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Wholesalers
urge steps to
curb extortion

B1



Taps run dry
in Purba
Jurain

P3



UN food
agencies warn
of 16 hunger
hotspots

P5



'Everyone has
gone silent out
of fear'

P11

Govt readies a package to appease all

CA to address the nation today

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is considering holding the national election and the referendum on the same day, among other options, to resolve the ongoing political crisis.

The referendum may include several questions for voters, including one on the notes of dissent submitted by political parties during the consensus talks on the July charter.

Several government sources said the administration, in an effort to accommodate conflicting demands of the parties, is also exploring options to form an upper house of parliament.

Two models are under discussion. One is that all 100 members of the chamber could be elected through proportional representation based on

- Govt mulls polls, referendum on same day
- Two options being considered for upper house PR
- Clause to auto-insert reforms in constitution after 270 days may be dropped
- Referendum to include questions on parties' dissent notes

the share of votes each party receives in the national polls.

Alternatively, half of the seats could be filled based on vote ratios, while the remainder would be allocated according to each party's share of seats in the lower house.

The government is also considering removing the clause that automatically incorporates reform measures into the constitution if the Constitutional Reform Council fails to act within 270 days since its first sitting.

As the parties failed to agree on constitutional reforms under the July charter within the government's one-week deadline, several advisers have been in intense discussions to find a way forward.

The advisory council is expected to discuss the issue at its regular weekly meeting this morning, three days after the deadline.

After the meeting, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will

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Dissecting the July charter flashpoints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Envisioned as a framework to reshape the nation's democratic trajectory, the July charter has instead turned into a wedge that is deepening the political rift.

The political parties remain sharply divided over the implementation of the charter, the time of a referendum and the fate of several notes of dissent incorporated into the charter.

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Maersk's APM to build and run Laldia terminal
30yr-deal to be signed next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to sign a 30-year agreement next week with APM Terminals BV, a Dutch subsidiary of the AP Moller-Maersk Group, to develop and operate Laldia Container Terminal at the Chattogram Port under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

The announcement comes after the cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved the PPP model, which paved the way for the signing of the concession agreement between APM Terminals BV and the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA).

A concession agreement allows a private company to build, operate and maintain public infrastructure while transferring it back to the government after a defined term.

The CPA will sign the deal at a time when different organisations are opposing the government's move to lease out different terminals of the Chattogram port, including the existing New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), to foreign companies.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A resort is seen wrapped in protective materials in Saint Martins Island despite the lifting of travel ban on November 1. Restrictions on overnight stay and the lack of ships have dissuaded tourists from visiting the island. As a result, most hotels and resorts on the island remain closed. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Border Guard Bangladesh troops patrol the Dhaka University campus area yesterday as law enforcement agencies beef up security measures in the capital amid a spate of arson and crude bomb attacks over the last few days.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tension rises amid more arson, crude bomb attacks

Troops, checkpoints blanket Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tensions ran high in the capital yesterday as security forces tightened security measures ahead of the Awami League's planned "Dhaka Lockdown" programme.

The heightened alert came as the International Crimes Tribunal-1 is set to fix the date today for delivering its verdict in a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity.

The city has witnessed a spate of arson and crude bomb attacks in recent days, spreading panic among residents amid the latest political flare-up since the fall of the AL government on August 5 last year.

Law enforcers said they have blanketed Dhaka with tight security. More check posts sprang up across the city yesterday, with police and other forces searching vehicles and pedestrians. Police personnel have been deployed in front of nearly all major establishments in the city.

Apart from the police and army, members of the Border Guard Bangladesh have been deployed in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj.

Political parties and student platforms yesterday vowed to foil any attempt by the AL and its affiliated bodies to destabilise the

situation. They announced rallies in Dhaka and major divisional cities, pledging to resist any move toward the reemergence of the AL, which remains banned from political activities.

Her trial in absentia, which began on June 1, heard months of testimony alleging she ordered mass killings. Prosecutors have filed five charges, including failure to prevent murder, amounting to crimes against



A bus burning in Jatrabari.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-1, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, is expected to announce the verdict date against Hasina today. Her co-accused are former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and former

inspector general of police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

humanity under Bangladeshi law. They have sought the death penalty if she is found guilty.

Hasina has denied all the charges and called her trial a "jurisprudential joke".

During the trial, the former IGP admitted his guilt and became a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Faruk, Robin got Tk 2 lakh after shooting Mamun dead
Police say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted investigators four days to interrogate each of the five suspects arrested over the killing of top listed criminal Tariq Saif Mamun, 55, who was shot dead in front of the Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital.

The suspects, who include the two shooters directly involved in Monday's broad daylight killing, were apprehended during raids in Dhaka and Narsingdi on Tuesday night, said police.

At this time, two firearms and a motorcycle used in the murder were also recovered, they added.

The arrestees have been identified as Faruk Hossain Foyas, 38; Robin Ahmed, alias Piyash, 25; Mohammad Rubel, 34; Shamim Ahmed, 22; and Md Yousuf, alias Jibon, 42.

Later, police sued the five in an arms case they filed at Mohammadpur Police Station before producing them at a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand prayer. In response, the court granted

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Dhaka voices displeasure over Hasina's interviews

Summons Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday expressed displeasure over the interviews of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina published by Indian media outlets.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally conveyed Dhaka's displeasure to New Delhi by summoning Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka Pawan Badhe, a senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told UNB.

Officials reportedly conveyed that harbouring a fugitive currently under trial for crimes against humanity and granting her a platform to "spread hatred and advocate terrorist acts inside Bangladesh" is detrimental to fostering a constructive bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The Indian diplomat was asked to convey to New Delhi Bangladesh's request to stop Hasina's access to media, said a diplomatic source.

The AFP, Reuters and the Independent (UK) also interviewed Hasina recently.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks to Senator Salma Ataullahjan, who is leading a seven-member Canadian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Bangladesh. The photo was taken yesterday at the State Guest House Jamuna.

PHOTO: PID

Dissecting the July charter flashpoints

FROM PAGE 1

BNP has already sounded a warning that it would reject anything beyond the charter, clarifying that the notes of dissent must not be done away with.

The two other prominent parties -- Jamaat-e-Islami and NCP -- favour excluding the dissenting notes from the referendum.

The July National Charter mentions that it would be up to the discretion of the parties, if they won the people's mandate, whether to act on their notes of dissent.

However, when submitting its recommendations for the implementation, the consensus commission dropped the dissenting notes.

During the consensus talks, BNP registered notes of dissent on at least nine issues; there were more than 25 dissenting notes from other parties.

BNP leader Salauddin Ahmed has said the charter was signed at a historic event and includes some notes of dissent from different political parties.

"We still stand by that position and have not deviated from the signed charter," he said.

In its recommendations regarding the charter implementation, the consensus commission pitched two alternatives for the referendum question. Both ask essentially the same question -- whether voters agree to 48 proposals that deal with constitutional changes.

However, none of those proposals had any mention of the notes of dissent.

When asked why the notes of dissent had been dropped, commission member Badiul Alam Majumdar told this newspaper yesterday that during the discussions, there were views both for and against the issues. However, the decision was made to go with the overwhelming majority.

"Notes of dissent were included in the July charter to keep the records straight. But at the time of the referendum, only the decisions must be presented before the people," he explained.

BNP'S DISSENT

BNP and its allies dissented to a

proposal for an upper house based on proportional representation of votes. Instead, they supported forming the upper house according to each party's share of seats in the lower house.

While most parties agreed that the constitution could be amended through a two thirds majority in the lower house and a simple majority in the upper house, BNP was against it, saying that the upper house need not vote on it since the representatives were not directly elected.

The parties, except BNP and its allies, agreed that a party chief should not be eligible to serve as prime minister at the same time.

Most of the parties have agreed that lawmakers be allowed to vote across party lines, except on no-confidence motions and finance bills. BNP's note of dissent on this point adds that the exception extends to national security during war and constitutional amendments.

According to the July charter, a five-member panel comprising the prime minister, the leader of the opposition, the speaker (the lower house) and the deputy speaker (from the opposition), and a representative of the second largest opposition party will be formed to pick chief adviser, of a caretaker government, from a pool of nominees.

The panel will invite parties with representation in parliament as well as those registered with the EC, and independent MPs to propose names of individuals qualified to serve as chief adviser. Each party and independent MP may propose one name.

The panel will deliberate on the proposed individuals through its own enquiries. From among eligible citizens, one individual will be selected as chief adviser of the caretaker adviser, not the president, to issue it.

BNP opposes a constitutional order for implementation of the charter.

On the referendum timing, the party 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.

Five panel votes will suffice to select a chief adviser from the short list.

If the second option also fails, two judges -- one from the Appellate Division and one from the High Court Division -- will join the panel. The seven-member panel will then vote on the shortlisted nominees to select the chief adviser.

Several parties, including BNP, submitted notes of dissent on the inclusion of two judges and the voting option.

A majority of the parties agreed that the president should have the authority to appoint the chiefs of National Human Rights Commission, the Information Commission, Bangladesh Press Council, Law Commission, and Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission and the governor of Bangladesh Bank.

BNP objected in the case of the energy regulatory commission and the head of the central bank.

Parties also agreed that the most senior judge of the Appellate Division, based on their service duration, be appointed the chief justice.

BNP dissented, saying that its election manifesto will include the option of appointing one of the two most senior judges.

It also issued a note of dissent on the process of appointing the ombudsman and public service commission and the comptroller and auditor general.

The party has said, on several occasions, that appointments to these vital institutions be regulated by law.

ORDER AND REFERENDUM

Both Jamaat and NCP favour an implementation order to grant the charter a legal recognition. And the NCP specifically wants the chief adviser, not the president, to issue it.

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address the nation this afternoon. The speech will be broadcast live on Bangladesh Television, BTV News, and BTV World, according to the chief adviser's press wing.

Asked yesterday about implementing constitutional reforms under the charter, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said, "We need to keep pace with the times, so the advisory council will hold discussions and reach decisions as quickly as possible."

Contacted on Monday, Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said, "We are waiting for the political parties' decision. If we don't get it, we will make a decision on November 13 [today]."

Amid raging disagreements over the timing of the referendum, the charter implementation order, and the dissenting notes, the government on November 3 urged the political parties to resolve their differences and reach a unified decision within a week.

It said otherwise it will "act as necessary". However, the parties remained divided till yesterday.

On the referendum timing, BNP insists it should be held on the same day as the election, while Jamaat-e-Islami wants it earlier.

Jamaat and allies have already launched protests over their five-point demand, including holding the

referendum this month and issuing an implementation order for the July charter.

They yesterday warned of an indefinite sit-in until the demands are met.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference at Al Falah Auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar following a meeting at his party office yesterday, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, "We want to solve the issues through discussion. We asked for an appointment with the chief adviser. After meeting him, if our demands aren't fulfilled, we'll begin an indefinite sit-in in front of his residence [State Guest House Jamuna]."

National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary expressed solidarity with Jamaat over its demand for a July charter implementation order.

Both parties want an order to give the charter legal recognition, with NCP specifically demanding that the chief adviser, rather than the president, issue it.

Meanwhile, BNP demands keeping the notes of dissent in the implementation process, while both Jamaat and NCP prefer that the notes be excluded.

The July National Charter signed by 25 parties including the BNP and Jamaat on October 17, states that any party or alliance submitting

dissenting views must include them in its manifesto and may act on them if it wins the polls.

Submitting its recommendations on the charter implementation on October 28, the National Consensus Commission dropped the section on dissent.

Various parties issued the dissenting notes on over 25 of the 48 constitutional reform proposals during the consensus talks.

BNP alone did so on at least nine issues. It opposed a constitutional order for the charter's implementation.

The party also rejected the proposal that if the reform council fails to complete reforms within 270 days of its first sitting, the reform bill, once approved by referendum, would automatically be inserted into the constitution.

It termed the idea "wholly irrational, politically motivated, and absurd," saying no bill can become law without parliamentary passage and presidential assent.

Speaking virtually at a discussion marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said, "Our position is very clear: the commitments made in the July charter, which we signed, will be fully upheld by BNP, and we remain strongly committed to fulfilling them."

Faruk, Robin got Tk 2 lakh

FROM PAGE 1

four days.

According to police, Faruk and Robin were the two gunmen seen in the CCTV footage firing multiple rounds at Mamun near the hospital gate.

Following the murder, members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted drives in different areas of Dhaka and Narsingdi on Tuesday night and apprehended five suspects.

In a press conference at the DMP media centre yesterday, the DB chief Shafiqul Islam said Mamun was killed over control of Dhaka's criminal underworld. "The murder was committed by Emon's gang," he said.

"Kamal, a member of Emon's gang, monitored Mamun's movement and tipped off Faruk and Robin. Upon receiving the signal, they fired several shots to ensure Mamun's death."

"After the attack, the shooters fled through the Beribadh area to Rayerbazar, where, on Roni's orders, Rubel took the firearms and ammunition and handed them to Yousuf. Rubel later gave Tk 1 lakh each to Faruk and Robin."

an associate of notorious underworld figure Sanjidul Islam Emon."

The DB chief said eight to nine members of Emon's gang had positioned themselves near the court area on the day of the killing to ensure the attack's success.

"Kamal, a member of Emon's gang, monitored Mamun's movement and tipped off Faruk and Robin. Upon receiving the signal, they fired several shots to ensure Mamun's death."

"After the attack, the shooters fled through the Beribadh area to Rayerbazar, where, on Roni's orders, Rubel took the firearms and ammunition and handed them to Yousuf. Rubel later gave Tk 1 lakh each to Faruk and Robin."

Tension rises

FROM PAGE 1

state witness, the first such instance since the tribunal's formation in 2010.

Asked during a media briefing on Tuesday if the recent attacks would affect the trial process, prosecutor Mizanul Islam said, "I do not think so. But I can say that what they are doing is to create obstacles."

ARSON, CRUDE BOMB EXPLOSIONS

Despite the heightened security, several arson and crude bomb attacks were reported in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

In Brahmanbaria, unidentified miscreants set fire to a single-storey Grameen Bank branch in Bijoynagar upazila around 2:00am. The fire burned furniture and important documents, Md Kalim Uddin, the branch manager, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, arson targeting vehicles continued in and around the capital. An Alif Paribahan bus was set on fire in Ashulia's Sarkar Market area around 4:30am, said Ashulia Police Station OC Abdul Hannan.

Shortly after, at 4:50am, a Banasree Paribahan bus was torched in the Beraid Chala area of Gazipur's Sreepur, according to fire service. This was followed by an attack at 5:00am on a VIP Paribahan bus in the Bhogra Bypass area of Gazipur. Later, a microbus was set on fire on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Uttara around 7:00am, said fire service duty officer Rozina Akter.

The attacks continued into the afternoon. A bus of Shatabdi Paribahan was set on fire in front of Mirpur New Market around 1:45pm, confirmed Shah Ali Police Station OC Mohammad Golam Azam. Around 6:40pm, a local bus was torched in Dholapar.

Around 9:30pm, miscreants set fire to a train coach in Dhaka's Tejgaon. Locals caught two individuals -- Morshed, 40, and Zakir, 25 -- and handed them over to police, said acting OC Zainal Abedin of Dhaka Railway Police.

The fire was brought under control before the fire service arrived at the scene, he said, adding that the train was stationary at Tejgaon Railway Station when the incident occurred.

Around the same time, a crude bomb exploded at Harun Mollah Ground in Pallabi while a documentary on the "fascist regime" was being screened. No one was injured in the attack.

Another crude bomb blast was reported in front of Fortune Shopping Mall in the Mouchak area, police said.

Meanwhile, two incidents of crude bomb explosion near the TSC area of Dhaka University injured at least three people. The incidents caused panic in the area and disrupted a documentary screening.

DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said two female residents of Ruqayat Hall were slightly injured in one of the blasts. An official of the Madrasa Education Department, Jahangir Alam Chakladar,

Bangladesh gearing up for 'historic' polls

Yunus tells Canadian parliamentary delegation

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday told a visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation that Bangladesh is preparing for a national election, which he described as a "historic moment" for the country.

"You've come at a time when Bangladesh is undergoing a significant transformation, [after] an uprising led by young people. Now we're preparing for an election, which will be a historic moment for the nation," he said when Canadian Senator Salma Ataullahjan, and two MPs Salma Zahid and Sameer Zubari called on him at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday.

Both sides discussed ways to strengthen trade and address the Rohingya crisis. Yunus briefed them on the ongoing reforms and preparations for the February polls and thanked Canada for its support to the displaced Rohingya.

"Eight years have passed. The return of the Rohingya people to their homeland is the only viable solution; there is no alternative. Around 1.2 million [Rohingya] people are living here.... Now we're facing financial cuts, which make this crisis even graver," Yunus said.

Senator Ataullahjan reaffirmed Canada's commitment to supporting the displaced community, according to the chief adviser's press wing.

Maersk's APM

FROM PAGE 1

The interim government has also progressed towards appointing the UAE-based DP World to run its largest terminal, the NCT, and preparing to sign agreements with PSA Singapore and DP World to build two terminals of the port's Bay Terminal respectively.

The protesters criticised the government's move to appoint foreign operators without competitive tenders, a practice often deployed by the ousted Awami League government.

At the beginning of this month, the Chattogram district unit of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) observed a token hunger strike opposing the construction of the LCT.

The SKOP said the Laldia Char is close to the Karnaphuli estuary and the establishment of a terminal with jetties there would eventually render the existing port jetties ineffective.

APM Terminals, with its experience of operations in China, Singapore and Sri Lanka, will introduce operational excellence to Bangladesh, helping make the country's logistics sector future-ready in the post-LDC era, said Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and CEO of the PPP Authority.

The newest green port will accommodate large container vessels, reduce per-unit freight cost and

enable direct shipping connectivity worldwide," he said at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy announcing the plan to sign the deal.

The project will generate a stable foreign-currency income stream for Bangladesh while minimising public capital expenditure, said the Chief Adviser's Office in a summary shared with the media after the briefing.

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EC dialogue with parties starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The EC is set to begin its electoral dialogues with registered political parties today. On the opening day, the commission will hold meetings with 12 political parties, said EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed yesterday.

"We will discuss the changes made to the RPO and the code of conduct, and seek their cooperation for a fair election," he said.

The parties invited to morning session are Liberal Democratic Party, Bangladesh Congress, Bangladesh Muslim League, National People's Party, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, and Jamiyate Ulamaye Islam Bangladesh.

CPB, JSD, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesher Biplobi Workers Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front, and Bangladesher Nationalist Movement will join the afternoon session.



Children row a boat across the marshland in Manoharpur village of Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila to reach their school. With no road access, they depend on boats year-round, risking their safety to continue their education. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

Probe into graft allegations against 2 advisers' aides stalls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into corruption allegations against the former APS and PO of two government advisers appears to have stalled.

The Anti Corruption Commission initiated the probe seven months ago against Moazzem Hossain, former assistant personal secretary (APS) to Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud, and Tuhin Farabi, former personal officer (PO) to Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum.

However, no visible progress has been made.

Despite initial findings suggesting bribery over transfers, tender manipulation, commission-taking in

We are not under any pressure... The investigation into the APS and PO of two advisers is ongoing. If evidence of corruption is found, legal action will be taken.

AKHTARUL ISLAM, ACC Deputy Director

procurement, and abuse of power, the inquiry remains stuck at the investigation stage and the commission has failed to file any cases, according to ACC sources.

Several senior ACC officials said "pressure" from influential quarters has slowed down the process. They also said visible progress is unlikely before the upcoming national elections in February.

If the involvement of advisers in the investigation comes up, it will be an embarrassment for the interim government. Therefore, the final report may come after its tenure ends, they added.

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Prescription for power

Physicians emerge as one of the largest professional blocs running for polls

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

With about three dozen doctors set to contest the upcoming national election, doctors are emerging as one of the largest professional groups vying for seats in parliament.

Jamaat-e-Islami has nominated the highest number, with 17 physicians, including party chief Shafiqur Rahman and key deputy Syed Abdullah Md Taher.

BNP has nominated 12 doctors for the February elections, with several others expected to join the race from parties like the National Citizen Party and the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Most of the doctor candidates belong to associations aligned with their respective parties. Top leaders of these associations had received nominations in previous elections,

but this time, the number of physician nominees is much higher.

During the previous regime, the Awami League-backed Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip) dominated the health sector, with several leaders contesting elections on party tickets.

After the fall of the AL government in August last year, the BNP-backed Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and the Jamaat-backed National Doctors Forum (NDF) began dominating the sector.

There is also the left-leaning "Doctors for Health and Environment".

BNP announced a list of 237 possible nominees on November 3. The following day, DAB issued a press release congratulating 11 members for being selected and asked other members to support them.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PROBABLE DOCTOR NOMINEES

JAMAAT: 17	CPB: 3
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BNP: 12	NCP: 2
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Children's rights should remain above all politics

Speakers tell Unicef event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties must ensure that children are never used as tools in protests or politics, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They called for the protection of children's rights to remain a priority above all political divisions.

Rana Flowers, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said Unicef had recently held discussions with young people, political parties, and trade unions, all of whom echoed a shared call for zero tolerance towards violence against children.

The programme showcased the progress of Unicef's "Fostering Rights and Empowerment of the Most Marginalised Adolescents and Children with Disabilities" initiative (2021-2025).

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Seven detained at Nowfel's Ctg home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday detained seven youths at the home of former education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel in Sholoshohor of Chattogram.

Mohammad Solaiman, officer-in-charge of Panchala Police Station, told journalists that police acted on a tip-off suggesting that banned Chhatra League and Jubo League members were staying in Nowfel's residence. "After verification, police will decide the next course of action..." he said.

Nowfel is the son of late ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former mayor of Chattogram City Corporation and senior Awami League leader. Police sources said the Chowdhury family owns a restaurant that was shut down after the fall of the AL government last year. The restaurant staff had continued supplying food online through delivery platforms and were reportedly guarding the house.

Five more die of dengue, 1,139 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Five dengue patients died, while 1,139 others were hospitalised, in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Of the deaths, three were reported from Khulna, and one each from Dhaka and Barisal divisions, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

With these the total number of dengue-related deaths and cases this year rose to 323 and 81,773, respectively.

Currently, 3,461 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.



PHOTO: STAR

Cold brings misery for the little ones in Ctg

Hospitals overwhelmed with children suffering from bronchiolitis, pneumonia

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Shubhechha Ghosh, from the Askar Dighir Par area of Chattogram city, brought her five-year-old son, who had a fever and cough, to a doctor, who prescribed a course of antibiotics after examination. The worried mother said her child had caught a cold even though winter had not yet set in.

Like her son, numerous children in the port city have fallen ill with cold-borne diseases such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis.

Prof Dr Mohammad Musa, head of the Child Health Ward at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said infants and children are particularly vulnerable to such cold-borne diseases during late autumn and winter.

At CMCH, two units of the 140-bed paediatric ward were overwhelmed with 381 patients undergoing treatment on Tuesdays.

Asma Akter was seen using a nebuliser on her eight-month-old daughter that afternoon to help ease her breathing discomfort. "I don't know what happened to my daughter... she is unable to breathe normally," she said.

Dr Musa urged parents to immediately seek treatment for infants who experience breathing difficulties. He stressed the importance of keeping children in smoke-free places, adding that vaccination and proper personal hygiene are essential for preventing diseases.

A similar situation prevailed at Chattogram Ma O Shishu General Hospital.

Dr Fahim Hasan Reza, associate professor in the hospital's Paediatrics Department, said, "The number of patients increased from the usual 80 to 422 today [Tuesday], with the majority having pneumonia. All 41 NICU beds are currently occupied. Of them, 35 patients have pneumonia."

Many parents arrive late when the illness worsens. Parents should not take any breathing problems of their child lightly," he added.

Dr Rezaul Karim, former head of CMCH's Paediatric Department, said bronchiolitis is a respiratory disease requiring oxygen treatment, which cannot be administered at home.

He too urged parents to hospitalise children showing rapid breathing or breathing discomfort.

UK minister for int'l development arrives today

Sweden's rights envoy in town

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Jenny Chapman is set to arrive in Dhaka today on a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Her visit will focus on development partnership including climate change, migration and the Rohingya crisis.

Chapman will also meet the key figures in the government, including Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

Meanwhile, Sweden's Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law, Irina Schoultz-Nyoni, is visiting Bangladesh from November 11 to 14, focusing on key rights issues, including women empowerment and media freedom. She will also meet key representatives of the government, said a statement of the Swedish embassy in Dhaka.

MILESTONE JET CRASH Twin sisters heal, return home after over 3 months



PHOTO: COURTESY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After three and a half months of treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, twin sisters Sarina Jahan Sayra and Saiba Jahan Sayma, students of Milestone School and College, have finally returned home.

They were among those injured when an Air Force training aircraft crashed into their school building in Uttara on July 21, killing at least 36 people and injuring around 150 others.

Sayra suffered burns on 30 percent of her body, while Sayma sustained burns on 15 percent.

The institute's director Dr Mohammad Nasir Uddin, along with doctors, nurses, and staff, bid farewell to the children as they were discharged.

A total of 57 victims of the Milestone tragedy had received treatment at the institute. Among them, 20 died, three others remain under treatment, though all are now out of danger, hospital sources said.

"Thanks to the government's support and the dedicated efforts of our medical team, the patients have recovered," Dr Nasir Uddin said, adding that the hospital continues to provide follow-up care to the survivors.

The twins' mother, Aklima Akhter, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the hospital authorities and the government for their support throughout the long recovery process. "We are happy that they have finally recovered. My daughters went through an immense ordeal," she said.

গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
গাজীপুর
<https://gda.gov.bd>

নথ্যরং ২৫.১২.১৩০০.০০২.০০.০০১৪.২৫-৪৯৫
তারিখঃ ১৭ কার্তিক ১৪৩১
১২ মার্চের ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

এই অফিস থেকে আবির্ভূত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২৫.১২.১৩০০.০০২.০০.০০১৪.২৫-৪৯৫ এর ক্রমিক নথ্যৰং ১৫ (পৰের) এ উন্নিষ্ঠিত ইমারত পরিষেবক পদের সিক্ষান্ত যোগাতা নিম্নরূপ হচ্ছে।
"কোনো শীক্ষিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে স্থাপত্য/ পুরুষকেল বিষয়ে বিশীষ্ট শ্রেণি বা সম্বান্ধের সিভিলিএ-তে ৮ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা পিষ্টি"।
এছাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

নথ্যঃ ১৫.১২.১৩০০.০০২.০০.০০১৪.২৫-৪৯৫
মো: মেদেনী হাসান
সচিব
১৭
সদস্য সচিব, নিয়োগ ও পদোন্নতি কমিটি
গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, গাজীপুর
ফোনঃ +৮৮০২২১৪৮৮২৮০৮৮
ই-মেইলঃ secretary@gda.gov.bd

Janata Bank PLC.
Estate Department (5th floor)
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Phone: 02-55110085, 02-55110019
web: www.jb.com.bd

Ref No: JBPLC/ED/Div Bogura/Tender Notice Publish/25
Date : 11.11.2025

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following items:

Serial No.	Tender ID	Description of Works	Online (e-GP System) for Publication date & Time	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing and Opening date and time
1	1174460	Construction of internal decoration of Civil works and Electrical wiring for Janata Bank PLC. formed Divisional Office, Bogura.	11.11.2025 18:15	23.11.2025 12:00	23.11.2025 16:00
2	1174485	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 07/Sessions of Split type AC (4.0TR 02nos., 3.0TR 01no., 1.5TR 02nos. & 1.0TR 01no. at Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office, Bogura).	11.11.2025 16:00	23.11.2025 14:00	23.11.2025 15:00

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in national e-GP portal and no official hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender, Registration in the national e-GP system Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fee for downloading the e-tender document from national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP Help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Maksud Hossain)
Deputy General Manager

কোল পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (সিপিজিসিএল)
Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCL)
(An Enterprise of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:

e-Tender ID	Name of Works	Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date & Time	Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time
1159061	Testing of Different types of Lube Oil used at Steam Turbine of Matarbari Coal Fired Power Plant IFT Memo No: 27.32.0000.000.007.0006.25.0990; Date: 12/11/2025	30-Nov-2025 17:00	01-Dec-2025 11:00
1175125	Providing High Speed Internet Connectivity at CPGCL Corporate Office IFT Memo No: 27.32.0000.000.008.83.0001.21.0992; Date: 12/11/2025	30-Nov-2025 17:00	01-Dec-2025 11:00
1174671	Waste Management including Transportation Service for Matarbari Coal Fired Power Plant IFT Memo No: 27.32.0000.000.020.40.0018.24.0988; Date: 12/11/2025	17-Dec-2025 17:00	18-Dec-2025 11:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-GP Tender, please register on e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact e-GP Support desk (HL-16575).

(S. M. Abdul Mannaf)
Superintendent Engineer (Procurement) (Additional Charge)
CPGCL, Dhaka. Phone: 01787-678669

16255

পাওয়ার শিল্প বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212
Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

মার্কেট নং- ২৫.১২.১৩০০.০০২.০০.০০১৪.২৫-৪৯৫

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার শিল্পের জিএমডি, ঢাকা (পূর্ব) দশ্তরের আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টেলে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1153895	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2806; Dated:21.09.2025	Yearly Maintenance works of line bay, bay equipment of all substations under GMD Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1154595	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2807; Dated: 21.09.2025	Drainage, grass, shrubs and jungles clearance work in the stone-free area inside Sonargaon 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD Dhaka East, Power Grid.
1154637	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2808; Dated:21.09.2025	Boundary wall painting and synthetic enamel painting of various gates at Sonargaon Grid Substation under GMD Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1154643	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2809; Dated:21.09.2025	Painting of 230/132/33kV, 225/300MVA transformers in Siddhirganj Grid SS under GMD Dhaka East, Power Grid.
1156830	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2821; Dated:25.09.2025	Yearly Dead line checking (Disk Cleaning, Nut Bolt Tightening etc) of 400kV, 230kV and 132kV Transmission Line under GMD, Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1156831	27.21.000.650.07 .001.25.2822; Dated:25.09.2025	Civil and electrical repair and maintenance works of the entrance stairway, walls, floors of the control room, washroom and ground floor rooms at Madanganj 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka (East) Power Grid.

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোহাম্মদ এমরান আলী
নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, ঢাকা (পূর্ব)

Pakistan tightens Islamabad security after suicide blast India probes link between Delhi blast and J&K arrests

AGENCIES

Residents in the Pakistani capital Islamabad were facing tightened security checks yesterday in the wake of a suicide bombing that left top officials vowing to halt the rise in deadly attacks.

The deadly blast outside district court buildings on Tuesday was claimed by a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, a militant group that has been behind a series of attacks in other parts of the country.

In India, police are investigating if there is a link between this week's car blast in Delhi and the earlier arrest of a group of seven men from the restive Kashmir region with arms and bomb-making material, three sources familiar with the probe said yesterday.

The blast on Monday evening outside Delhi's historic Red Fort killed eight people and wounded at least 20, the first such explosion in the heavily guarded



city of more than 30 million people since 2011, reports Reuters.

Indian authorities are investigating the blast under a stringent anti-terrorism law and have said that all angles are being probed. They have not named anyone or made any arrests in connection with the explosion.

The district court in Islamabad remained closed yesterday while security was stepped up at other court buildings across the city, and long queues of vehicles formed at checkpoints.

"Our army, police, and all law enforcement agencies are alert and performing their duties. Unfortunately, the question remains: Where are these attacks coming from, and how are they happening?" said resident Fazal Satar, 58.

At least 12 people were killed and 27 wounded in the suicide bombing, the first such incident to hit the capital in nearly three years, reports AFP.

"It was a very powerful explosion," said Muhammad Imran, a 42 year-old police official who was wounded in the attack.



A Palestinian boy observes an unexploded missile at a rubbish dump in the Firas market area of Gaza City, yesterday. French President Emmanuel Macron warned on Tuesday that any Israeli plans for annexation in the West Bank would be a "red line" and would provoke a European reaction.

PHOTO: AFP

UN food agencies warn of 16 hunger hotspots

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh among those at risk

AFP, Rome

Two UN food agencies warned yesterday that millions more people around the globe could face famine, with funding shortfalls worsening already dire conditions.

The joint report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) said conflict and violence were driving acute food insecurity in the majority of the countries identified at risk.

The Rome-based agencies listed Haiti, Mali, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen as the worst, "where populations face an imminent risk of catastrophic hunger".

» Haiti, Mali, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen listed among worst-hit regions

» Funding for humanitarian aid 'dangerously short'

Also classified as a "very high concern" were Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia and Syria, with Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya and the situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh also making the list.

"We are on the brink of a completely preventable hunger catastrophe that threatens widespread starvation in multiple countries," said WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, warning that a failure to act "will only drive further instability, migration, and conflict."

Funding for humanitarian relief was falling "dangerously short", the report said, pointing to only \$10.5 billion received out of a required \$29 billion to help those at risk.

WFP said that due to funding cuts, it had reduced assistance for refugees and displaced people while suspending school feeding programmes in some countries.

42 migrants feared dead in shipwreck off Libya: IOM 7 survivors rescued

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations said yesterday that 42 migrants were missing presumed dead after a rubber boat capsized off the Libyan coast last week.

It was the latest in a series of similar disasters in a stretch of the Mediterranean Sea that has claimed the lives of more than a thousand people so far this year.

Only seven survivors were rescued after six days adrift, said a statement from the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The vessel, carrying 47 men and two women, left Zuwarah, west of Tripoli, on November 3, but around six hours later, high waves caused the engine to fail, said the IOM.

The boat capsized, throwing all passengers overboard, the statement added. On Saturday, the Libyan authorities carried out a search and rescue operation near Al Buri oil field.

"After drifting at sea for six days, only seven men – four from Sudan, two from Nigeria, and one from Cameroon – were rescued," the IOM said.

FRESH BORDER CLASHES Thai troops kill one: Cambodia

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia and Thailand traded accusations of fresh clashes along their border yesterday, with Phnom Penh reporting one civilian shot dead in hostilities flaring after Bangkok paused implementation of a US-backed peace deal.



Five days of combat erupted between Thailand and Cambodia this summer, killing 43 people and displacing around 300,000 before a truce backed by US President Donald Trump took effect.

However, Thailand on Monday paused implementation of a follow-on deal to wind down hostilities, claiming a blast from a newly laid landmine had wounded four of its soldiers. Just two days later, officials on both sides have reported gunfire across the border.

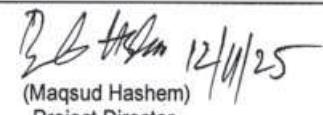
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
 MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS
 URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 82, SEGUNBAGICHA, DHAKA-1000
 Website: www.udd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25-01

Date: 12 November 25

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Services of Structure plan and Action Plan for "Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District Project"

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW).			
2 Agency	Urban Development Directorate (UDD)			
3 Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District			
4 Procuring Entity Code	1320401			
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6 Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm Assignment based			
7 EoI Ref No	25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25 Note 15.0			
8 Date	12 November 25			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement Method	Selection under a Fixed Budget (SFB)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget GoB			
11 Development Partners	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/Program Code	222020300			
13 Project/Program Name	Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District			
14 EoI Closing Date and Time	27 November, 2025; Time: 1:00 PM			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
16 Brief Description of Assignment	Structure plan and Action Plan for "Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District Project": (1) Spatial Development Strategies, (2) Structure Plan, (3) Action Plan: Town center revitalization plan, Highway corridor land use planning, Growth center planning, TOD, Public Space Planning, Wetland restoration, Urban and rural amenities planning; along with (4) Image interpretation including Ground verification for Urban, Rural, Agriculture, wetland forest including ecological survey, (5) Mauza Map Digitization, (6) Social Survey including Public Space Study, (7) Traffic and Transport Studies			
17 Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	a. Firms with specific experience of 5 years. b. Required hardware (RTK GPS) and licensed software [Survey data processing (GPS data Processing Software, etc.), GIS (Arc GIS) and Photogrammetric (Photogrammetric stereo Image processing Software) and other related original software]. c. Related Experience (Photogrammetric mapping by using 3D work station etc.) d. Resources (office space, financial and managerial strength, computer and other logistics) e. Related professionals (Team Coordinator, Spatial development strategy Analyst, Public space policy analyst, Public Space Designer, Landscape Designer, Transport Planner, GIS/RS Specialist, Archaeologist, Project Analyst, Junior Public Space Designer, Junior and Architect, Junior Engineer, Office Manager) and 3D GIS and spatial planning support staffs.			
18 Other Details	Interested consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit EoI containing printed brochures (showing organizational identity and background), legal documents showing managerial and financial standing (according to PPA 2006 and PPR 2025), Staffing and inventory of resources and logistics confirming the firm's capabilities to provide the required services.			
19 Association with foreign firms is	Not Encouraged			
20 Ref No	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
25.45.00000.000.002.1 4.0006.25 Note 15.0	Not phased	Munshiganj District	February, 2026	February, 2028
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21 Name of Official Inviting EoI	Maqsud Hashem			
22 Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Senior Planner Urban Development Directorate			
23 Address of Official Inviting EoI	Room # 509, Urban Development Directorate 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka - 1000			
24 Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone no: 01711937013			
25 The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EoI's				


 Maqsud Hashem
 Project Director

"Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District"
 Urban Development Directorate, Dhaka

GD-2409

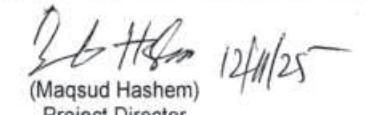
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
 MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS
 URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 82, SEGUNBAGICHA, DHAKA-1000
 Website: www.udd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25-02

Date: 12 November 25

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Services of "Geological and Hydrogeological Study for Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District" Project"

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW).			
2 Agency	Urban Development Directorate (UDD)			
3 Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District			
4 Procuring Entity Code	1320401			
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6 Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm Assignment Based			
7 EoI Ref No	25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25 Note 14.0			
8 Date	12 November 25			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement Method	Selection under a Fixed Budget (SFB)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget GoB			
11 Development Partners	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/Programme Code	222020300			
13 Project/Programme Name	Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District			
14 EoI Closing Date and Time	27 November 25; Time: 11:00 AM			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
16 Brief Description of Assignment	Geological and Hydrogeological study for Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District Project: (1) Sub-surface lithological 3D model development and relevant interpretation, (2) 3D finite difference Ground water model, Rainfall-runoff model, flash flood risk (inundation model) etc.			
17 Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	a. Firms with specific experience of 5 years. b. Required hardware, licensed software and other related original software. c. Related Experience (Grain Size Analysis, Atterberg Limits Determination, Specific Gravity Determination, Direct Shear Test, Unconfined Compression Strength Determination etc. 3D finite difference Ground water model characterizing existing groundwater system and making predictions for future groundwater development and risk characterization, Rainfall-runoff model to determine groundwater recharge potential, inundation model, surface water potential for water supply etc.) d. Resources (office space, financial and managerial strength, computer and other logistics) e. Related professionals (Geologist, Hydro geologist, Associate Geologist, Associate Hydro-Geologist, and Geological Survey Technician etc.) and staffs.			
18 Other Details	Interested consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit EoI containing printed brochures (showing organizational identity and background), legal documents showing managerial and financial standing (according to PPA 2006 and PPR 2025), Staffing and inventory of resources and logistics confirming the firm's capabilities to provide the required services.			
19 Association with foreign firms is	Not Encouraged			
20 Ref No	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
25.45.00000.000.002.14.0 006.25 Note 14.0	Not phased	Munshiganj District	January, 2026	January, 2027
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21 Name of Official Inviting EoI	Maqsud Hashem			
22 Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Senior Planner Urban Development Directorate			
23 Address of Official Inviting EoI	Room # 509, Urban Development Directorate 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka - 1000			
24 Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone no: 01711937013			
25 The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EoI's				


 Maqsud Hashem
 Project Director

"Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District"
 Urban Development Directorate, Dhaka

Reduce Global South's climate debt burden

Wealthy nations must take responsibility as the highest polluters

It is frustrating that Bangladesh, despite being one of the world's least responsible countries for greenhouse gas emissions, is facing an ever-rising climate debt. The irony is, Bangladesh is also one of the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change, with millions of its people already affected. But we are not alone in facing such predicaments. As global leaders gather at COP30 in Brazil, it is crucial that they find ways to reduce this unfair burden on Bangladesh and other highly vulnerable countries.

It must be acknowledged that it is the failure of wealthy nations—the highest emitters of greenhouse gases—to commit to grant-based, justice-driven funds for vulnerable countries that has resulted in such punishing climate debts for the latter. According to an index published by a Dhaka-based think tank, Bangladesh is in the "high risk" debt-trap category with its burden forecast to increase further by 2031. How is this fair? It is illogical that Bangladesh must borrow \$29.52 for every tonne of carbon emitted, meaning that for every \$1 it receives in grants, it also receives \$2.70 in loans. Between 2009 and 2022, Bangladesh reportedly accrued \$3.4 billion in climate-related loans, making it increasingly dependent on external borrowing for adaptation and resilience. For over a decade, LDCs like Bangladesh have consistently received more climate loans than grants.

In 2022, Bangladesh identified 113 high-priority interventions across eight sectors, including water resources, agriculture, and urban resilience. Experts estimate that this plan will require around \$8 billion annually from 2023 to 2050, yet Bangladesh has so far secured less than 1 percent of these projected needs. According to the World Bank, the country incurs losses of approximately \$1 billion from average tropical cyclones, and by 2050, one-third of agricultural GDP may be lost due to climate vulnerability and extreme events. Thus, the new global climate finance goal of \$1.3 trillion for LDCs must uphold the principles of fairness and equity, or countries like Bangladesh risk being further submerged in climate debt.

These vulnerable nations are facing increasingly frequent disasters driven by climate change, including cyclones, droughts, rising sea levels, and soaring temperatures. Decision-makers in forums such as the G7 and G20 must urgently address the debt crisis plaguing the Global South. This requires debt relief and a substantial increase in grant-based climate finance. Wealthy nations, being the largest contributors to the climate crisis, bear responsibility for its consequences on the countries of Global South. They must act decisively to reduce their debt burden and provide funds that will meaningfully mitigate climate change effects. Only by taking responsibility for their emissions can the wealthy nations ensure fairness and protect those most at risk.

Fire safety failures in CEPZ concerning

Authorities must ensure full compliance with safety rules

We are alarmed to learn that nearly three-fourths of all factories at the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) are operating without valid fire safety certificates, as found by a recent investigation by the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence. Reportedly, every factory is required to obtain approval for a fire safety plan when it is established and to subsequently receive an effectiveness certificate following an inspection by the authorities. However, the probe report reveals that only 55 out of 164 CEPZ factories currently hold the mandatory effectiveness certificate. Such non-compliance in an area like the EPZ exposes the poor state of industrial safety in Bangladesh.

While factory owners are clearly responsible for neglecting fire safety protocols, the absence of consistent monitoring and enforcement by the relevant authorities is equally to blame. The Fire Prevention and Extinguishing Act, 2003, clearly mandates that every industrial establishment must obtain approval for a fire safety plan and renew its certificate regularly. Yet, enforcement has been weak for years at the CEPZ. Many older buildings, particularly those constructed before 2008, were built without following fire safety rules or maintaining proper spacing between structures. During the October 16 fire that gutted two factories inside the zone, the firefighters' efforts were severely hampered due to such non-compliance.

Unfortunately, it is not just the CEPZ factories; similar fire incidents at Dhaka airport and at chemical warehouses in Mirpur and Tongi have revealed systemic weaknesses in our fire prevention, inter-agency coordination, and emergency response capacity. The fire service department itself struggles with limited modern equipment, inadequate training for chemical-related fires, and a shortage of protective gear for firefighters who routinely risk their lives. The poor preparedness at all levels makes it clear that Bangladesh's fire safety system needs urgent modernisation.

In order to improve fire safety at the CEPZ, factory owners and the relevant authorities must ensure full compliance with regulations. Factories in all other EPZs and industrial parks should also be inspected regularly, with a focus on high-risk areas where buildings are closely packed or structurally non-compliant. Fire safety data must be continuously updated and monitored, and no factory should be allowed to operate without a valid certificate. Equally importantly, the fire service must be equipped with modern tools and training to handle chemical and industrial fires, while joint drills, stricter inspections, and digital record keeping of safety compliance can greatly improve oversight.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Paris terrorist attacks

On this day in 2015, terrorists staged coordinated attacks in Paris and its environs, the deadliest occurring at the Bataclan theatre and concert hall; in all, at least 130 people were killed and more than 350 were wounded.

EDITORIAL

We must distinguish between corrosive and constructive capital



Zillur Rahman is host of the current affairs talk show *Tritiya Matra*. He also serves as president of the Centre for Governance Studies. His X handle is @zillur.

ZILLUR RAHMAN

Money moves more quickly than ever in the modern world. However, not all money is what it seems or claims to be. While some subtly advance hidden interests and undermine accountability, others create opportunity, institutions, and trust. This subject dominated the conversation at a conference hosted by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in Washington, DC, earlier in September. Activists and experts from several continents discussed how foreign investment may either aid or undermine democracy. The distinction between constructive and corrosive capital, as defined by CIPE, was the concept that stuck with me.

Where money is utilised for power instead of collaboration, that is where corrosive capital originates. Typically, it is politically motivated, opaque, and intended more to purchase influence. Its attraction is straightforward: quick loans, simple terms, and no embarrassing inquiries about questionable environmental standards, governance, or transparency. However, these agreements frequently have unstated conditions that tighten over time. Conversely, openness, justice, and accountability are valued by constructive capital. Its investments extend beyond bricks and mortar to encompass institutions, markets, and people.

Over the past decade or so, we have witnessed the transformation of corrosive capital into a geopolitical weapon. In some regions, such as Asia, large-scale infrastructure investments have sometimes taken on this character—projects involving highways, power plants, bridges, and ports that appear to foster development on paper. In reality, many of these ventures are negotiated behind closed doors, with inflated costs and limited public oversight. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

could be cited as an example in some cases, but capital injection by many international financial institutions sometimes had similar impacts in developing countries. The debt distress or repayment issues faced by Sri Lanka and Pakistan, for example, show how "infrastructure diplomacy" can at times be used as a tool of leverage. Yes, money creates something tangible,



VISUAL: ANWER SOHEL

but it also creates influence that can far outlast the loans themselves.

Unquestionably, infrastructure is essential. No country can advance without energy, roads, and railways. To sustain growth, the Asian Development Bank has projected that this region alone will require more than \$8 trillion in infrastructure investment. Therefore, the question is not whether to invest, but rather what kind of investment to make.

Constructive capital, more likely to originate from democratic countries or international organisations, may require more time and effort, but it yields long-term benefits. Corrosive capital prefers shortcuts—easy approvals, no audits, and no public accountability.

Bangladesh is at a turning point in this discussion right now. We have a huge infrastructure demand as we prepare to leave the bracket of the least developed countries (LDCs); power plants, ports, highways, and bridges are changing the national outlook. However, vulnerability also comes with progress. The issue is not how many projects we can unveil, but whether we are selecting partners who will make our institutions stronger or weaker.

Although some Asian and Western countries have become increasingly visible development partners for Bangladesh, each brings its own philosophy and approach to engagement. Japan's model of development cooperation, for instance, is sometimes cited for its emphasis on long-term planning,

is rarely solely about economics; it carries strategic, technological, and political implications. The challenge for any developing country, therefore, lies in balancing immediate development needs with long-term sovereignty and policy flexibility.

But where transparency is treated as optional and governance remains weak, corrosive capital finds fertile ground. It empowers those who thrive in opacity, rewards loyalty over merit, and often sustains networks of patronage rather than systems of accountability. This was one of the strongest takeaways from the CIPE conference: when funds move without scrutiny, democracy is quietly undermined.

Journalists, think tanks, and civil society organisations are calling for more transparent contracting, public disclosure of foreign loans, and stronger parliamentary oversight, not just in Bangladesh, but across Asia. These are not anti-investment measures but pro-accountability safeguards. They help ensure that capital, regardless of its source, primarily serves national priorities rather than narrow or external interests. In environments where the norms are clear and institutions trusted, constructive capital can flourish. Investors and citizens, too, find greater predictability when rules are properly enforced.

So for Bangladesh, this is not a binary choice between this camp and that camp, or between one financing model and another. It is a question of principle: whether the country will embrace constructive capital that strengthens governance, or corrosive capital that erodes it. As Bangladesh advances towards a post-LDC reality, good governance, competitive bidding, and transparency must become non-negotiable. Every major investment, foreign or domestic, should be evaluated for its fairness, sustainability, and respect for national sovereignty.

Ultimately, a nation's strength is measured not by the projects it inaugurates but by the people it empowers. Constructive capital invests in human potential—the workers, entrepreneurs, and thinkers who build the country's future. Corrosive capital, by contrast, traps them in systems designed to benefit others. Bangladesh must internalise this lesson and act accordingly. The durability of our economic sovereignty will depend on how well we do that.

Charting a new blueprint for shared opportunities



Yao Wen is Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh.

YAO WEN

On October 23, 2025, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded successfully in Beijing. The meeting reviewed and adopted the "Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development," which lays out a grand blueprint for China's development from 2026 to 2030.

This is not only a major event in China's domestic political and economic life, but it will also have far-reaching implications for the global development landscape and inject fresh momentum into the future of China-Bangladesh relations.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee took place at a pivotal moment for achieving the goals of the 14th Five-Year Plan. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's GDP surpassed 110 trillion yuan, 120 trillion yuan and 130 trillion yuan, successively, and is projected to reach 140 trillion yuan (approximately \$19.66 trillion) in 2025. China's imports of goods and services have exceeded \$1.5 trillion, and its outbound investment has generated over \$30 billion in tax revenues and large numbers of jobs for host countries. Its annual contribution to global economic growth has remained at roughly 30 percent. These achievements stem from the resolute and able leadership of the CPC and the guidance of its political doctrine, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with

Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. The fruitful results fully showcase the vitality and advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics.

The forthcoming 15th Five-Year Plan period will serve as a critical stage in building on past successes to break new ground in China's modernisation drive. And it is a critical phase to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts.

The recommendations explicitly articulate that we will continue to pursue economic development as our central task, with high quality development as our main focus, reform and innovation as the fundamental driving force, meeting the people's ever growing needs for a better life as our fundamental goal, and full and rigorous party self-governance as the fundamental underpinning for all our efforts. Furthermore, we will promote higher-quality economic growth while achieving an appropriate increase in economic output, and make solid headway in promoting well-rounded personal development and common prosperity for all. All of this will allow us to secure decisive progress towards basically realising socialist modernisation.

For China, its unwavering commitment to the path of Chinese modernisation will continue to bring more opportunities and greater certainty to global development. With a super-large market of over 1.4 billion people, a complete industrial system and ever-strengthening innovation capacity, China remains a major

engine of global economic growth. During the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will further pursue a higher level of opening up, narrow the negative list for market access, and deepen joint efforts under the Belt and Road Initiative, offering broader markets and richer cooperation opportunities to countries worldwide, including Bangladesh.

Although China and Bangladesh differ in national conditions, they both are countries bearing the historic mission of developing economies, improving people's livelihoods and realising national modernisation. The shared objectives create strong resonance between China's 15th Five-Year Plan and Bangladesh's development trajectory, opening up new and expansive space for China-Bangladesh cooperation.

On the front of governance experience, China stands ready to join hands with Bangladesh and be each other's inspiration. The CPC adheres to a people-centred approach, and during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, it has lifted 98.99 million rural residents out of poverty, historically resolving the problem of absolute poverty. The recommendations place agriculture, rural areas and farmers ("the Three Rural Issues")—issues important to Bangladesh too—at the top of the agenda. China stands ready to strengthen exchanges with Bangladesh on targeted poverty alleviation, rural governance and industrial cultivation, share development experience and jointly promote people's livelihoods.

On the front of high-level pragmatic cooperation, the two countries are building a path of mutual benefit together. Seizing the development opportunities presented by China's 15th Five-Year Plan, the two countries will deepen industrial coordination and complementarity, with a focus on technology transfer and capacity-building in infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, modern agriculture

and digital economy. By promoting technology sharing and human resource development, Bangladesh's capacity for autonomous development, export competitiveness and internal development momentum will be effectively enhanced.

On the front of modernisation endeavours, China and Bangladesh will move forward side by side to usher in a new chapter of development. China has always respected the Bangladeshi people's right to independently choose their development path and supports Bangladesh in exploring a modernisation model suited to its national conditions. On this basis, China is ready to share its experience and practical results in industrialisation, urbanisation and digitalisation, and support Bangladesh within its capabilities. Through deeper strategic alignment and policy coordination, the two countries will jointly draw a brand new picture of prosperity and progress for both countries.

With strong tailwinds on our long voyage, we set sail again carrying great responsibilities. China, under the leadership of the CPC, is steadily advancing toward the goal of building itself into a great modern socialist country in all respects. The formulation and implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan represent a pivotal step in this historic course. We firmly believe that China cannot be separated from the world in achieving development, and the world also needs China for prosperity. China will continue to work with Bangladesh, leveraging the opportunities of the 15th Five-Year Plan and bilateral cooperation across various fields to further consolidate political mutual trust, expand pragmatic cooperation and promote people-to-people ties, bringing greater benefits to the peoples of both countries and making a still larger contribution to global prosperity and development.

What's happening at Dhaka airport is a symptom of deeper rot



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H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

There are few places in a country that so completely represent its image as an airport. It is both a threshold and a mirror, reflecting not just the physical state of a nation but the moral tone of its institutions. For Bangladesh, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) has long stood as that symbolic gateway—the first and last impression for millions who travel in and out of the country each year. Yet, what should have been a showcase of national pride has instead turned into a gallery of recurring scandals, thefts, fires, and failures. The latest wave of incidents exposes a deeper truth: the crisis at HSIA is not merely about stolen luggage or lapses in vigilance, but about the systemic rot corroding Bangladesh's culture of public accountability.

The cargo village fire, the theft of firearms from a强室, the Ansar member stealing 15 mobile phones, the pilfering of foreign currency from passengers, and the daily reports of missing baggage are not isolated incidents. They form part of a broader continuum of decay. According to data from the airport's lost and found department, an average of three luggage thefts are reported every day, amounting to over 500 incidents in six months. If we include unreported cases, the real figure could be significantly higher. Each missing suitcase tells a story not just of loss, but of a system unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens and guests.

For an airport handling over 80 lakh passengers annually, the issue is

enforcement—it becomes a moral epidemic.

Every airport has its share of human error, but when thefts occur with such regularity and within high-security zones under surveillance cameras, it indicates complicity across multiple layers. The term "syndicate" is not used lightly. These are organised rings, enabled

But such denial misses the point. Individual dishonesty thrives only where collective indifference permits it.

The airport, by its nature, concentrates multiple agencies, such as customs, security forces, airlines, immigration, and logistics. Where responsibilities overlap without coordination, accountability

at the cargo village revealed even darker layers. The breaking of the strongroom and the disappearance of firearms after the blaze showed not merely opportunism but audacity. It raised an alarming question: if weapons can be stolen from a high-security storage area, what assurance remains for passengers and foreign airlines about the safety of cargo and personnel?

Globally, airport thefts are treated as serious breaches of national security. Singapore's Changi or Dubai International—handling many times HSIA's traffic—maintain near-zero tolerance policies backed by real-time surveillance, centralised accountability, and immediate suspension protocols. In Bangladesh, by contrast, the issue often descends into reactive measures: suspensions after media coverage, arrests after political pressure, and cosmetic reforms following public outcry. The absence of sustained institutional correction ensures that scandals repeat with seasonal regularity.

Underlying all this is a culture of low consequence. Suppose, if a passenger loses luggage worth Tk 70,000, the individual receives compensation capped by outdated international conventions that barely cover the loss. When employees are caught stealing, they are dismissed or briefly detained, but the chain behind them remains untouched. The same officers reappear in new uniforms, new departments, or under new titles. In such a cycle, wrongdoing becomes routine.

The economic implications are no less significant. Every lost bag and stolen item diminishes confidence among foreign travellers, expatriate workers, and airlines. Reputation damage, though intangible, carries heavy costs. Foreign carriers are increasingly cautious about ground handling at HSIA. Insurance premiums for freight and cargo rise when risk perception grows. Tourists, investors, and development



FILE PHOTO: COLLECTED
'Every act of theft, every fire, every lost suitcase at the HSIA erodes the fragile bond between citizen and state.'

not just about individual delinquency but institutional dysfunction. A place that should operate with the precision of clockwork instead runs on improvisation, patronage, and opportunism. The most alarming aspect of these crimes is that they are often committed by those entrusted to prevent them. When custodians of order turn into predators, the problem ceases to be about law

by weak supervision, fragmented accountability, and at times the quiet tolerance of superiors. If an employee can repeatedly access and tamper with passengers' belongings without being detected, it means the system's safeguards are either cosmetic or compromised. Authorities tend to isolate incidents as cases of "individual dishonesty," distancing the larger structure from blame.

evaporates. Each department has its own chain of command, yet when a breach occurs, none bears full responsibility. This bureaucratic diffusion is fertile ground for malpractice. A theft inside a secure baggage area should be traceable within minutes through camera footage and access logs. Yet in many cases, investigations drag on and evidence disappears. The fire

Old habits die hard? BNP's response

Prof Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel
is convenor of the media cell of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Dr Abdullah Al-Mamun
is chairman of Democracy Dias Bangladesh.

**MOUDUD HOSSAIN ALAMGIR
PAVEL and
ABDULLAH-AL-MAMUN**

An opinion piece titled "BNP's notes of dissent show that old habits die hard," published on October 29, 2025, in *The Daily Star*, has caught our attention. We appreciate the author's attempt; however, it could be construed as if BNP has outright opposed state reforms by the interim government. The fact remains that the party has submitted notes of dissent to some proposals in July National Charter that it deems exaggerated and amendable in BNP's terms. Moreover, as BNP stated, it would include its entire reform proposals in its election manifesto so that voters could understand the length and breadth of the reform package and give their verdict. Therefore, we do not see how BNP's "old habits die hard."

In the article, the author has apparently discussed four issues to justify his claim about BNP. It would have been better if the author had also presented the party's arguments supporting its decisions. In this article, we have tried to summarise BNP's position on those four issues.

Upper house formation and PR concerns

BNP had proposed forming an upper house to enrich the nation with the input of experienced citizens in its 31-point reform plan on the basis of proportionate seats in the lower house of parliament. Nonetheless, the party objects to the proposal for creating an upper house via PR based on national vote share. BNP doubts this upper house formation because it thinks that if the formation follows the PR system, this process can be used as a political weapon. Furthermore, BNP thinks that this institution of a PR-based upper chamber would just create a "sitting duck" or threat for the lower chamber, only delaying the lower chamber's work.

Prime minister's tenure

BNP supports the proposal of limiting a person's tenure as prime minister to a maximum of 10 years in their lifetime, but expressed reservations about the proposed constitutional appointment committee, or National Constitutional Council (NCC). According to BNP, it may significantly disrupt the executive power in an irregular way, and also reduce the prime minister's power, which is not a healthy exercise for a democratic country. Another reason is that the transparency and accountability of this constitutional committee cannot be determined so easily. If they are corrupt, and if executive power is not the source of all powers, then it will be a big threat to the country's political stability. Here, BNP wants reforms in the existing laws regarding the appointments of constitutional institutions. These laws must include provisions for determining search committees to ensure that executive influence is avoided in the appointment process. To address this issue, BNP suggests that for institutions without existing laws, new laws should be enacted. For those with existing laws, amendments should be made. This will help ensure the checks and balances of power in the state.

Formation of National Constitutional Council (NCC)

According to BNP, the NCC would have created a diarchy, and the power of the prime minister would have been reduced, threatening the democratic system. Apart from that, BNP pointed out that under the NCC, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) cannot exercise its highest power. Also, BNP doubted that if NCC were implemented, then the judiciary would be crippled, and the implementation of the rule of law would not be easy.

Article 70

BNP proposes that members of parliament can independently exercise their voting power, even if it is not aligned with their party, except in instances of national security, fiscal legislation, no-confidence motions and constitutional amendments. BNP believes that the proposed amendment in July charter would overpower the

opposition party and significantly increase the risk of an unstable government, the cost of which the country cannot bear.

Does BNP not want the execution of the charter? The party has signed the charter in compliance with the government's proposals. But it believes the February election issue should be at the forefront to elect a government that will implement the provisions of the charter duly, including major constitutional matters, to ensure the government's accountability. BNP has even accepted the government's move to hold a referendum on the July National Charter issue. Tarique Rahman, in his recent interviews with global media, has made it clear that the party, if voted to power, will do the needful to materialise the July charter as agreed. Moreover, many aspects of the charter align with BNP's 31-point of reform. So, those will easily be implemented.

We believe that the biggest "reform" the nation needs is a credible election, which has already been delayed, causing economic and social stagnation, and ordinary people of the country are paying the price. Surprisingly, though, this underlying issue at this defining moment is being ignored and bypassed. People's desire was well-reflected in a survey of Innovision Consulting published in February 2025. The survey results revealed that 58.1 percent of voters wanted the next national election before the end of 2025. Out of that 58.1 percent, 31.6 percent wanted it in June 2025, and 26.5 percent wanted the election in December 2025. Therefore, it is important for us to take a careful position and not to fuel a narrative that BNP is an anti-reformist party and only wants elections, when a democratic transition through a credible election has become very critical for the country.

We believe BNP will remain fully committed to implementing the July National Charter with a dream of fulfilling its own 31 well-known points. Besides, BNP's political history and previous terms as a ruling party reveal a proven track record of working for democracy and people's welfare. It is BNP's "old habits" to work for the people, and those habits definitely die hard.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
82, SEGUNBAGICHA, DHAKA-1000
Website: www.udd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25-03

Date: 12 November 25

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Services of
Image Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation for "Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District Project"

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW).
2 Agency	Urban Development Directorate (UDD)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District
4 Procuring Entity Code	1320401
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6 Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm Assignment based
7 EoI Ref No	25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25 Note 14.0
8 Date	12 November 25
9 Procurement Method	Selection under a Fixed Budget (SFB)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget GoB
11 Development Partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12 Project/Program Code	222020300
13 Project/Program Name	Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District
14 EoI Closing Date and Time	27 November 25; Time: 10:30 AM
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
16 Brief Description of Assignment	Image Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation for "Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District Project": (1) Procurement of satellite image (0.3 m Resolution) 3_D Satellite Image new Acquisition, Image Processing and Geo-referencing, (2) TBM installation, (3) Stereo (3D) Urban area digitization, (4) Stereo (3D) Rural settlement digitization, (5) Stereo (3D) digitization: Agriculture, wetland and forest, (6) DEM preparation
17 Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	a. Firms with specific experience of 5 years. b. Required hardware (RTK GPS) and licensed software [Survey data processing (GPS data Processing Software, etc.), GIS (Arc GIS) and Photogrammetric (Photogrammetric stereo Image processing Software) and other related original software]. c. Related Experience (Photogrammetric mapping by using 3D work station etc.) d. Resources (office space, financial and managerial strength, computer and other logistics) e. Related professionals (GIS/RS Specialist, Photogrammetric Expert, Land Use Analyst) and 3D GIS support staffs.
18 Other Details	Interested consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit EoI containing printed brochures (showing organizational identity and background), legal documents showing managerial and financial standing (according to PPA 2006 and PPR 2025), Staffing and inventory of resources and logistics confirming the firm's capabilities to provide the required services.
19 Association with foreign firms is	Not Encouraged
20 Ref No	25.45.00000.000.002.14.0006.25 Note 14.0
21 Name of Official Inviting EoI	Maqsud Hashem
22 Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Senior Planner Urban Development Directorate
23 Address of Official Inviting EoI	Room # 509, Urban Development Directorate 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka - 1000
24 Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone no: 01711937013
25 The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EoI's	

Maqsud Hashem
Project Director

"Preparation of Strategic Plan for Munshiganj District"
Urban Development Directorate, Dhaka

CELEBRATING HUMAYUN AHMED

The man who turned everyday life into cinematic poetry

ANIKA TAHSIN HAFSA

They say that thirteen is an unlucky number. Superstition marks it as a shadow on the calendar, a date to avoid. Yet on November 13, Bangladesh received one of its greatest gifts, Humayun Ahmed, a storyteller who transformed our screens and preserved our souls through cinema. Novelist, screenwriter, and director, Humayun Ahmed reshaped the way Bangladeshi see themselves on screen. His films, much like his writings, portrayed simplicity, emotional honesty, humour, and a deep understanding of ordinary life. His films were never about grand spectacles or artificial drama. They were about us: our families, our wars, our silences, our laughter

1971 Liberation War was not that of a soldier holding guns, but of a young man holding memories. His father, a police officer, was killed by the Pakistan Army. At the age of 23, he witnessed the brutality of conflict. These experiences turned into *Aguner Poroshmoni* (1994), a film that preserves our history through sharing food, hiding a wounded freedom fighter, singing quietly during curfew. The story of a Dhaka family sheltering Badi, a wounded freedom fighter, becomes a powerful portrayal of the war. The characters here are portraits of real Bangladeshi. Through waiting, whispered plans, and the weight of a hidden presence upstairs, Humayun Ahmed captured the moments of 1971: the fear, the love, the impossible choices.



PHOTO: STAR

journey in *Amar Ache Jol* (2008). The characters are regular people dealing with regrets and unsaid words. Humayun's literary technique of showing rather than telling reaches its peak here, as characters communicate through pauses, glances, and things left unsaid. Rain, water, and flowing time become visual metaphors for their emotional states. Through these ordinary characters, Humayun showed how real people experience romance—messily, incompletely, beautifully.

Then came his final and most daring work, *Ghetu Putro Komola* (2012), which stands apart from everything before it. Based on the tradition of *Ghetu* songs, the story follows Komola, a boy performer who faces exploitation. Young Komola, dressed

while questioning its human cost. Even in darkness, Humayun finds heartbreaking beauty. He has created a testament to the victims of historical exploitation.

Humayun's cinema flows like our rivers. It flows naturally, unhurried, sometimes flooding with emotion, sometimes running quiet and deep. His characters could be our neighbours, our relatives, ourselves. He portrayed simple things with such care that they became beautiful. Most importantly, he preserved our history, not just dates and battles, but how people actually lived, spoke, loved, and struggled. Future generations will watch these films and understand who we were.

Born on an unlucky number, Humayun Ahmed proved that luck is what you make



echoing through tin-roofed houses. His movies preserve our history, celebrate our rural and urban culture, and show how life flows naturally, without exaggeration or artificial drama.

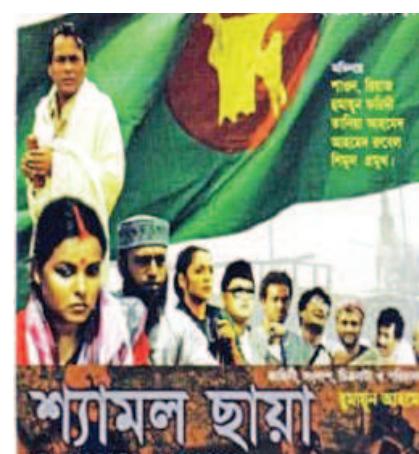
Humayun Ahmed's journey through the

After exploring the war, Humayun delved into the world of folklore with *Chandrokotha* (2003), where rural life blends naturally with imagination. He portrays village life with the warmth of courtyard laughter, night-time gatherings,

local music. The story shows the real picture of Bangladeshi society.

However, his exploration of Liberation War experiences continues in *Shyamol Chhaya* (2004), where the struggle unfolds on a boat filled with people fleeing in 1971. Unlike typical war films filled with violence, he focuses on the psychological journey to escape, to survive, to reach safety across the river that separates death from life. The boat becomes a floating microcosm of Bangladesh: rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim, brave and frightened, selfish and selfless—all trying to survive together. Even in this confined space, Humayun highlights religious harmony amid chaos, showing how communal identity dissolves into shared humanity when survival is at stake. Through silence, fear, suspicion, and fragile hope, *Shyamol Chhaya* captures the psychological truth of 1971 and transforms a simple boat journey into an instance of unity and survival.

After exploring collective struggles, Humayun turns toward an emotional



as a girl to perform, becomes trapped in a system where art and abuse intertwine. The Zamindar's mansion, which should be a palace of culture, instead becomes a prison of power imbalance. The film preserves a vanished cultural practice

it. Through his lens, every ordinary Bengali life became worthy of cinema, every simple moment contained magic. On his birthday, we celebrate not just a filmmaker, but the mirror in which Bangladesh saw its most honest reflection.

NEWS

Indigenous

FROM PAGE 12

inside until the area was clear. Within the compound, the United Nations is responsible for security.

"Earlier this evening, a group of protesters breached security barriers at the main entrance to the COP, causing minor injuries to two security staff, and minor damage to the venue," a spokesperson said in a statement.

"Brazilian and UN security personnel took protective actions to secure the venue, following all established security protocols. Brazilian and UN authorities are investigating the incident. The venue is fully secured, and COP negotiations continue."

The main entrance to the venue had been closed for repairs and the UN climate agency said it was set to reopen yesterday morning.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has highlighted Indigenous communities as key players in this year's COP30 negotiations.

Earlier this week, dozens of Indigenous leaders arrived by boat to participate in the talks and demand more say in how forests are managed.

Bodies of man, daughter

FROM PAGE 12

About two years ago, Julekha went to Dubai for work. Ratan then kept their daughter at his in-laws' while continuing his work at a garment factory.

Quoting locals, Md Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police in Mymensingh, said Julekha returned about one and a half months ago on leave and was scheduled to return to Dubai yesterday.

Ratan allegedly did not want his wife to return to Dubai. Frequent quarrels reportedly occurred between them over this issue, the additional SP said, citing neighbours.

Yesterday evening, Ratan visited his in-laws' house, where his wife was staying. Around 3:00am yesterday, neighbours heard screaming and rushed to the house. They found Ratan's body on the floor, Naria's body on the bed, and Julekha with wounds on her throat and hands, said the police officer.

On information, police recovered the bodies around 4:30am and rescued Julekha, who is currently undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The additional SP said police recovered a piece of paper with a short note from the spot. It is believed that the short note was written by Ratan before his death.

Police have detained Ratan's father-in-law, Dusal Mia, and his mother-in-law for questioning.

Primarily, police could not say about the motive behind the killings or the involvement of others.

"We are investigating the matter," Md Abdullah Al Mamun told The Daily Star.

Amir Ali, father of slain Ratan Mia, filed a murder case against four people, including Julekha's father, Dusal Mia, with Haluaghat Police Station last night, said Additional SP Md Abdullah Al Mamun.

The three other accused are: Md Yusuf Ali, Md Nazim Mia, and Mosammam Rahima Khatun, all relatives of Julekha.

In the case statement, Amir Ali alleged that his son and granddaughter were brutally

Jamaat, allies

FROM PAGE 1

holding a referendum on the order of the July National Charter before the national election, holding national election under a proportional representation (PR) system, ensuring a level playing field for all, ensuring visible justice of the previous "fascist government" and banning the activities of the "dictatorial collaborators" Jatiya Party and the 14 party alliance.

"Our main demand is now to hold a referendum on the order of the July National Charter before the national election," Parwar said, adding that they want the polls to be held on time in February next year.

Mujibur Rahman, Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Ameer and former MP, read out the next programmes at the press conference.

The leaders and activists of the eight parties will occupy the streets nationwide today to resist any untoward incidents surrounding the likely announcement of the verdict date in a case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We urge all the patriotic, anti-fascist forces to join us on the streets," he said.

The alliance announced demonstrations and protest marches at the district and metropolitan levels on Friday to press home their demands.

Its top leaders will meet at 11:00am on Sunday and decide on the sit-in programme through a press conference if demands remain unmet.

The leaders of Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Andolon, Nezame Islam Party, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party and the Bangladesh Development Party also joined the press conference.

Fair price for farmers

FROM PAGE 1

The production and storage cost of potatoes stands at Tk 25-27 per kg but they are unable to sell them even at half that price, he said, adding that growers could incur losses of about Tk 3,000 crore this season.

"If a so-called referendum is held to satisfy one party's demand, the state will have to spend a similar amount [Tk 3,000 crore]. Farmers getting a fair price for their produce is far more important than a referendum."

Bangladesh still has one of the highest road accident death rates in the world and yet "road safety has not been addressed in the interim government's discussions".

Among the high school graduates and degree holders in the country, one in every five is unemployed.

"Spending thousands of crores on a so-called referendum is less important to a person who has lost their job than having a job or employment," Tarique said.

Recently, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association reported that in the last 14 months, at least 353 garment factories in Savar, Gazipur, Chattogram, Narayanganj and Narsingdi have shut down, leaving about 120,000 workers unemployed, he said.

"Isn't a job more important to these unemployed people than spending thousands of takas on the so-called 'referendum'? What do you think?"

Tarique pointed out that the results of the Higher Secondary Examination published last October revealed the lowest pass rate in 2025.

A concerning issue is that the highest number of students failed in English.

"However, in today's global village, it is more critical to focus on education reform research than on the so-called referendum."

He also said that if any political party tries to push their demands for a referendum by exploiting the interim government's weakness, it will not bode well for that party.

"If any political party, seeing the interim government as weak, tries to get whatever it wants or uses tricks to deny BNP a victory, such actions could ultimately lead to political disaster for that party."

At the event commemorating the

civil-military uprising on November 7, 1975, senior leaders from various political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, highlighted the importance of unity among anti-fascist parties to restore democracy and resolve their differences.

"I urge our allies on the streets -- and anyone trying to muddy the waters -- please do not try to make the situation volatile," Tarique said.

Some parties are attempting to obstruct the election by imposing various conditions. If the election does not take place, it will pave the way for the return of the fugitive fascist.

"Is an opportunity being given to rehabilitate the fallen, defeated evil forces in politics under the cover of a referendum?"

Associates of the "runaway autocrat recently carried out arson attacks" even in the capital. "This should serve as a warning for all forces that once fought against fascism."

During the fascist rule, a party protected itself as part of its strategy by taking shelter under the umbrella of the fascists, Tarique said.

"In the current situation, it is time for us all to reflect and consider whether the fallen, defeated and fugitive autocrats have also taken shelter under the umbrella of that party involved in the anti-fascist movement."

Many of the BNP's allies from the anti-fascist street movement are expressing doubts about the February election.

"I would like to draw the attention of our allies present here today that instead of issuing threats to the interim government, let us face the people in the upcoming February election. Let us all come forward and stand before the people."

He also expressed concern that a party may be trying to create scope for the rehabilitation of fallen, fugitive forces into politics under the guise of a referendum before the national election.

"I call upon all democracy-loving people of the country to remain vigilant against such moves," Tarique added.

At the event, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the ongoing crisis is unnecessary. "I believe it has been intentionally created to obstruct the path to democracy."

Graft, law and order top concerns

FROM PAGE 12

eight administrative divisions between October 10 and 21, 2025, through in-person interviews. Rural participants made up 56.7 percent of respondents.

Among them, 89 percent are registered voters, and 97.2 percent of them intend to cast their votes in the upcoming national election. When explaining their political preferences, 41.6 percent cited party ideology or policies, 31.1 percent valued leadership quality, and 10 percent mentioned past performance. Notably, 56.9 percent of those planning to vote for the Awami League said they would abstain if the party does not contest the election.

To strengthen democracy, 73 percent of youth emphasised free and fair elections, while 54.2 percent called for an independent judiciary.

In education, 66.9 percent stressed improving teacher quality and recruitment, and 52.6 percent viewed student politics negatively for disrupting academic environments.

52.6% view student politics negatively

Social media primary news source for 62.3%

50.2% uncertain about fair election

76% say women feel unsafe in the country

Despite challenges, 81.7 percent of respondents said they want to stay in Bangladesh, while 18.3 percent prefer to live abroad, mainly citing poor economic conditions (58.1 percent), political instability (44.5 percent), and limited job opportunities (33.5 percent).

Social media is the main news source for 62.3 percent of youth, though 59.6 percent believe it does not reflect the country's actual situation.

At the event, media personality Abdun Noor Tushar said country's youth hold diverse thoughts and aspirations. Acknowledging the youth's concerns and frustrations, he said the survey also showed their strength. "Despite these challenges, 61.7 percent of them remain hopeful and positive about the country's future."

Highlighting the importance of youth engagement, Tahsinah Ahmed, executive director of BYLC, said: "Listening to young people, involving them in decision-making processes, and formulating policies aligned with their aspirations are now extremely urgent."

Jannatul Mawa, Senior Executive at BYLC, called for restoring public trust in institutions, while Munira Sultana, Lead Faculty at BYLC, said, "The youth of our country have the power to build a better nation -- all they need is the right set of skills and opportunities to grow."

Fahim Mashroor, co-coordinator of Voice for Reform, also spoke at the event.

JAIL BREAKS
Nepal boosts anti-poaching patrols

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has intensified anti-poaching operations to protect its prized tigers, elephants and rhinos after dozens of convicted poachers escaped prison during an anti-government uprising in September, conservation officers said yesterday.

"If any political party, seeing the interim government as weak, tries to get whatever it wants or uses tricks to deny BNP a victory, such actions could ultimately lead to political disaster for that party."

At the event commemorating the

BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

Poetry in short-hand

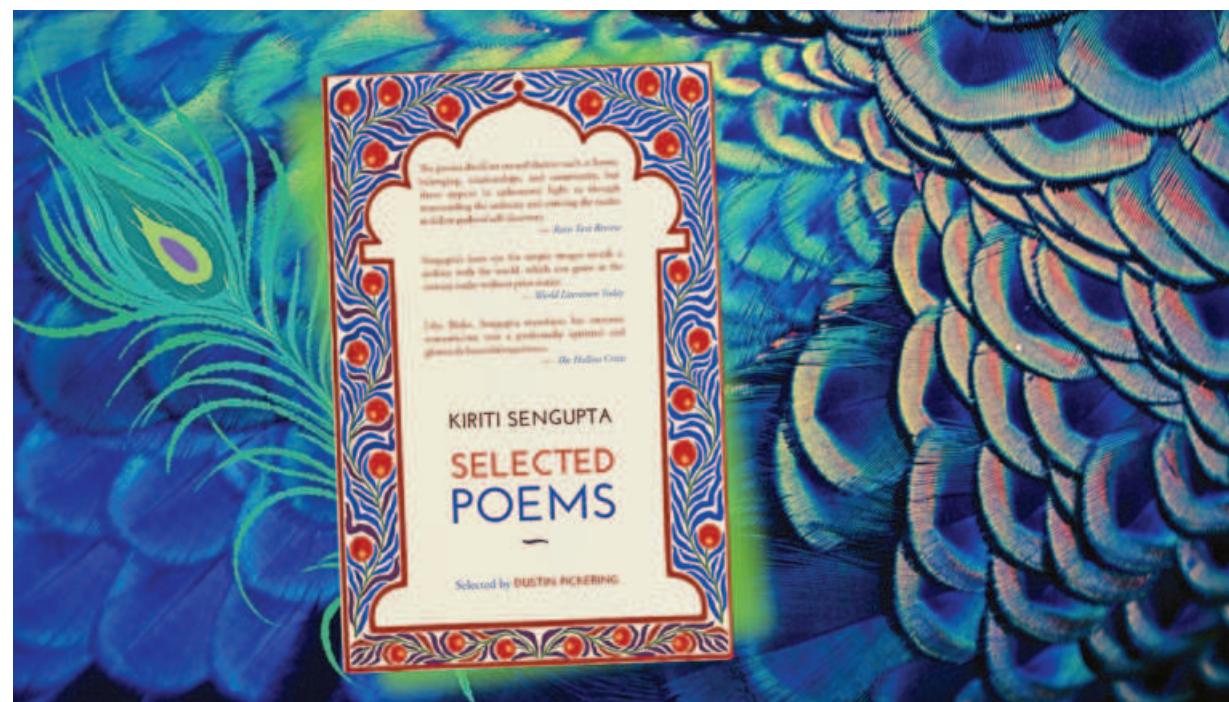
Review of Kiriti Sengupta's 'Selected Poems' (Transcendent Zero Press, 2025), edited by Dustin Pickering

The poems selected from the collection *Healing Waters, Floating Lamps (Moments Publication, 2015)*, go on to consolidate Kiriti's distinct poetics of sprinting towards epiphanic profundities. There is no build-up, no sustained effort to protract the process, and no patience to withhold the climax.

AKSHAYA KUMAR
The idea of outsourcing the selection of poems to a fellow poet-publisher Dustin Pickering, lends the already published poems of Kiriti Sengupta another round of robust readership. From his debut collection *My Glass of Wine* (Author's Empire Publications, 2013) to the present batch which contains eight recent poems, Sengupta has so far authored nine collections—a reasonably sizeable corpus of poetry. More than shifts in his style and substance, what stands in this selection is the steadfast consistency with which Kiriti has survived the flashy poetic trends that keep emanating from the space of new media. He retains his signature style—of using words frugally and minimally, with no extra flourish to gloss them with any uncanny poetic surplus. His poems—shorter or longer—continue to be reflective, quasi-meditative, and mildly ironic at times, but there is no anxiety to announce apocalypses or to proclaim some earth-shaking denouements.

The propensity to write aphoristically is palpable right from the beginning. The poem "In Tune" is remarkably dense, and compact: "Remaining under self-control—/ the tongue and the heart have fallen in love. / Look zeroize them—/ be a bird!". Kiriti's aphorisms are not abstract or thin; they are steeped in heavy textuality. The transitions are not supplied on the platter, it is for the discernible reader to leapfrog from one nano-image to another. Reading this kind of poetry is not a one-sided affair, it demands unqualified readerly plunge as well. Within the space of a few lines, Kiriti suggests a dialectical relationship between ascending fears, and deeper roots that "hold them tighter" (from "Wide").

From Kiriti's *The Reverse Tree* (Moments Publication, 2014), Dustin



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

Pickering plucks out only two poems, which is unfair to the range of the eclectic book which consists of neither well defined essays, nor short fiction, nor even standalone poems. But both the poems amply bring out Kiriti's ways of dealing with the original unheard. He admits "defining soul is difficult/rather impossible", yet in the course of the poem, he ventures to bask under its light: "i press two fingers firmly/ on my ears/ let the light dazzle/ my imprisoned candle" ("Reversal—Reverse All"). By a strange poetic argument, the poet sees sexuality as a function of light: "The sun dares to surface/ on your mirror, playing both/ a she, and a he toy" ("Crisis"). Kiriti dissects light, and its each splinter gives him a complementary clue of life, its gay

ambivalence. The poems selected from the collection *Healing Waters, Floating Lamps* (Moments Publication, 2015), go on to consolidate Kiriti's distinct poetics of sprinting towards epiphanic profundities. There is no build-up, no sustained effort to protract the process, and no patience to withhold the climax. The poem takes off, and it plummets in seconds to complete the arc. In order to "reach for the sky", the poet draws "a circle in the water", and in the next half-a-second "Looking at the image/ I [he] take[s] a dip" (from "Beyond the Eyes"). The poet does not short circuit the experience, rather he seeks to capture the ephemeral ecstasy without any verbal smokescreen. Similarly, a Varanasi evening is captured in its

oxymoronic exuberance: "The water here is not/ a fire extinguisher./ Flames rise through the water" ("Evening Varanasi"). In the poem "Eyes of Yogi", a mother bird quietly sits on her eggs, and soon in a flash the poet spots "tiny wings". The overwhelming concluding line: "The mother transforms into the sky", springs forth—the sight lapses into insight—in a flicker.

In Kiriti's poetry, the reader has to be ready, receptive, and wide-eyed. His mantra for the artist is "keep an eye" not on the outer earthly details, but on the incisive third eye. "Memories," the poet muses, "unveil themselves through snapshots" ("Moon — The Other Side"). The idiom turns increasingly oblique and at times brutally sarcastic: "You have

been practicing/ postures for health and fun./ Kali never fails to protrude/ her long, bloody tongue" (from "Cryptic Idioms—3"). Even in his prose poems, which gather conspicuousness in his collection *The Earthen Flute* (Hawakaal Publishers, 2016), he does not write in a single stretch, rather he breaks his poems into mini autonomous sections.

In his *Reflections on Salvation* (Transcendent Zero Press, 2016), Kiriti writes 18 short sardonic prose-verses with each corresponding a chapter of the Bhagavad Gita. Out of the 18 verses of "flash wisdom", the Selected Poems, consists of only 10 that interrogate the relationship between the scriptural and the secular, between the sublime and the sensual. Caught between the pulls of renunciation and attachment, the poet attempts to re-write the self-evident gospels with the modesty of a mortal. In his reflection on "Detachment", his playful interjection, for instance, is pertinent: "I plan to donate a few copies of the Geeta to infertility clinics. I would love to hear them advise: 'Act, but forget!'". Even as he questions the full proof divinity, he is not loud, audacious or heroic which does not allow, thankfully, the reflections to be incantatory. Incantations can be very intimidating.

This is an excerpt. Read the full review on *The Daily Star* and *Star Books and Literature's* websites.

Akshaya Kumar is Professor of English at Panjab University, Chandigarh. He received critical attention for his book *Poetry, Politics and Culture* (Routledge, 2009) and his co-edited volume *Cultural Studies in India* (Routledge, 2016). He is writing *A Critical History of Punjabi Literature*, a project commissioned by Orient Blackswan. He has also co-edited a volume titled *Popular Culture in South Asian Context* (Routledge, 2025).

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

A graphic rebellion against patriarchy

Review of 'Pitritontrer Poton' (UPL, 2025) by Marta Breen and Jenny Jordahl (illustrator), translated by Fahmi Ela

JUHI RUBABA JURANA JAHAN

We are living in the advancing era, mended meticulously with dreams and expectations. It is the era of new norms. And yet, a woman asking for the basic human rights will be scrutinised for standing up for herself. They are caught up in a never-ending cycle that extends borders. It is the reality, and there are expectations that these conditions will improve over time. Unfortunately, though, the dreams are just that—dreams. *Pitritontrer Poton* (originally *Smash the Patriarchy*) captures the similar prevalence of patriarchy throughout the generations and its impact on all genders, including men themselves.

The graphic nonfiction is an excellent display of historical examples of women who have opposed patriarchy—the brave and the unfortunate who were exemplary for fighting against inequality, injustice, and instability. This includes major figures such as the French revolutionary Charlotte Corday, and Alexandra Mikhailovna Kollontai who was a Russian revolutionary, politician, diplomat, and Marxist theoretician. The book explores the power dynamics that have been consistent throughout history. Despite these constraints, many revolutionary women have spoken out about the challenges they and other contemporary women face. Consequently, the author does an amazing job by mentioning these brilliant voices advocating for equality and equity.

The book opens with portraying a humorous discussion between illustrated versions of Marta Breen and Jenny Jordahl's characters, which immediately sets an exciting and engaging tone. Although the mood is meant to be humorous, the messages that come along with it are powerful and serious. Jordahl's humorous illustrations add another layer of appeal. These are essentially drawn in a comic style to make the book more intriguing and fun to read. However, it does not minimise women's growing awareness of resistance to injustice; rather, it incorporates their attempts to raise awareness relentlessly in a unique way.

Wherever history takes us, whether we are navigating through textbooks or



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

pictures, every medium is filled with depictions of glorious empires like that of the Greco-Roman civilisations. There are acknowledgments of exceptional contributions, mostly by male figures from numerous fields; areas they have improved with their knowledge and exceptional calibre—figures who have been celebrated throughout history, glorified, and even overglorified for their work, but who, at the same time, harbour some questionable perceptions women. The author mentions several of these prominent male figures, ranging from philosophers to playwrights. For example, the renowned German philosopher Immanuel Kant and his oft-cited opinion: "A woman who becomes learned loses her charm", as well as Genevan philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau's, who said, "If woman is made to please and to be subjugated to man, she ought to make herself pleasing to him rather than to provoke him."

It is relatively easier to break, stretch, and forge a woman in accordance with the convenience of society rather

than changing the flawed system. The outright declaration of internalised misogyny these men harbour are often overshadowed owing to their "genius" but in the same exact field, female intellectuals need to overcome barriers that they solely face as women and often "prove themselves" in order to become established. The book talks about women using pseudonyms and cross dressing to portray themselves as men and prove their competence—all because women are often presented as a secondary race who carry no agency of their own.

Fahmi Ela's translation captures the energy of Breen's words. The feminist message remains just as sharp and impactful in Bangla with Ela's potent use of Bangla phrases and expressions. In the same vein, Jordahl's vibrant use of colour makes the illustration both visually striking but aesthetically pleasing at the same time. Like Breen has her way of using the harsh, uncomfortable language that society has frequently used against women, Jordahl's illustrations too highlight oppression, brutality, and the

bareness that portray scenes of violence, showing how women's bodies, along with their voices, have been subjugated.

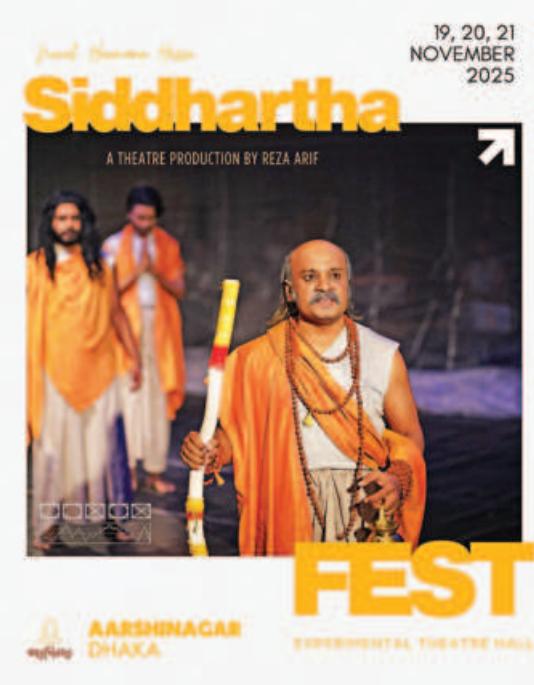
There are some parts where the names or the years of historical figures might seem information heavy, however, the author here has divulged in depth and provided detailed insights into the lives of these figures. It maps out the patriarchal structures, offering new perspectives for those who are skeptical about feminist notions.

Pitritontrer Poton narrows down to one aim: dismantling patriarchy; this concept is well integrated into the information provided in this book, a phenomenon that has been overlooked for many years and has been normalised. Consequently, as a people, we have unintentionally become accustomed to and accept misogyny even in the most intellectual spheres of society.

Juhi Rubaba Jurana Jahan is a creative enthusiast and someone who lives through art. Feel free to reach out at jurana.jahan@gmail.com.

YOUR DHAKA WEEK

Readings, exhibitions, and performances shaping the city's creative pulse



Arshinagar Dhaka presents a theatrical take on Hermann Hesse's 1922 novel *Siddhartha*, set to run at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy, from November 19 to 21.

'Everyone has gone silent out of fear'

Former Bangladesh women's cricket captain Jahanara Alam's allegations of sexual harassment have sparked widespread discussion in the country's sporting community. Bangladesh's table tennis legend Zobera Rahman Linu said such issues have long existed in sports and beyond. In an interview with *The Daily Star's* Samsul Arfin Khan, Linu shared insights from her time in the Athletics Commission and suggested solutions; the excerpts of which are as follows:



WHEN WILL WOMEN ATHLETES GET SAFE SPACE IN BANGLADESH?

The Daily Star (DS): Sexual misconduct has emerged in cricket and other sports. What's your view?

Zobera Rahman Linu (ZRL): When I was the chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA; 2019–2023), this issue came to my attention first. During the last South Asian Games, my responsibility was to check on all the participants, and report it to the BOA. I had known about these problems for a long time, but it wasn't the right moment to speak up.

DS: What kind of knowledge did you have related to these issues?

ZRL: The problems that exist in other sports – like coaches abusing some, and some being abused by players. When I spoke to people in various sectors, they told me, "Apa, we are being abused this way." I then informed the BOA about what was happening, keeping their identities confidential. And we took some steps accordingly. We also warned those who were most implicated in bad behaviour. We took some actions like that.

Since Jahanara first reported it publicly, now everyone has taken notice. But these incidents have been happening for a long time. Actually, this is not limited to sport; this issue exists in all professional sectors. If sports are singled out, it won't sound good. People might think that these things only happen to women in sport.

DS: Did such issues exist during your playing days?

ZRL: When we used to play sports, we didn't face these things. At least, I didn't... But those who are coming into sport now are mostly coming from lower-middle class backgrounds. What happens is that when they come here and receive some pocket money, it becomes very easy to abuse them.

Many incidents are happening secretly... The victims have kept silent, either just to stay on the team (to secure their spot) or to survive economically. But when Jahanara's matter came up, everyone gained the courage to speak. You will see many more things slowly come out.

DS: You reported incidents to the Olympic Association. Why did nothing progress?

ZRL: After we (a six-member team) informed the BOA, some actions were taken against them (the accused), but nothing more happened afterwards.

Because sometimes the girls who called me did not mention their names... because they fear that if we mention their names, the coach will exclude them. The same thing happened in cricket -- everyone has gone silent out of fear.

DS: Are these incidents increasing because institutions fail to act?

ZRL: Yes, it is definitely increasing. First, the biggest issue, in my opinion, is that we are unable to bring the evidence forward. The victim cannot just claim to be a victim verbally. They need proof, right? When we cannot provide the proof... the accused gain an opportunity and others are encouraged, knowing the victims lack evidence.

DS: What's the way forward?

ZRL: In sectors like women's cricket, women's football, or whatever it is, the officials must be women, and the team management must be female. We do not lack good female organisers in Bangladesh, but we do not employ them. If you send a team abroad with a male manager, a girl might face many issues during the games. Will she speak openly about those issues to a male manager? Never. Every federation should mandate female officials with female athletes... And for influential officials involved, proven cases must lead to dismissal.

Joy, Shadman fuel Tigers' charge

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Sylhet

Two big partnerships shaped Bangladesh's batting performance on the second day of the first Test against Ireland in Sylhet on Wednesday and although the second one eclipsed the former by two runs at stumps, it was the 168-run opening stand between Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Shadman Islam that really set the tone.

After Ireland got rolled over for 286 early in the morning, Shadman and Joy turned up to the crease and dictated the proceedings on a placid wicket, notching up a century stand in just 20.4 overs.

While Shadman fell for 80, Joy not only carried on to get a ton, but surpassed his career-best score of 137 he had made against the Proteas in Durban in 2022.

He then formed an unbroken 170-run stand alongside Momimul Haque (80 not out), and ended the day unbeaten on 169 with Bangladesh 338 for 1, leading by 52 runs.

Joy and Shadman's stand was Bangladesh's highest opening partnership in Tests within the last 10 years, surpassing Tamim Iqbal and Joy's 162 against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2022.

Asked whether they sent a positive message in the red-ball format through this partnership following recent disappointing performances from the top-order in white-ball cricket, Shadman relayed that stringing together a big partnership was their main aim.

"A partnership always sends a good message. Partnership is very important in any format.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Whatever format we play in, good partnerships lead to a good score. That is our target," Shadman said yesterday.

"Joy and I were just talking about playing according to the ball and how the wicket was supporting us. When we started batting in the morning, there wasn't much help available. So,

we capitalised on the boundary balls," he added.

Shadman hoped Joy can notch up a double century and even surpass Mushfiqur Rahim's 219 against Zimbabwe -- the highest score by a Bangladeshi in Tests. "I hope he does it. The way Joy is batting, we can definitely expect him to make it even bigger," he said.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS PLAY-OFF

Bangladesh out to defy odds

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh face Pakistan today in the first of a three-match play-off series at Dhaka's Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, with the opening game set to begin at 2:00 pm. The series will determine Asia's sixth representative at the upcoming FIH World Cup Qualifiers.

Once a powerhouse of world hockey with four World Cup and three Olympic golds, Pakistan have struggled in recent years. Yet, as Bangladesh's Dutch coach Siegfried Aikman admitted, beating Pakistan remains a daunting task for his side.

At yesterday's press conference, held in a makeshift tent beside the stadium, most questions centred on Bangladesh's chances of an upset. Aikman, who has spent the past two and a half months coaching the U-21s for this month's Junior World Cup, is also guiding the senior team -- featuring seven players from that youth squad.

"We've prepared the best we can and are ready to play," he said, before acknowledging the "huge gap" between the two teams in terms of experience and pace.

Bangladesh have never beaten Pakistan, although they have occasionally pushed superior opponents close since the mid-1970s. In their most recent meeting at the

2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Bangladesh took an early lead before eventually losing 5-2.

Aikman called facing Pakistan "a huge challenge", noting that their recent qualification for the FIH Pro League had boosted their confidence. "They have skilful players, great experience," said the Dutchman, who previously coached Pakistan.

Asked if his insight into the opposition might help, Aikman smiled: "They know me too, so it'll be interesting."

Pakistan coach Muhammad Usman, meanwhile, anticipates a closely contested match. "Nobody can win easily. It is a competition," said Usman, who has stepped in for regular coach Tahir Zaman following his recent disagreement with the Pakistan Hockey Federation and reported resignation.

Who is that player?

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

Following Day 1 of the ongoing Sylhet Test between Bangladesh and Ireland on Tuesday, Ebabd Hossain and Khaled Ahmed -- unused squad members -- were doing laps around the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium alongside an unknown face wearing the national team's kit. His name is Rahin Ahmed, a local academy player who has been added to the mix to bulk up the 14-member Test squad after some injury scares. During Day 1, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Tajul Islam had to leave the field hurt for a time and substitute fielders had to step in. With only one more player left in the bench, the management felt the necessity of bringing in someone else as precaution -- hence Rahin was brought in.

"Since the NCL is going on, we didn't pick a big squad. It wasn't possible to bring in another Test player during first day's play," national selector Hasibul Hossain Shanto informed *The Daily Star*.

Rahin, a left-arm pacer, hails from Green Sylhet Academy and prior to this has bowled as a net bowler in national team's practice.

Friendly against Nepal to shape Bangladesh's India plans

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to find the right combination and fine-tune their strategy for the upcoming India fixture when they face Nepal in an international friendly at the National Stadium today.

The match kicks off at 8:00pm.

After being eliminated from the group stage of Asian Cup Qualifiers with two home defeats and two away draws, Bangladesh are now focused on restoring some pride in their remaining two



We could not beat Nepal for some years, I know it very well. Nepal are a very competitive side. We had an experience against them last September in Kathmandu where we were very competitive against them but did not get the win. Tomorrow [Thursday] is a very tough day but we are convinced of winning.

Bangladesh coach

JAVIER CABRERA

matches against India and Singapore. Head coach Javier Cabrera is expected to give as many players as possible some match time, as he looks to finalise his preferred eleven for the November 18 clash against India.

With midfielder Sheikh Morsalin ruled out through injury and Fahamedul Islam suspended, Cabrera is set to make a couple of changes to the starting eleven that earned a 1-1 draw in their last away match against Hong Kong last month.

Canada-based midfielder Shamit Shome joined the camp late and took part in one full training session, suggesting he may get some minutes against Nepal before the India match.

Cabrera's charges will also be wary of a motivated Nepal side, who have not lost to Bangladesh in their last five meetings since a 2-0 defeat at this very venue back in 2000.

The two sides last met in Kathmandu in September, playing out a goalless draw in a dull affair. This time, Cabrera is expected to make better use of set pieces against Nepal, who may themselves benefit from their familiarity with several Bangladeshi players -- eight members of their current national squad play in the Bangladesh Football League.

BONNA, HIMU AIMING FOR GOLD



Bangladesh's Bonna Akter and Himu Bachhar reached the final of the compound mixed team event at the 24th Asian Archery Championships at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Wednesday. The duo defeated South Korea 158-153 in the semifinals after earlier wins over Bhutan and Iran, sealing a dream run on home soil. They will face India's Abhishek Verma and Deepshikha in today's gold medal match, with hopes high for Bangladesh's first-ever compound archery title.

PHOTO: BAF

