it by saying Bangladesh should become “like Singapore.” But anyone can see that Singapore never supports handing over a strategically vital asset like a port to private or foreign companies. The Port of Singapore is run under full state authority by the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA). In 1997,

PSA was corporatised to allow greater commercial efficiency but it remained a national institution. Interestingly, DP World—the same company our government wants to lease the New Mooring Terminal to—is itself a state-owned enterprise.

No country has ever built a strong foundation by abandoning national pride and acting like a broker, as our governments often tend to do. To ensure national security, economic growth, and national capability, Bangladesh must strengthen management of its own ports—Chattogram and Mongla—as they are strategic national assets. This cannot be done with a corrupt, commission-seeking mindset, but through a vision rooted in national dignity and self-reliance.

# How algorithms are fuelling a new wave of crimes



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In an era where algorithms dictate what we see, read, and believe, the distinction between digital influence and criminal manipulation is becoming increasingly blurred. Instances ranging from Facebook-fueled mob violence to artificial intelligence (AI) generated deepfakes that ruin reputations prove that a new form of crime is reshaping the criminological landscape in Bangladesh.

Algorithmic crimes refer to crimes that are either influenced or enabled by algorithms. Algorithms determine what we see online, influence transactions, and shape our digital interactions. Algorithmic crimes are not like regular cybercrimes, such as hacking or phishing; they’re often indirect. It occurs when algorithms propagate false information, manipulate user behaviour, or cause biased decisions that lead to real-world harm. Criminologists around the world are realising that algorithmic crime is the “dark twin” of digital innovation. In Bangladesh, this phenomenon has started to manifest in alarming ways, from communal violence sparked by

viral posts to financial scams driven by AI bots.

However, the algorithmic crime’s journey in Bangladesh began with the spread of misinformation through social media. Back in 2017, at the Thakupara village of Rangpur, communal violence erupted after a fake Facebook post supposedly hurting religious sentiments was circulated in the name of a Hindu youth. Within hours, mobs looted and set fire to Hindu homes. Later, investigations revealed that the post was fabricated, marking one of Bangladesh’s first major cases where social media algorithms directly fueled real-world violence. Then, in 2019, Bhola’s Borhanuddin upazilla witnessed serious clashes in which four people were killed and over a hundred were injured after screenshots of alleged blasphemous messages by a Facebook user went viral. It was later found that the man’s Facebook account had been hacked. Algorithms prioritising sensational content accelerated the spread, reaching thousands within minutes.

Such algorithm-driven misinformation demonstrates how digital systems can manipulate human psychology, triggering mass panic and violence. Besides physical violence, algorithmic manipulation has also entered Bangladesh’s financial and political systems. In 2025, numerous cases of mobile banking fraud involving Bkash and Nagad were linked to automated bots capable of predicting and exploiting transactions. These bots tricked victims into sending cash to fake accounts using AI-generated voices and messages. Additionally, deepfakes—realistic fake videos or voices—have emerged as a new criminal weapon. We have seen how fake videos of politicians and journalists went around online, aiming to damage their reputations and influence public opinion.

This rise of algorithmic crimes can be analysed through three key theoretical lenses: sociological, psychological, and biological. Sociological theories propose that crime often arises from social inequalities and a lack of community cohesion. Bangladesh’s online space mirrors this lack of cohesion. These echo chambers are exacerbated by algorithms, where opposing views are rarely heard and fake news spreads like wildfire.

Strain theory says that in a struggling economy, algorithmic scams such as fake loan ads or cryptocurrency schemes can exploit people trying to make a quick profit. Algorithms are designed to manipulate human psychology. Social media platforms

trigger dopamine-driven pleasure loops that keep users addicted to outrage and sensationalism. According to the frustration-aggression theory, people who are constantly exposed to digital content that makes them angry may become aggressive in real life.

Biological theories of criminology suggest that criminal behaviour may be inherited and physiologically determined, indicating that an individual’s physical characteristics and genetic makeup can incline them towards deviant behaviour. These theories also shed light on how technology reshapes the human brain. Constant exposure to algorithm-driven content alters the human brain. It may hack the brain’s reward system, making it hard to distinguish between moral responsibility and online simulation.

Algorithmic crime challenges the very foundation of criminology. It demonstrates that in this modern era, crime is no longer limited to the physical world; it is automated, coded, and often imperceptible until its effects erupt. For Bangladesh, the way forward lies in combining criminological insight with technological awareness. Policymakers, educationalists, and law enforcement must view algorithmic manipulation as a social and psychological phenomenon that influences behaviour and fuels violence—rather than as merely a cyber issue—and fashion their response accordingly. Given its persistent danger, the urgency of a firm policy response cannot be overstated.



# Can Bangladesh build a democracy that listens?



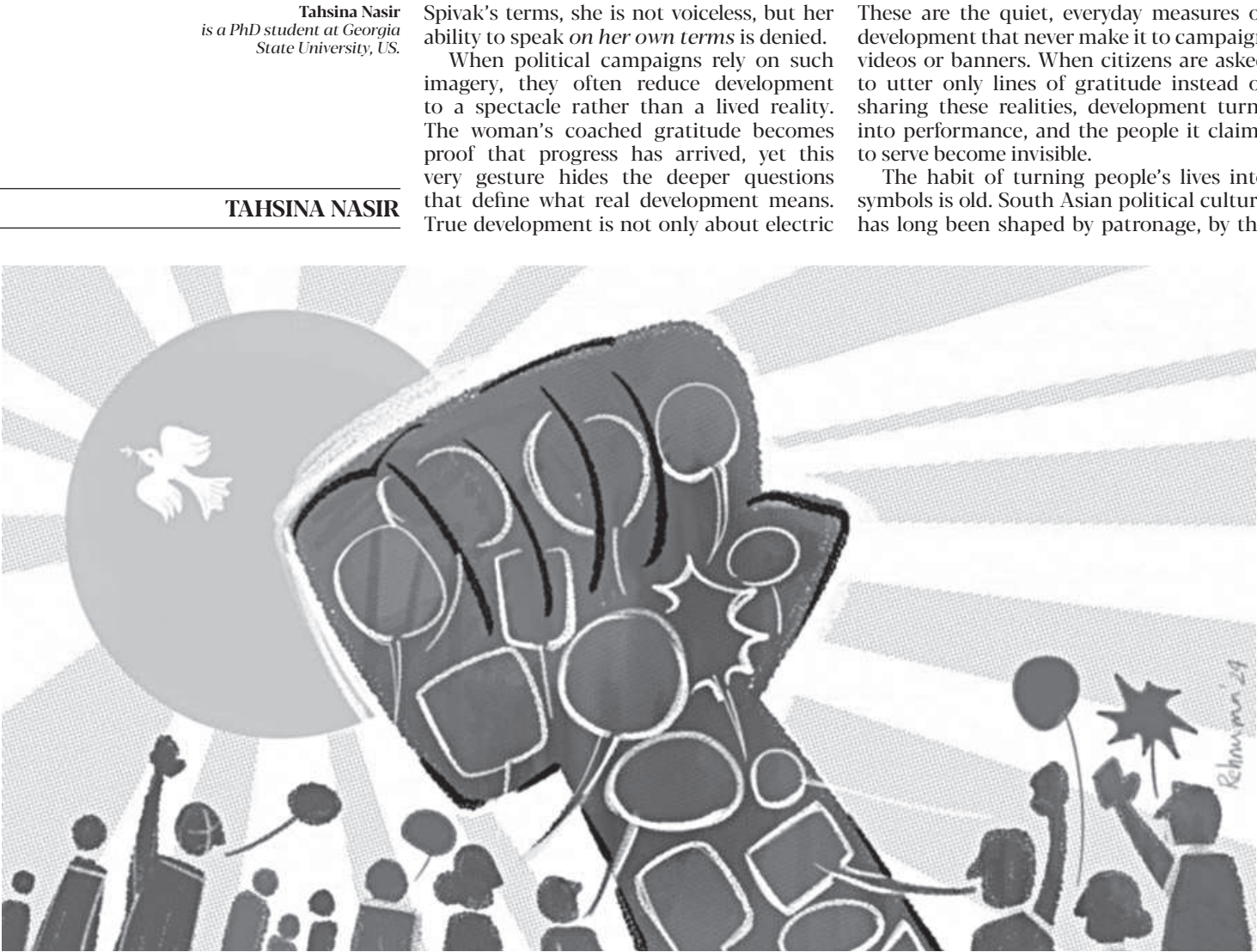
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TAHSINA NASIR

In a quiet village in Bangladesh, an elderly woman sits on a bamboo stool, her eyes half-squinting in the afternoon light. Around her stand a few men, one holding a phone camera, another asking the same question over and over: “Who gave you electricity? Who built these roads? Who made your life easier?” Their tone leaves little room for hesitation. After a few uncertain pauses, the woman says the name they seem to expect. The men smile, satisfied that her words will make a convincing video. That short clip soon travels beyond her courtyard, shared across social media as proof of development. But for those watching closely, it says something much larger about the way politics and power often operate in our time. The old woman speaks, yet her voice does not seem entirely her own.

Scenes like this are not about a single candidate or party. They are part of a larger culture that has slowly shaped the language of democracy in Bangladesh. Electricity, roads, and infrastructure have become central to our idea of *unnayan*, or development. These achievements matter, and no one would deny their importance. But the way they are spoken about often turns them into a script rather than a dialogue. The citizen becomes a recipient, not a participant. When the question shifts from “What do you need?” to “Who gave you this?”, democracy turns into a performance.

This is where Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s question, “Can the subaltern speak?”, becomes deeply relevant in today’s reality. Spivak was not suggesting that marginalised people are silent, but that the structures around them decide how and when their voices can be heard. In other words, the poor, the rural, and the unrepresented often speak, yet their words pass through filters



FILE ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

of hierarchy, expectation, and power. By the time those words reach the public, they have already been reshaped to fit someone else’s story. The old woman in the video appears to be speaking freely, but the moment is carefully arranged. The camera, the questions, the tone—all frame her voice in a way that confirms a message already written. Her agency becomes partial, her speech turned into a symbol of endorsement. In

Spivak’s terms, she is not voiceless, but her ability to speak on *her own terms* is denied. When political campaigns rely on such imagery, they often reduce development to a spectacle rather than a lived reality. The woman’s coached gratitude becomes proof that progress has arrived, yet this very gesture hides the deeper questions that define what real development means. True development is not only about electric

These are the quiet, everyday measures of development that never make it to campaign videos or banners. When citizens are asked to utter only lines of gratitude instead of sharing these realities, development turns into performance, and the people it claims to serve become invisible. The habit of turning people’s lives into symbols is old. South Asian political culture has long been shaped by patronage, by the

voice” to the marginalised, we often end up speaking for them instead. The same happens in rural politics when a villager’s story is edited into a campaign reel. Her words are there, but their meaning is framed by others.

It is tempting to think of these issues as harmless, but they shape the moral fabric of how we see citizenship itself. When development is presented as a favour rather than a right, it creates an expectation of thankfulness. The citizen’s role becomes to validate, not to question. Gratitude replaces accountability. And once that shift occurs, even the idea of asking for better healthcare or fair wages begins to sound ungrateful. A more humane form of politics would look different. It would begin with listening, not prompting. It would treat the rural woman not as proof of progress but as a participant in defining it. It would ask her what electricity has changed in her life, what remains undone, and what her priorities are. It would acknowledge that people know the shape of their own needs far better than those who seek to represent them.

In this sense, democracy is not the art of being praised, but the discipline of listening. Listening is not a weakness; it is a responsibility. It requires time, humility, and a willingness to hear about discomfort. It also demands that those in power accept that true development is not measured by the number of projects completed, but by whether those projects answer real human needs. The woman in that video deserves to be remembered not for whom she named, but for what her hesitation revealed.

As Bangladesh approaches the national election in February, it might be worth reflecting on what kind of democracy we wish to practice. One built on rehearsed gratitude, or one grounded in real conversation? Progress cannot only be something done *for* the people; it must also be shaped *by* them. Development is not charity, and citizenship is not a favour returned. The real strength of democracy lies not in how loudly the leaders speak, but in how deeply they listen and how thoroughly they follow up.

# What socialist Mamdani’s victory means at the heart of capitalism



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ABDULLAH A DEWAN

When New York City—the world’s billionaire capital and command centre of a \$55 trillion market economy—elected a democratic socialist as mayor on November 4, 2025, it stunned observers worldwide. Against the odds of a bruising, multimillion-dollar campaign bankrolled by billionaire patrons, voters chose conviction over capital by a large margin. The tremor of victory reverberated far beyond America’s borders. Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old state assemblyman and son of Ugandan-Indian scholar Mahmood Mamdani and Indian-American filmmaker Mira Nair, defeated political heavyweight Andrew Cuomo to become the first South Asian-American Muslim mayor of New York. For a metropolis long synonymous with Wall Street capitalism, his triumph was more than a political upset—it marked a moral turning point, a redirection of the city’s compass from profit to principle.

Mamdani’s ancestry traced a remarkable arc across continents. His forebears migrated from Gujarat to East Africa as traders under British rule. His father, Mahmood Mamdani, was among thousands of South Asians expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin in 1972, later rising as one of Africa’s leading post-colonial thinkers. His mother, Mira Nair, born in India and educated at Harvard, became an acclaimed filmmaker. Their son was born in Kampala in 1991, moved to New York at age seven. Before entering politics, he worked as a housing counsellor, helping tenants fight eviction—an experience that inspired his campaign slogan: *Housing is a human right*.

He joined the Democratic Socialists of America and entered state politics in 2020, quickly becoming a voice for tenants, workers, and transit users. His mayoral platform was unapologetically progressive: fare-free buses, rent freezes, universal

childcare, and a gradual rise of the minimum wage to \$30 by 2030—financed through higher taxes on corporations and millionaires. Critics called it utopian; supporters called it humane. What sounded radical in the citadel of finance resonated with ordinary New Yorkers exhausted by inequality and living costs. When ballots were counted, the city that shelters more billionaires than any other had chosen a candidate who rides the subway and speaks for wage earners.

In a world where identity and religion often dominated discourse,

**In the age of inequality, Mamdani’s victory offered a glimpse of what could become a new social contract: capitalism tempered by conscience. The challenge was immense. If he failed, conservatives would claim vindication; if he succeeded, he could redefine progressive governance for a generation.**

Mamdani’s message of economic fairness and dignity of labour found cross-ethnic appeal. That shift held lessons for Bangladesh, where faith and faction often eclipse justice. Dhaka’s realities echoed New York’s in miniature: rising rents, congestion, and widening income gaps. The recent eruptions of labour unrest in Gazipur and Narayanganj over wage disparity were reminders of what happens when grievances fester. If the world’s richest city could debate rent justice and free public transit, developing

cities could too—adapted to local realities.

Mamdani’s grievances resonated across nearly every great city—from New York and Los Angeles to London, Dhaka, and Chattogram—where residents face soaring rents, stagnant wages, deteriorating public services, and a growing sense that political power has drifted far from ordinary lives. His campaign captured a universal discontent: the widening gap between prosperity on paper and poverty in practice.

His rise also broadened the definition of immigrant success. For decades, the diaspora’s triumphs were measured in business or science, becoming engineers or doctors. Mamdani introduced a new archetype: the public servant guided by ethics rather than accumulation. His victory showed that moral conviction, not money, can be a form of power. For young Bangladeshis abroad, this was quietly revolutionary. It legitimised political engagement and civic responsibility as paths of honour, not merely assimilation. The global meaning of Mamdani’s ascent lay in its paradox. The son of refugees and intellectuals now governed the city that symbolises global capitalism. A child of colonial and post-colonial displacement now presided over a financial empire whose logic once displaced people like his ancestors. That reversal

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BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

# Between expectations and choice

Review of ‘Translating Myself and Others’ (Princeton University Press, 2022) by Jhumpa Lahiri

TAHMINA HOSSAIN

Translation is a bridge to connect different cultures and their literatures. It's a medium to reflect the gems of a country's literature around the globe. We have known Jhumpa Lahiri as a writer, but she has also done translations in her literary career. She shares her lesser-known avatar as a translator in *Translating Myself and Others*. It is a collection of essays that is as much about the art of translation as it is about Lahiri's journey as a translator. She introduces this book by clarifying why she adopts and starts writing in Italian at the age of 40, already having achieved success in the realm of English Literature. Unfortunately, and eventually, Lahiri realises that pursuing a language for the sake of love is not a widely accepted phenomenon. Nonetheless, in her essays, she addresses her passion for language, along with the challenges of being a translator and the rejections she faces as a writer in Italian.



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

**Ultimately, I expected this book to be more autobiographical. But, while this book contains snapshots of Lahiri's life, the essays are more theoretical than anecdotal. She focuses on the technicalities of translation. Thus, the language is formal and includes linguistic terminology, which forces you to slow down. For instance, in Chapter 5, Lahiri compares the translation of Aristotle's *Poetics*—originally written in Ancient Greek—by Ingram Bywater and by S. H. Butcher.**

Lahiri chooses a less trodden path as a writer and translator. She began her writing career in the English language. At 40, she learned Italian and translated Italian literary pieces into English.

Eventually, as she became comfortable with Italian, Lahiri started writing original pieces in that language. In due course, she self-translated her Italian works into English. Lahiri mentions that her comfort in working with different languages stems from growing up in a bilingual household, where she learned both English and Bangla as a child. Thus, she always identifies herself first as a translator and then as a writer. During her undergraduate studies, she translated Bengali literary works into English. Additionally, Lahiri mentions other writers—Italo Calvino, Domenico Starnone, and Antonio Gramsci—whose works have influenced Lahiri into writing in Italian.

Innocuously, Lahiri shares her first memory of facing a translator's dilemma while making a Mother's Day card for a school project. She expresses

her confusion about addressing her mother in the card: "Dear Mom, happy Mother's Day." This part of the project stymied me, given that my mother was not 'Mom' but 'Ma'." The dilemma arises because she does not want to appear as an outcast at her school by being the only one to call her mother "Ma". At the same time, she does not want to offend her mother by writing "Mom", as Lahiri has always called her "Ma". From this anecdote, Lahiri highlights the plight that translators face regarding choices. The act of choosing becomes a burden as translators try to strike a balance between the cultural context of the readers of the translated text and the accuracy of the original text.

On the other hand, in addressing various complaints from readers against a translator, Lahiri points out the heightened expectation placed on a

translator to maintain the essence of the original text. As a translator herself, Lahiri explains the challenges and crossroads she faces, and the choices she makes as a translator in choosing any word, keeping well in mind the shortcomings and the unfortunate loss that a novel undergoes under translation: "Translation is about choosing, at times wisely, at times reluctantly, always with lingering misgivings". I resonate the most with this statement. During my undergraduate studies, I took a translation course, where we were assigned to translate a text in each class. During the class discussion, we would suggest different ways of translating the same sentences, especially when an exact equivalent translation for a word is not available in another language. In her essay, Lahiri discusses this shortcoming. She

mentions that in such cases, translators need to opt for a creative expression to convey the closest equivalence, to capture the essence of the original word or expression chosen by the author.

Furthermore, Lahiri provides insight into being a self-translator. She mentions that the rules and high expectations that exist while translating other writers become non-existent while translating oneself. As the writer of the original text, Lahiri has the power to set the standard while self-translating. Fortunately, this rule is universally recognised and respected by readers. As a result, readers graciously accept the self-translated adaptation.

Ultimately, I expected this book to be more autobiographical. But, while this book contains snapshots of Lahiri's life, the essays are more theoretical than anecdotal. She focuses on the technicalities of translation. Thus, the language is formal and includes linguistic terminology, which forces you to slow down. For instance, in Chapter 5, Lahiri compares the translation of Aristotle's *Poetics*—originally written in Ancient Greek—by Ingram Bywater and by S. H. Butcher. She provides observations and analysis of the different auxiliary words chosen by each translator. Besides, in addition to English, Bangla, and Italian, Lahiri also learned Ancient Greek and Latin. Thus, she dives deeply into the genealogy of many Italian words, as they have their origins in Latin. This shows why Lahiri is naturally inclined towards Italian and found the language easy to grasp. In a nutshell, this book will be helpful for novice translators or language enthusiasts, who will find inspiration and guidance in her essays.

**Tahmina Hossain is first and foremost a reader, a lover of literature, and then a writer. If you enjoy rambling about literature like her, then reach out at [literary.ramblings.by.t@gmail.com](mailto:literary.ramblings.by.t@gmail.com).**

INTERVIEW

## A STORY OF SEPARATION AND RETURN: Clare Adam on crafting ‘Love Forms’

MOHD. FARHAN

Accompanying the Booker Prize long-listed novels of this year, Clare Adam's *Love Forms* (Faber, 2025) offers an enthralling tale of Dawn, the protagonist of the novel, who is in a lifelong search for her long-lost illegitimate daughter. Although Dawn continues her strides in life from getting education, marriage, kids and divorce, her unyielding quest searching for her daughter remains undying. With Dawn's travels, the story also keeps moving to different counties from Trinidad and Tobago to Venezuela and later to England.

Clare Adam has rare prowess of delineating these different geographies, where the novel is set, in a compelling manner. On behalf of *The Daily Star*, I spoke to the author about the varied stands of the novel and her journey of becoming a novelist.

**What was the igniting spark that inspired you to write *Love Forms*?**

It's not easy to pinpoint exactly what it was—it all starts as a bit of a primordial soup, to be honest. But somewhere along the line I began to have an image or an idea about a mother and daughter who'd been separated, and were trying to find their way back to each other. I didn't know who they were or what their circumstances were, or why they'd been separated; I had to discover all that through the process of writing.

It was only through multiple drafts, working through the story from all possible angles, that I figured out who Dawn was—a woman from a middle-class Trinidadian family who became pregnant at 16. The circumstances of the separation emerged gradually: being sent away to Venezuela to have the baby in secret, the adoption, Dawn's move to England. These weren't things I knew at the beginning. The writing process itself revealed the story to me.

It wasn't until I wrote the last line of the last



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

draft that I fully understood what the book was about.

**Does the protagonist, Dawn, carry any resemblance to your own life?**

Dawn's story is not my story, but there are elements I drew from my own experience. Like Dawn, I left Trinidad and settled in England, and when you move like that, there's loss. The Trinidad of my childhood is different from Trinidad today—things have changed. Going back can be difficult when the place has changed so much.

But Dawn's specific trauma—becoming pregnant at 16, being sent away, losing her child—that's not drawn from personal experience.

**Do you think deserting the illegitimate child was the only choice that Dawn's parents had because of social unacceptance? Or was it their love for Dawn that they wanted a good unstained prosperous future for her?**

I think it was both, really—and that's what makes it complicated and painful. I think

Dawn's parents genuinely loved her and wanted to protect her future. In their minds, if word got out that she'd had a baby at 16, she would be sort of "ruined"—no respectable man would marry her and her prospects would be destroyed. They were acting out of love, trying to save her from shame and social rejection. But at the same time, they were also protecting themselves, their own reputation, their standing in the community. What's tragic is that in trying to protect Dawn, they inadvertently may have caused a different kind of harm: the lifelong trauma of separation, felt by both mother and child.

**The narrator in the novel most often keeps unrolling her memories and her past. As a novelist, how do you look at the idea of "memories and the past" for fiction writing?** Memory is fascinating for fiction because it's not a simple record of what happened; it's part of the character's story of themselves and it's susceptible to change over time. In Dawn's case, there are gaps. Trauma is part of the

reason for that, perhaps, but I didn't think of it in that way when I was writing, and I don't think that's how she would think about it. Dawn is always conscious of the fact that her daughter may be out there in the world somewhere, and that she (her daughter) may not have had a good life. Dawn is a very reluctant narrator for that reason. She doesn't want to make herself the centre of the story, or to talk about her own pain, or use words like 'trauma'. And yet she has to try to put her fragments of memory together—because she's trying to find her daughter, firstly because she's sort of preparing to give an account of herself to the daughter she may one day meet, and also, just for herself, as a way of understanding her life.

**Do you miss your homeland Trinidad and Tobago where *Love Forms* begins? Does it reflect your own longing to return to your homeland?**

I left Trinidad at 18 and I've been living in the UK for over 20 years now. For most of my life,

**I particularly love William Trevor, John McGahern, and Claire Keegan. Americans: there are many, but I like to mention Arthur Miller and Marilynne Robinson. The next category I'm going to call the Nobels, since that's what they have in common.**

I went back to Trinidad regularly—every year, at least. But a few years ago my parents left Trinidad and moved to London, and mentally, for me, it feels like a big shift.

It's a strange position to be in—having a "home" which is far away and kind of belongs to the past, one that becomes less and less accessible as each year passes—and yet not

feeling that the place where you currently live is fully "home" either. But this is a common experience now. There are so many of us who live far from where we grew up. And it helps that I'm not alone in this—many people understand this feeling.

**Your depiction of the places is so exquisitely compelling that the reader may witness everything happening so realistically before one's eyes. I would like to know from you the importance of this craft of novel writing.**

Thank you. On craft, I offer you this, from Flannery O'Connor: the meaning of fiction is not abstract meaning but experienced meaning. Give your reader an experience, in other words.

**Who are some of the authors or what are some books that have influenced your writing?**

Everyone I read is an influence, but I do find myself drawn to Indian or Indian diaspora authors: V. S. Naipaul, Rohinton Mistry, Akhil Sharma; and I love Vivek Shanbhag, who's also published by Faber in the UK. As for Irish authors, I particularly love William Trevor, John McGahern, and Claire Keegan. Americans: there are many, but I like to mention Arthur Miller and Marilynne Robinson. The next category I'm going to call the Nobels, since that's what they have in common, but I assure you that I was reading them before they won their prizes: Kazuo Ishiguro, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Doris Lessing, and JM Coetzee. Naipaul belongs in the Nobel category too, of course: I always find myself mentioning his name multiple times when I talk about my writing.

**Mohd. Farhan teaches English at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He often writes on books, and interviews authors for various reputed English dailies including The Hindu, Hindustan Times, and Hindu Business Line, among others.**



# ‘Players are now hostages’

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), now under the leadership of Aminul Islam Bulbul, has seen changes in its board of directors following the recent election -- but the state of the country's domestic cricket has grown even grimmer.

Payment disputes, match-fixing allegations, and poor facilities had already plagued the domestic scene. Now, adding to those woes is a growing fear among cricketers of being sidelined -- not for lack of talent, but for lack of opportunity.

A fallout from last October's board of directors' election has prompted organisers of 43 out of 76 clubs across four divisions -- the Dhaka Premier League, First Division, Second Division, and Third Division -- to withdraw from the upcoming domestic season.

In the First Division, eight of the 20 participating clubs sent a letter of protest to the BCB CEO. None of them were present on the opening day of the players' draft at the BCB headquarters yesterday. While nine clubs attended, the rest three are expected to show up on the final day today.

A similar situation looms over the franchise-based Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) which has been reduced to just five teams, the fewest in its history.

While the clubs' withdrawal highlights growing friction between the board and organisers, and a deepening crisis in domestic cricket, for players -- the board's biggest stakeholders -- it means fewer opportunities. Many who depend on local leagues for their livelihood now fear being left without a team.



PHOTO: AI GENERATED

One First Division player, still searching for a side, collected a token from the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) yesterday in hopes of finding a spot -- though competition is fierce, with over a hundred players doing the same.

"Truth be told, I took a token, but we players are now hostages. We weren't prepared for such a situation. Like me, around 200 players have taken tokens, hoping that if an opportunity comes, we might get to play for some team," First Division cricketer Zubair told The Daily Star.

"We aren't even sure which teams are participating, but at the end of the day, it's the players who are suffering," he added.

A BCB source said the eight clubs skipping

the players' transfer would have created opportunities for at least 150 First Division players.

"We'll try to increase the number of domestic players in the five teams by adding some clauses. But it is still unfortunate since many capable players may miss out on chances that a seven- or eight-team BPL could have provided," is what BCB cricket operations chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim had to say about the situation.

As several Premier League teams also show reluctance to join the upcoming season, the plight of domestic cricketers remains uncertain -- and in reality, simply "adding some clause" may not be enough to solve the crisis.

# ‘IDEAL CANDIDATE’ Salahuddin’s premature exit

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin tendered his resignation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday -- a decision that has the potential to adversely impact local coaches' future within the national team's structure.

"He [Salahuddin] has expressed his desire to step down after the series against Ireland," BCB cricket operations committee chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was quoted in the media release.

There was a lot of expectations surrounding his appointment in November 2024. Local coaches usually get overlooked for the national team in favour of coaches from overseas. Salahuddin had a chance to change that perception.

Faruque Ahmed, BCB president at the time, felt he was the "ideal candidate for this role" and said his appointment would be the beginning of integrating "more capable Bangladeshi coaches into the system".

Even Salahuddin himself has said at the time, "If I can do my job well, it would open doors for other local coaches."

But in the end, he left the post with around two years left in his contract, a move that may have set back local coaches even further.

In the absence of a batting coach, Salahuddin worked mostly with the batters in his year-long tenure.

During this period, the team's batting performances were on the decline across



formats and as coach, Salahuddin faced criticism over it. Several reports also accused him of favouring certain players, which drew further scrutiny.

The situation reportedly worsened after the BCB appointed Mohammad Ashraful as a specialised batting coach for the Ireland series -- a move believed to have caused dissatisfaction for Salahuddin.

He was initially contracted until the ICC Champions Trophy in March 2025, but later his contract was extended through to the 2027 ICC World Cup. But just a little over three months after his extension, Salahuddin chose to step down.



# Anfield relief, Paris mayhem, Arsenal joy

A brilliantly timed header from Alexis Mac Allister finally broke Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois' resistance on Tuesday, as Liverpool enjoyed a much-needed Champions League boost after six defeats in their previous eight games. Courtois made eight saves but couldn't deny Mac Allister's effort from a perfectly delivered Dominik Szoboszlai freekick shortly after the hour mark -- the only goal in Liverpool's 1-0 win at Anfield. The night saw former Red Trent Alexander-Arnold greeted with boos, and another Liverpool legend, Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso, suffer just his second defeat of the season. [Top Right] Over in Paris, Luis Diaz was both hero and almost villain -- scoring twice in Bayern's 2-1 win over defending champions PSG before being sent off late in the first half for a cynical foul on Achraf Hakimi, who left the pitch in tears. [Bottom Right] Meanwhile, it was all smiles for Arsenal as rising star Max Dowman, aged 15 years and 308 days, became the youngest player in Champions League history during their 3-0 win over Slavia Prague.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS

# ‘Paid for risky play’

International Master **Mohammad Fahad Rahman**, country's chess prodigy, returned home on Tuesday after competing in his third FIDE World Cup, held in India. Having previously faced elite opponents such as Anish Giri (2019) and Daniele Vocaturo (2022), the 21-year-old made headlines this time by drawing against legendary Ukrainian grandmaster Vasyl Ivanchuk. In an interview with The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman, Fahad reflected on his World Cup lessons and the road to GM title and more; the excerpts of which are as follows:

**The Daily Star (DS): You drew against Ivanchuk in the second game after losing the first. How do you rate your performance?**

**Mohammad Fahad Rahman (MFR):** I think I did better than in my previous World Cups. The plan was to win with white and draw with black since Ivanchuk's white openings are very strong. I played well in the first game but took too much risk and had to pay the price. If I had held a draw there, I would've had a play-off chance to reach the second round.

**DS: What were your expectations heading into the tournament?**

**MFR:** My preparation was brief but guided by Russian GM Peter Kiriaikov, who planned my strategy. The goal



was to reach the second round, which I felt was achievable since I've beaten GMs rated above 2650 and drawn with players over 2700. Advancing meant more to me than just getting a draw.

**DS: Were you nervous facing a legend like Ivanchuk?**

**MFR:** Not as much as before. I learned about my opponent only a few days before leaving for India and didn't know which colour I'd play until the draw. I was a bit tense in the first game, but in the second, I played freely and without pressure.

**DS: How does the World Cup compare to other tournaments?**

**MFR:** It's much tougher because it's knockout -- you can't recover from

a bad game, unlike in nine-round Swiss events. We don't often play in this format, so it's harder to prepare for. Still, I enjoy the atmosphere. You meet familiar faces and can even ask top players for advice -- they're very open and supportive. I'd rate the Chess Olympiad slightly higher for its overall atmosphere, but the World Cup is far more competitive.

**DS: Any standout memories from your World Cup appearances?**

**MFR:** Yes, during my first World Cup, I analysed my game with Anish Giri afterwards. I was quite young then, and his analytical depth really impressed me. He even posted on Instagram that I'd played well against him, which top players rarely do. That was special.

**DS: You narrowly missed winning the National Championship before travelling to India. Did that affect you?**

**MFR:** Not really. I was leading until the 11th round but slipped in the last two. Finishing runner-up four times in a row was disappointing, but I try not to dwell on past results.

**DS: You still need two norms to become a Grandmaster. What's next?**

**MFR:** I earned my first GM norm in April 2024, but my HSC exams kept me away from tournaments for over five months. I missed the second norm by just half a point in Hungary. Now that exams are done, I want to refocus on chess and aim to complete both norms by 2026.

I've been funding my overseas tournaments myself, which isn't easy -- it may take around Tk 20 lakh to compete abroad in 2026. Any sponsorship support would be a big help.

**DS: What are your immediate plans?**

**MFR:** I'm preparing for the Leonine GM Tournament starting Friday [Nov 14] in Dhaka. If I can secure a GM norm there, I'll go for the final one in an open tournament. Otherwise, I plan to play in Vietnam in December. My goal is to become Bangladesh's sixth Grandmaster.



The Ashes fever soared yesterday as the iconic urn descended onto the Sydney Cricket Ground by a helicopter, making a grand arrival before being received by Australia great Steve Waugh. The former skipper featured in nine Ashes series, winning eight and losing just one, and led Australia to two Ashes triumphs as captain.

PHOTO: ICC



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Intelligence officials said their investigation began after Pakistani forces killed 54 TTP fighters in an operation in Waziristan on April 27 this year. Among the dead was a Bangladeshi identified as Ahmed Jubair, alias Juboraj, from Savar. The SB then launched an investigation and discovered that two other Bangladeshis -- Ratan and Foyssal -- had also joined the TTP.

