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## Referendum, polls on same day, PR for upper house

Says Yunus in address to nation, July charter order issued

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government yesterday unveiled a set of key decisions, including holding the national election and the July charter referendum on the same day, and introducing an upper house to be formed through proportional representation.

In a televised address to the nation amid heightened political tension over issues related to July charter reforms, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said the referendum would ask a single question on implementing constitutional reforms.

The question, however, will encompass four constitutional reform areas.



2025.

The order dropped a proposed clause that would have automatically incorporated the changes into the constitution

if the next parliament, while acting as a Constitution Reform Council, failed to complete the reforms within a set timeframe.

It also shortened the council's deadline from 270 to 180 working days from its first session.

"I hope the political parties will accept this decision in the greater interest of the nation," Yunus said. "The nation will move towards a festive election. Through this, we will enter a new Bangladesh. We have arrived at the threshold of building a new Bangladesh."

The announcement drew mixed reactions from leaders of major political parties. Immediately after the chief

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### WHAT THE PARTIES SAY

#### BNP thanks Yunus for decision to hold referendum, polls on same day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday thanked Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus for confirming the February 2026 election plan and announcing that the July charter referendum will be held on the same day.

In a statement issued last night, the party said its Standing Committee, in a meeting chaired virtually by acting chairman Tarique Rahman from London, welcomed the announcement.

It also urged the government and the Election Commission to "hold both the referendum and the parliamentary polls as soon as possible".

Speaking to reporters at the party chairperson's Gulshan office after the meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir renewed the party's plea to avoid any delay in the polls.

At the meeting, member Salahuddin Ahmed briefed leaders on the differences between the July Charter signed by the BNP and the implementation order issued by the government.

However, several leaders expressed concern that taking the matter to court might be perceived as obstructing the national polls.

They shared their observations on the July



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#### Referendum must be before polls to make charter effective: Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher yesterday said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has created confusion by announcing that the national election and referendum would be held on the same day.

Condemning the announcement, Taher urged the chief adviser to withdraw it.

He said, "For the charter to be effective, the referendum must be held before the national election.

"But he has again created confusion by saying that the referendum and the election will be held together. We condemn this and call upon him to withdraw the statement."

Taher made the remarks at a press briefing on behalf of the eight-party alliance around 10:00pm last night, following a meeting at Jamaat's central office in Moghbazar.

Earlier in the evening, he held a meeting with the party's executive council members to review the chief adviser's address to the nation, and later joined another meeting at the same venue with leaders of the seven parties participating in the simultaneous movement based on five common demands.



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### KEY POINTS

- ▶ Implementation order excludes the proposed clause for automatic incorporation of the July charter into the constitution
- ▶ Constitutional Reform Council's deadline reduced to 180 working days from 270
- ▶ Upper house will be created within 30 working days from completion of July charter's implementation process
- ▶ It will be based on proportional representation of total votes received by political parties; its term will end on the same day as the lower house



### REFERENDUM YES OR NO



### THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT

*Do you consent to the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order, 2025, and the following proposals related to constitutional reforms mentioned in the July National Charter? (Yes/No)*

- a) The election-time caretaker government, the Election Commission, and other constitutional institutions will be formed in the light of the process set forth in the July charter.
- b) The next parliament will be bicameral. An upper house with 100 members will be formed in proportion to the votes received by the parties in the national parliamentary election. The approval of a majority of the upper house members will be required to amend the constitution.
- c) The parties that will win the next parliamentary election will be bound to implement the 30 proposals on different issues that include increasing women's representation in parliament, electing the deputy speaker and chairpersons of several parliamentary committees from the opposition, limiting the prime minister's term, enhancing the president's powers, fundamental rights, independence of the judiciary and local government, which were agreed upon by the political parties in the July National Charter.
- d) Other reforms mentioned in the July National Charter will be implemented as per the commitments of the political parties.

## ICT-1 sets Nov 17 for verdict in case against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal 1 yesterday announced that it will deliver its verdict in the case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides on November 17.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, fixed the date amid tight security and a packed courtroom.

After announcing the date within five minutes of the proceedings, the tribunal went into a 10-minute recess.

In the case, Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun are accused of crimes against humanity during last year's July uprising.

Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun later turned approver in the case.

The tribunal completed hearing arguments and concluded trial proceedings on October 23 before setting yesterday as the day to announce the date for judgement.

Security was beefed up around the tribunal since early morning. Members of the Bangladesh Army, Border Guard Bangladesh, Rapid Action Battalion, Armed Police Battalion and police were deployed, with armoured personnel carriers from both army and police stationed nearby.

The move came amid heightened tension, with the Awami League declaring a "lockdown" programme for the day, and incidents of crude bomb explosions and arson attacks on vehicles reported in the days leading up to yesterday.

After the trial proceedings, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters, "We hope the court will exercise its wisdom and prudence and do justice to the nation's long awaited quest for justice."

He added that the prosecution had sought the highest punishment for the accused. "Through a rightful judgment, the tribunal will bring an end to the crimes against humanity committed in Bangladesh and set a precedent for the future."



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#### EDITORS' COUNCIL Nurul Kabir new president, Dewan Hanif general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council has elected its new executive committee for the next two years, with New Age Editor Nurul Kabir as president and Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud as general secretary.

The election took place at the annual general meeting at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Ittefaq Editor Tasmima Hossain was elected vice president, while Suprohbat Bangladesh Editor Rusho Mahmud became assistant general secretary.

Five editors were chosen as executive members: The Daily Star's Mahfuz Anam, Manab Zamin's Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Prothom Alo's Matiur Rahman, Karatoa's Md Mozammel Haque and Inqilab's AMM Bahauddin.

The AGM was presided over by outgoing president

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Policemen stopping a car for inspection at a checkpost set up at Dhaka's Gabtoli yesterday morning. Law enforcement agencies have stepped up security measures across the capital in response to a recent spate of crude bomb and arson attacks in the city.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Arson, blockades in some districts No major incidents in Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The Awami League's daylong "lockdown" programme ended yesterday without any major untoward incident in Dhaka, though arson attacks and road blockades were reported in several districts.

Traffic in the capital was thinner than usual following arson and crude bomb attacks over the past few days. Police, army, and BGB personnel were heavily deployed across Dhaka.

The AL, whose activities are now banned, announced the programme to protest ICT-1's decision to set the date for delivering the verdict in a case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity.

The tribunal fixed November 17 for pronouncing the verdict.

Leaders and activists of the AL and its associate bodies were not seen on the streets in Dhaka. In some districts, crude bombs went off and vehicles were set ablaze.

On the other hand, leaders and activists of the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir took to the streets, vowing to resist the AL. Many carried sticks and plastic pipes, while a group of anti-AL activists set fire to the party's central office in Gulistan.

A number of AL leaders and activists were arrested across the country, including 43 in Dhaka, 27 in Narayanganj, and 33 in Kurigram.

In at least eight districts, buses, trucks, and pickup vans were torched, and a July Memorial was set on fire. AL men blocked roads by felling trees and burning tyres, causing sufferings to commuters.

In Faridpur, the party's activists blocked the Dhaka-Kulna highway for about five hours, disrupting traffic on

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## Turkey suspends C-130 flights after fatal plane crash

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey suspended flights by its C-130 military cargo planes as a precautionary measure a day after one crashed in neighbouring Georgia, killing all 20 people on board, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The plane crashed on Tuesday while returning home from Azerbaijan, with the victims' bodies due to be repatriated yesterday, the ministry said.

"Flights by our (C-130) planes have been suspended as of November 12, 2025," a ministry statement said, adding that operations would resume once all planes had undergone detailed technical inspections and safety checks.

The plane took off from Ganja airport in western Azerbaijan on Tuesday afternoon but crashed shortly after crossing the border into eastern Georgia, the ministry said at the time.

## Charter's legal basis

FROM PAGE 1

to obtain a proper legal mandate from the chief adviser before going to the next step."

In a 13-minute televised address to the nation in the afternoon, Yunus announced that the national election and the referendum on the July charter will be held on the same day, as part of the government's efforts to resolve the ongoing political crisis.

In an immediate response to Yunus's speech earlier, NCP Joint Convener Sarwar Tushar said, "The government must explain why the chief adviser cannot issue the [July charter implementation] order himself."

The chief adviser may have maintained legality, but questions remain over its legitimacy -- and doubts persist about how much legitimacy will be retained in the future."

NCP later called an emergency meeting of its policymakers around 5:00pm at its temporary central office in the capital's Banglamotor to discuss the order and various issues mentioned in the chief adviser's address to the nation. Along with the party's top leaders, those who were assigned responsibilities regarding the reforms also attended.

## Nurul Kabir, Hanif

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Mahfuz Anam. Newly incorporated members of the council include Shahed Mohammad Ali of Samakal, Inam Ahmed of The Business Standard, Hasan Hafiz of Kaler Kantha, Abu Taher of Bangladesh Pratinidhi and Md Rezaul Karim of Daily Sun.



Members congratulated the new committee and pledged to strengthen the council's activities through cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, newly-elected president Nurul Kabir said, "We will work tirelessly to ensure free, safe, and independent journalism."

Outgoing president Mahfuz Anam expressed hope that under the new leadership, the council would continue to work to uphold responsible journalism.

He called for steps to make the editorial institute more effective and emphasised that editors, remaining free from any influence, would continue to play a leading role in advancing Bangladesh's media.

## Arson, blockades in some districts

FROM PAGE 1

one of the country's busiest routes. They also burned tree trunks on the road, creating tailbacks on both sides.

In Pirojpur Sadar upazila, miscreants set fire to the Kadamtala branch of Grameen Bank early yesterday. Night guards managed to douse the fire with water and sand, preventing major damage, said branch manager Anisur Rahaman.

In Shariatpur's Jajira upazila, AL activists took position at five points along a 28-kilometre stretch of the main road around 6:00am. Several crude bombs exploded there, including near a police vehicle.

In Gopalganj, the Public Works Department office building and a Grameen Bank branch came under arson attack on Wednesday night.

Md Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star that miscreants hurled eight to nine petrol bombs at a vehicle parked in front of the PWD building's garage before fleeing.

A similar attack occurred at the Ulupur branch of Grameen Bank around the same time.

In Brahmanbaria, miscreants laid a plastic pipe on a railway track



This winter, vegetable fields in Rajshahi's Paba and Mohonpur upazilas have yielded a bumper harvest. Every day, traders collect fresh produce, including cauliflower, radish, cabbage, and bottle gourd, directly from the fields, package it by the roadside, and transport it to Dhaka. While business booms, traders quietly report a troubling trend of extortion, costing them an additional Tk 30 per maund. The photo was taken yesterday near Nowhata Haat in Paba upazila.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Referendum, polls on same day

FROM PAGE 1

adviser's address, some of them reacted sharply.

The BNP, in a statement after a meeting of its Standing Committee, said the committee thanked the chief adviser for the decision to hold the referendum and the election on the same day.

Earlier in the day, Salahuddin Ahmed, a member of the committee, criticised the process of forming the upper house, the Constitutional Reform Council, and the referendum question itself.

The Jamaat-e-Islami argued that holding the referendum and the national polls on the same day could spark fresh tensions instead of resolving the crisis.

The National Citizen Party said the charter had lost legitimacy since the implementation order was issued by the president, not the chief adviser.

### POLITICAL DIVISION

On October 28, the National Consensus Commission submitted its recommendations for implementing the July charter with two alternatives -- both involving a referendum and an implementation order. It left the timing of the referendum to the government's discretion.

But divisions among political parties deepened over the timing of the referendum, implementation order, PR system, notes of dissent and other issues.

On November 3, the government asked the parties to reach a consensus within a week, or else it would "act as necessary."

After the deadline expired, the government set the chief adviser's address for yesterday.

He then announced the decisions following an advisory council meeting earlier in the day.

### REFERENDUM

Yunus said the government had adopted important provisions to implement the July charter, including holding a referendum on its constitutional reform proposals and forming a Constitution Reform Council thereafter.

"After considering all matters, we have decided that the referendum will be held on the same day as the upcoming national parliamentary election, in the first half of February," he said, adding that this would make the process more festive and cost-effective.

In the referendum question, citizens will be asked if they approve the July charter's implementation order and proposed constitutional reforms listed in four sections below the question.

The four sections contain issues like the formation of the caretaker government, Election Commission, and other constitutional institutions, bicameral parliamentary system, parties' obligation to implement the agreed upon reform proposals, and the implementation of the other reforms as per the political parties' commitments.

Voters will answer "Yes" or "No" to the single referendum question.

Out of the 48 constitutional reform proposals included in the July charter, 30 have secured consensus among most parties, including the BNP, Jamaat, and NCP.

The remaining 18 proposals, mostly involving fundamental reforms, faced dissent from at least one major party.

The BNP formally registered its dissent on appointment of the chief adviser to the caretaker government; the formation of an upper house through proportional representation system; the authority of the upper house to amend the constitution; the eligibility of a party chief to serve simultaneously as prime minister; and the process to appoint the ombudsman, the public service commission, and the comptroller and auditor general.

The BNP supported holding the referendum on election day, while the Jamaat and its allies have launched protest programmes demanding that the referendum be held earlier. Their demands also included formation of the upper house through the PR system.

They have threatened an indefinite sit-in from November 16 if their demands are not met.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary has expressed solidarity with Jamaat.

### UPPER HOUSE

If the referendum yields a "yes" majority, the Constitution Reform Council will be formed with MPs to be elected in the upcoming election. They will take oath separately as council representatives on the same day as the swearing-in ceremony for parliament.

The upper house will be formed within 30 working days after the council completes the July charter's implementation process.

Its formation will be based on proportion to the votes received by each party in the national election and its term will end with that of the lower house.

The BNP has opposed forming the upper house based on vote share, preferring seat share in the lower house instead. Jamaat supports PR on shares of votes.

### IMPLEMENTATION ORDER

In one of the alternative ways presented for implementing the charter in its final days, the consensus commission had recommended putting the reform proposals in a bill and including the bill in the charter's implementation order.

It suggested the bill would automatically include the charter in the constitution if the reform council failed to complete the implementation process within 270 days.

The BNP had vehemently objected to the proposed clause, calling it "irrational, politically motivated, and absurd". It argued that no bill can become law without the president's assent after passage by parliament.

The party also questioned the legality

of the reform council's formation, noting that only the Election Commission is not constitutionally mandated to conduct elections for the formation of such bodies.

The president issued the order despite growing pressure from the Jamaat and NCP, who demanded legal recognition for the charter.

The NCP had specifically wanted the chief adviser, not the president, to issue the order. The party argued that it would have been a "people's order" if it had been issued by the chief adviser.

According to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, the advisory council approved the order earlier yesterday before Yunus signed and sent it to the president.

The order stipulates that the council will determine its own procedures, require a quorum of 60 members, and adopt reforms by majority vote.

The Speaker will chair the council and cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

### DIFFERENCES 'MINOR'

Yunus described the consensus on key reform proposals with "minor differences" on the others as a "historic achievement".

"The distance appears to be huge at first glance, which is not unusual in a democratic process. But in reality, the discord is not very deep," he said.

"There is no disagreement about the necessity, principles, and goals of reform," he added.

### FAIR, PARTICIPATORY POLLS

Yunus said political parties in favour of the uprising must remain united about holding a fair election because people have been deprived of their right to vote for almost one and a half decades.

They are eagerly waiting to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election.

"Otherwise, the nation will face great danger. I have expressed my apprehension about this several times before," he said.

He said the interim government has reached an "important juncture" in its term after being formed in August last year on the strength of the July uprising.

He reiterated that his government has three key responsibilities. These are to bring the perpetrators of July atrocities to justice, to arrange necessary reforms for transitioning to an accountable and effective democratic system, and to transfer power to an elected government through fair polls.

"We are taking all necessary preparations to ensure that the election is festive, participatory, and fair. We are working tirelessly to fulfill our entrusted duty properly," Yunus said.

Talking about the trial of key figures of the Awami League regime, he said, the International Crimes Tribunal is going to deliver its first verdict soon.

"At the same time, in a first for the country, we've started the trial of heinous crimes like enforced disappearances," he said.

them on the Dhaka-Chattogram railway tracks in Maheshpur area on Wednesday night.

A patrol team removed the obstruction, allowing uninterrupted train operations, said Feni Railway Station Master Md Harun.

In Barishal's Ujjipur upazila, two miscreants set fire to the BNP office in Ward 4 of Guthia Bazar early yesterday, said Shahin Hawlader, president of Guthia Union BNP.

Meanwhile, in Narayanganj's Araihazar, homes of BNP supporters were attacked and vandalised by miscreants. At least seven people were injured, according to police.

Araiha Police Officer-in-Charge Khandakar Nasir Uddin said the attack took place early yesterday.

In Thakurgaon, a police officer was threatened by a local BNP and Juba Dal leader over the release of four AL activists detained by police.

The incident occurred on Wednesday when the BNP and Juba Dal leaders went to the police station to demand their release.

Our correspondents in Faridpur, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Brahmanbaria, Barguna, Barishal, Narayanganj and Thakurgaon contributed to this report.

## Japan PM Takaichi says she sleeps only 2-4 hours a night

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said yesterday she only sleeps for between two and four hours every night, while she also faces criticism for encouraging people to overwork.

The revelation about how little she sleeps came after Takaichi raised eyebrows last week by arranging a 3:00 am staff meeting in her office to prepare for a parliamentary session.

"I sleep about two hours now, four hours at the longest. I feel it's bad for my skin," she told a legislative committee, where she had been asked about the importance of reducing Japan's notoriously long work hours.

Japan has long struggled to strike a healthy work-life balance, with many workers facing heavy pressure at the office. It even has a word -- "karoshi" -- for people who die from overwork.

Takaichi was also asked to explain her government's discussions about possibly extending the upper limit on overtime work in order to encourage economic growth.

She defended the discussion, saying that workers and employers have different needs. Some people choose to work two jobs to make ends meet, she said, while businesses impose strict limits on overtime.

## Internet freedom declines in US, Germany: study

AFP, Washington

Internet freedom declined in both the United States and Germany as Western democracies joined authoritarian states in imposing growing restrictions online, an annual survey by Freedom House said yesterday.

The Washington-based democracy promotion research group said global internet freedom fell for the 15th straight year, with declines in a number of countries that remain classified as "free."

"We find worsening repression in authoritarian and authoritarian-leaning states, largely because governments in those countries see restrictions on the internet and online expression as a means of maintaining power," said Kian Vesteinsson, the report's co-author.

"Much more specific to 2025, we've seen conditions in democracies declining," he told AFP.

"Unfortunately we see across North America and Western Europe generally a trend towards closing civic space in some countries, and in others deepening restrictions on people posting hateful or problematic content," he said.

The United States scored 73 on a scale of 100 on internet freedom in the year through May 2025 covered by the report, its lowest-ever figure and down three points from the previous

year.

The report pointed in part to the detention by President Donald Trump's administration of a number of non-US citizens over their online expression.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio has vowed to deport people over statements on Israel, decisions challenged in courts.

Germany also saw a decline of three points to 74. Freedom House said that Germany was seeing growing self-censorship and also the zealous enforcement of laws that prohibit hate speech and defamation.

It pointed to a suspended jail sentence and fine imposed on the editor of a far-right website over a social media post that included a manipulated image to criticize a politician.

The Trump administration has repeatedly criticized the free speech record of Germany, which says its Nazi past makes it critical to impose safeguards.

The most severe declines in the report were registered by Kenya, which briefly shut down the internet in response to nationwide protests, as well as Venezuela and Georgia.

Two countries were downgraded -- Serbia was classified as "partly free" instead of "free" and Nicaragua was marked as "not free" instead of "partially free."

## BNP thanks Yunus

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Charter while keeping the discussion "non-confrontational," said one participant, requesting anonymity.

"The ball is now in the government's court. There is no reason to create any trouble. The next parliament will be formed after the national polls," one committee member said during the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Salahuddin criticised the government's decisions, saying he objected to four aspects of the referendum ballot, the plan to form a Constitutional

## Dismembered body found in plastic drums near HC

### Police launch probe

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a dismembered body inside two plastic drums near the High Court in Dhaka yesterday.

The law enforcers identified the deceased as Md Ashraful, 42, an onion and garlic trader from Gopalpara village in Badarganj, Rangpur.

The discovery was made around 3:00pm when locals spotted the drums and informed police, said Khalid Monsur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

Initially, the victim's identity could not be confirmed, but later police verified it through fingerprint analysis, said Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police.

According to police, Ashraful had arrived in

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Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus with a group of winners of Bangladesh Television's 'Notun Kuri 2025' competition at Shapla Hall in the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday. Around 33,750 children registered for the competition and 73 children won this year's talent hunt programme in two age groups under 12 categories. Preyosi Chakrabarty of Tangail (Ka) and Shuvo Mita Talukder (Kha) of Sunamganj received awards from the chief adviser as champions.

PHOTO: PID

## Unhealthy lifestyle, stress fuelling diabetes surge

Experts say one in four adults may already be diabetic

#### TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Sumon Kabir (pseudonym), an employee at a private firm in the capital, leads a lifestyle familiar to many urban professionals.

His office has a canteen, but he often cannot eat there as he usually works outside during lunch hours. Instead, he relies on fast food.

Once back at work, Sumon spends most of his day in front of a computer, rarely taking breaks. His job also involves considerable stress.

"One day, my office arranged a diabetes test, and I reluctantly took part," he told The Daily Star recently. "I was shocked when the results showed that my blood sugar level was very high. I had no idea I had diabetes. Now I have to manage it carefully."

Health experts say lifestyles like Sumon's — marked by long hours of sitting, stress and unhealthy eating — are a direct path to diabetes.

Like him, thousands of people are developing diabetes due to poor lifestyle choices, unhealthy diets, stressful office environments and a lack of awareness, experts said.

According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), about 1.38 crore people in Bangladesh have diabetes. However, health experts believe the actual number is higher, posing a serious burden on the healthcare system and economy.

Amid the situation, Bangladesh, along with the rest of the world, is observing World Diabetes Day today. This year, the IDF has focused its campaign on "Diabetes and the Workplace" to raise awareness



among working populations.

The IDF introduced World Diabetes Day in 1991, and the United Nations recognised it officially in 2007.

#### RISE IN DIABETIC PATIENTS

In an article published by the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, Dr Faruque Pathan, director (academy) at Birdeem General Hospital, wrote that one in four adults in Bangladesh may now be diabetic.

If this estimate is accurate, the total number of patients could exceed three crores, he noted, warning that the situation will worsen if current trends continue.

Although he did not specify the data source, an association official said a 2018 nationwide survey of one lakh adults found that one in four was diabetic.

The rise is also reflected in hospital data. According to the association, the number of registered diabetic patients increased from 15.1 lakh in 2015-16 to 65 lakh in 2023-24.

National Professor AK Azad, president of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said although no recent nationwide data are available, the trend clearly shows a rapid rise.

He said around 50 percent of patients with diabetes are unaware of their condition, meaning the true number is likely much higher.

#### LIFESTYLE, FOOD HABITS TO BE BLAMED

At a press conference held yesterday at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital to mark World Diabetes Day, experts discussed the reasons behind the increase and possible preventive measures.

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## BNP, Jamaat rift helping AL regain ground

### Says Patwary

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary yesterday said the ongoing conflict between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami is creating an opportunity for the Awami League to regain political ground.

"Amid their disputes, Chuppu [Mohammed Shahabuddin] remains president, and attempts are now being made to have him sign the July Charter. If that happens, it will be unfortunate for the people of Bangladesh," he said at a discussion organised by Jatiya Krishak Shakti at NCP's central office in Dhaka's Banglamotro.

"On the other side, Sheikh Hasina is attempting to return to Bangladesh because of their disunity. If we fail to amend or reform the constitution now, the authoritarian structure of Sheikh Hasina's regime will keep trying to return," Patwary added.

Regarding the upcoming referendum, the NCP leader said the government and political parties should hold discussions to strengthen the Election Commission.

"Otherwise, if the referendum and national election are held on the same day, mismanagement by the EC could once again push the country into chaos," he warned.

## Unkept promises, impunity deepened crisis in the CHT

### Speakers tell discussion

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A long standing majoritarian mindset, decades of unfulfilled promises and a culture of impunity lie at the root of the crisis in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said the state's failure to recognise indigenous identity, ensure land rights, curb militarisation and deliver justice for killings, abductions and sexual violence has kept the region trapped in inequality even 27 years after the signing of the CHT Peace Accord.

The discussion was organised by the CHT Peace Accord Implementation Movement at the Dhaka Reporters' Union.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dhaka University Sociology Professor Khairul Chowdhury said the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti documented 2,668 Jumma victims of political and civil rights violations between 1998 and 2011, while the Kapaeeng Foundation recorded 6,494 victims from 2012 to 2024, totalling 9,162.

He said 3,34,488 acres of Jumma land were taken through leases, military expansion, forest declarations and tourism projects. Arson, looting, evictions and land grabbing over two decades point to systematic rights violations, he added.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the country's political culture was not founded on majoritarianism, as the Liberation War rejected that notion. "It is tragic that we have not learned that lesson," he said.

Over 9,000 Jumma victims documented since 1998

More than 3.34 lakh acres of Jumma land taken

Peace Accord remains largely unimplemented

UN-led probe, constitutional recognition stressed

Criticising the backlash against the chief adviser for using the word "indigenous" and its removal from textbooks, he said majoritarian thinking has reduced those outside the majority to "second-class citizens" both psychologically and politically.

Referring to the army's long experience in UN peacekeeping, he said, "If the army can help establish peace abroad, it should be able to do the same in a region under its own jurisdiction."

Journalist Sohrab Hossain said the rights guaranteed in the accord have eroded as the hill population was pushed into minority status, while extrajudicial violence, unresolved cases and land grabs under the guise of tourism have deepened the crisis.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda said successive governments have complicated the situation instead of recognising the rights of the 13 indigenous communities in the hills. Although the interim government promised a "new settlement", the reform commissions it formed excluded women and indigenous representatives, he added.

Women's Affairs Reform Commission Chief Shireen Huq said the biggest flaw of the Peace Accord was the absence of a time-bound implementation plan.

She called for documenting all violations, the immediate release of detained Bawm women, inheritance rights for hill women, constitutional recognition of indigenous people and improved maternal healthcare in the region.

Zakir Hossain, joint coordinator of the CHT Peace Accord Implementation Movement, presided over the discussion.



The Pipe Road in Old Dhaka's Mir Hazirbagh area has remained in a dilapidated state for a long time due to drainage problems. As a result, locals continue to suffer from persistent waterlogging and the hazards of navigating a road submerged in filthy, stagnant

## MIR HAZIRBAGH IN OLD DHAKA

# Pipe Road, a saga of daily struggle

#### HELEMUL ALAM

Anyone visiting the southern part of Pipe Road area will first encounter a filthy, muddy stretch of road. Only a few years ago, the area was busy and vibrant. Now, the road has become a nightmare for residents of Munshirbari in Mir Hazirbagh under DSCC ward 54, as it remains submerged in knee-deep dirty water for months.

Mohammad Ilias, a resident, said the road extends from Pipe Road on the western side, connecting Doyaganj-Jurain Railgate Road, to Mir Hazirbagh Khalpar.

About 450 metres of the road are severely damaged due to stagnant water.

"The road has been in this condition for about three years because the water cannot drain properly. After the construction of the adjoining Sahadat Sarak, the drainage flow from Pipe Road got blocked," he said.

He said water stood one to two feet deep for months and only began to recede slightly this week. "This road used to be important for residents travelling to Mir Hazirbagh Chowrasta and Khalpar," he added.

Monir Hossain, another resident, said, "I have been living here for 20 years, but for the last three years, we've been suffering because of this drainage problem. Whenever it rains, roadside shops go underwater."

He said the poor road conditions have disrupted gas supply and made it difficult for children to attend school. "Rickshaws avoid this road entirely," he added.

He also said stagnant water has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, leading to a rise in dengue cases.

Nipa Akhter, another resident, echoed him.

Mohammad Sohel, a restaurant owner in the area, said, "My restaurant sales have dropped drastically. I used to sell Tk 10,000-12,000 daily, but now I make only Tk 1,000-2,000. I cannot even pay rent or staff salaries."

"It is a huge challenge for anyone needing medical help — patients have to be carried by hand as no rickshaw or vehicle can pass through," he said.

Abdullah Al Amin, owner of a local pharmacy, said many residents are suffering from various illnesses due to the dirty, stagnant water.

"The most common problems are skin diseases and allergies. Diarrhoea is also common, and children frequently suffer from colds and coughs. Many need nebulisers because of thick mucus from constant respiratory issues," he said.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of DSCC zone 5 Md Luther Fakir said they have begun the road repair work recently.

It will be completed within the next year, he said, adding that once drainage and road repairs are done, the waterlogging issue will be resolved.

## 35th anniv of PKSF observed

### CITY DESK

Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation celebrated "PKSF Day 2025" at its Bhaban-1 in Agargaon, Dhaka yesterday as it completed 35 years of its journey, said a press release.

The event was presided over by PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan, with Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader delivering the welcome speech.

Zakir Ahmed Khan said over the past three and a half decades, PKSF has made remarkable contributions to poverty alleviation through employment generation.

Md Fazlul Kader reflected on the history of PKSF's establishment, saying that the government established the institution in 1990 based on entirely indigenous concepts and considering the advice of Dr Muhammad Yunus.

Among others, Deputy Managing Directors AQM Golam Mawla, Md Mashiar Rahman, Md Hasan Khaled, and Dr Akond Mohammad Rafiqul Islam spoke at the event.

In addition, PKSF officials from all levels participated in an open discussion titled "Our Commitment".

### Dismembered

FROM PAGE 3  
Dhaka from his village on Tuesday. He remained in contact with his family until around 9:00pm on Wednesday, after which they lost communication with him.

Law enforcers have collected CCTV footage from the surrounding areas and are talking to locals to gather clues.

"The motive behind the murder and those responsible are being investigated," the DC added.

### ACCOUNTING TUITION

Accounting tuition for O/A Level, ACCA, BBA, MBA, Shuvro- DU (Accounting). 01780484155

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### MEDICAL RECORDS OF HOSPITALISATION, CONSULTATION AND/OR TEST RESULTS DESTRUCTION

CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI (7/2 Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata - 700027)

The CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI is hereby declaring that we will be destroying the Medical Records related to visits and/or test results performed at CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI dated from April 2009 to 31st March 2015. Additionally, the Records of minor children at the time of treatment who are now 21 years & above are also scheduled for destruction. Medical Records destruction will be held 1 month from this notification. If any of the above information scheduled for destruction pertains to you and want us to provide the respective information, then please contact at Medical Records Department of CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI within 15 days from this notification before 5:00 pm with a signed consent and photo identity proof for the release of information.

For any queries, contact at 033-4090 4090. Ext. MRD (9 am - 5 pm).



PHOTO: STAR

### KALAPARA OF PATUAKHALI

## Mahipur fish landing station lies idle for 4 yrs

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Mahipur Fish Landing Station in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has remained idle for the past four years, since its inauguration in 2021.

Built at a cost of Tk 13 crore near the Bay of Bengal, the station has failed to attract local traders and fishermen, who have been reluctant to move their businesses there due to a lack of adequate space and poor planning.

The Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation launched the project in 2012 to establish two landing stations – one at Alipur on the southern bank and the other at Mahipur – on the banks of Shibbaria river near Kuakata to facilitate fish landing, preservation, processing, and marketing in coastal areas.

However, the Mahipur station's development faced several delays, including four years spent on land acquisition.

While the Alipur station has been bustling with activity since its opening, Mahipur remains largely abandoned. Locals and officials have cited a lack of coordination between the BFDC, fish traders, and local stakeholders, as well as insufficient space, as reasons for its inactivity.

Though 82 traders are officially registered at the Mahipur station, it can accommodate a maximum of 45 traders at a time. Additionally, only 20 trawlers can dock at its pontoon simultaneously, while around 2,000 trawlers operate under these traders.

Trawlers from Chattogram, Noakhali, and Barguna's Patharghata also unload their catch at Mahipur after returning from the sea. Approximately 200 wholesale traders and 800 workers are involved in the fish trade at Mahipur, creating a need for much larger operational space, said Monir Hossain, a Mahipur

based fish trader and owner of a fish depot in Cox's Bazar.

Raju Ahmed Raza, president of Mahipur Fish Traders' Association, said, "The BFDC constructed the infrastructure without consulting us. We're willing to shift there only if sufficient space is ensured for all traders."

Md Kamrul Islam, district fisheries officer in Patuakhali, said, "The station needs to be expanded so every trader gets a place to run their business smoothly."

Rafiqul Islam, station manager of Mahipur Fish Landing Station, said the feasibility study conducted in 2009 was based on a much smaller number of traders and trawlers.

"The number has since increased severalfold. I've been communicating with higher authorities to find a solution, but expansion is difficult due to high land prices and unavailability of land nearby," he added.

## MA Rab's anniversary of death today

### CITY DESK

Today is the 50th death anniversary of Maj Gen (retd) MA Rab, Bir Uttam, chief of staff of Liberation Forces and first honorary managing director of "Mukt Joddha Kalyan Trust", said a press release.

His relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### Death anniv of Akhtaruzzaman

### CITY DESK

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, a former deputy general manager of Janata Bank, said a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence in the capital after the Asr prayers today. Prayers will also be offered at his grave in Banani.

His relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

PRAYER TIMING				
NOVEMBER 14				
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:30	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Juri river turned into a dumping ground

### MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The Juri river, which flows through Juri upazila town in Moulvibazar, is being choked by continuous dumping of garbage and medical waste from nearby markets and clinics.

Once a clean and vibrant waterway, it is now heavily polluted and losing its natural flow due to reckless human activities.

Bhabaniganj and Kaminiganj markets, situated on both banks of the river, have practically turned it into an open dumping ground. Traders and residents routinely throw solid waste from shops, households and private hospitals and diagnostic centres into the water, causing severe pollution.

The century-old Shishu Park Bridge, built during the British era to connect the two markets, has become a hotspot for indiscriminate waste

disposal.

"There's no designated garbage disposal site in town, so people have no choice but to throw waste into the river," said Habibur Rahman, a trader at Bhabaniganj Bazar.



Nurul Ambia, general secretary of the Kaminiganj Bazar Businessmen's Association, said traders have long requested a dumping ground but received no

response from the authorities.

Environmental experts say the growing amount of plastic and medical waste poses serious risks to aquatic life and human health.

Dr MA Aziz, professor of zoology at Jahangirnagar University, warned that plastics break down into microplastics, which are consumed by fish and eventually enter the human body. "If this dumping continues, the Juri river could soon lose its ability to sustain life," he said. "Protecting the river is not optional, it's a necessity for our survival."

Upazila Sadar Union Parishad Chairman Hazi Masum Reza said discussions are ongoing to set up a waste management site, but a lack of suitable land remains a major obstacle.

### Expression of Interest for International Consultant on Interreligious Dialogue, Resilience Building and CVE

Sub-Project 13032 under the HEAT project is accepting expression of interest for the position of International Consultant. For details, please visit <https://surl.lt/ofhsyd>

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : ৫০ ডিওসি, বারিশাল সেনানিবাস, বারিশাল।  
 ২। কাজের বিবরণ : ডিভিশন এর ৫০ ডিওসি এর নেটুনিভিক ব্যায়, প্রশিক্ষণ সহায়ক সাময়িক ত্বরণ এবং স্টেশনারী ত্বরণ বাবদ।  
 ৩। দরপত্র বিতরণের তারিখ : ১৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৫।  
 ৪। দরপত্র বিতরণের শেষ তারিখ : ১৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫।  
 ৫। দরপত্র খেলা তারিখ ও সময় : ১৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৫।  
 ৬। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ভিজিট করুন : [www.army.mil.bd](http://www.army.mil.bd)

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৭৩

মেজর  
অধিনায়ক

৫০ ডিওসি

বারিশাল সেনানিবাস

বিডি-২৪১৮

বিডি-১৪১৮





# MBA ADMISSION TEST

for Full Time & Part Time Programs | Session: 2025-2026

## Required Academic Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 (in a 4.00 point scale) or Second class.
- Minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 5.00 (or Second division) in both SSC and HSC exams separately.
- Minimum GPA of 2.00 in both O' Level and A' Level separately. For details, please visit our admission portal.
- No Third division/class at SSC/HSC/ Bachelor's level of education.
- In order to be eligible for the test, an applicant must obtain published official result of his/her Bachelor's degree on or before **November 27, 2025**. An applicant obtaining his/her result at a later date shall be considered disqualified from the admission process.
- MBA Admission Test (2025-2026) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held on **Friday, December 5, 2025 at 10:00 am**.
- The test has two components- Written test and Interview. The written test component evaluates applicant's aptitude in English Language & Communication, Mathematics and Analytical Ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the written test. After qualifying in the written test, short listed applicants must appear before an interview board.
- An applicant with a foreign nationality and foreign university degree(s) may be exempted from taking the written test if s/he has a GMAT/GRE score of minimum 75 percentiles. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.
- For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O' Level and A' Level), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, the applicant shall not be eligible to apply for the admission test.
- An applicant with a degree from any university/program not approved by the UGC is not eligible to apply for the admission test.
- Total application fee is BDT 2,080 (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Thursday, November 27, 2025** For detailed application procedure, please visit: [www.mba.iba-du.edu](http://www.mba.iba-du.edu)
- For further information, please call at 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm on any working day till **Thursday, November 27, 2025**.

## Director

Institute of Business Administration  
University of Dhaka

GD-2419

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Commerce  
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-I  
Office of the Project Director  
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayan Bhaban,  
71-72 Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000

Date: November 12, 2025

Memo No: 26.00.0000.066.07.048.24(1)-

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTING FIRM (National)

- The Ministry of Commerce is implementing the Technical Assistance Part of IDA financed Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1.
- The Procuring Entity intends to apply a part of the IDA Credit for procuring consulting firms for the following services: Package No. SD-43: An Integrated Study to Achieve the Goals and Objectives of National Tariff Policy 2023 of Bangladesh. The required qualifications and experiences of the firm are as follows:
  - The consulting firm must possess the legal capacity to enter into a contractual agreement with the project authority, confirming their ability to engage in business activities in accordance with local and international laws.
  - The firm should have a minimum of 7 (seven) years of experience in providing consulting services, including at least 3 (three) years focused specifically on national and/or international trade/tariff-related research or studies for both public and private sectors. This experience should showcase a robust understanding of trade dynamics and the ability to deliver effective consulting outcomes.
  - The consulting firm must have successfully completed at least 2 (two) study contracts related to "Trade and Tariffs" issues within the past 10 years. These projects can be for the public sector, private sector, or development partners, and should highlight the firm's capability to deliver quality research and actionable recommendations.
  - Experience in working with tariff policy formulation and analysis will be considered a significant advantage. The firm should demonstrate knowledge of the complexities involved in tariff structures and their impact on trade and economic development consequences of various trade and tariff related policies.
  - The firm having a proven track record in economic modeling, particularly in relation to trade and/or tariff impacts will be given a preference. This experience should include the ability to utilize quantitative techniques and analytical tools to assess the potential economic consequences of various existing trade and tariff related policies and proposed policy reforms.
  - The firm should have experience in managing and implementing projects funded by development partners, showcasing their ability to work collaboratively in multi-stakeholder environments and adhere to donor requirements.
  - A detailed capacity statement should be provided, outlining the firm's available training facilities, IT equipment, logistics support, transport, and office space. This will demonstrate the firm's readiness to undertake the project efficiently and effectively.
  - The firm must submit an undertaking that it has not been blacklisted or debarred by any government organization or by the International Development Association (IDA), ensuring their compliance with ethical business practices.
  - A comprehensive list of key professional staff, including the proposed core team for the assignment, should be provided. This list must detail the qualifications and experience of each team member, highlighting the projects or assignments they have previously worked on, their specific roles in those assignments, and the duration of their engagement. This information will help assess the expertise available for the project.
  - Averaging Taka 1.00 (Taka one crore) crore over the past three years.
  - The Scope of Services / Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Consulting Firm for the package is available in the office of the undersigned and also at [www.minc.gov.bd](http://www.minc.gov.bd) and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd/>.
  - The interested consulting firm must submit the following documents with its Expression of Interest:
    - 4.1 Updated Trade License valid up to June 30, 2026, 4.2 TIN Certificate & Update Income Tax Clearance Certificate/ Evidence, 4.3 VAT Registration Certificate, 4.4 Firm Registration certificate, if any, 4.5 Bank Solvency Certificate, 4.6 Audited Accounts for last 03 Years, 4.7 A written undertaking that the Firm/Institute has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Government Organization & IDA and 4.8 All supporting documents to prove that they have required qualifications and experiences.
  - The Project Implementation Unit of BRCP-1, MoC on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The attention of interested Consulting firms is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers. Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address given below during office hours between 09:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in written form - one original & one copy in sealed envelope to the address given below in person or by mail by 2:00 p.m. on November 27, 2025.
  - The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

*S. 12-11-25*  
(Shajila Tasmin)

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce  
and Project Director (Additional Charge),  
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-I [Part-2]  
Phone: +8802- 55138022  
E-mail: pdbrcp1moc@gmail.com

GD-2420

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Office of the Mirkadim Paurashava

District: Munshiganj.

Date: 10/11/2025

#### e-Tender Notice (OTM) No: 01/2025-26

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

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Name of the work	Tender Document Last Selling Date & time	Closing and Opening Date & time
1	1163874	LGCRPP/Mirkadim/2025-2026/W-05	(1) Construction of RCC Drain (With Slab) starting from Poscimpura Mr. Abdul Kader Mia House to Mr. Moni House (Ch-0+0.00-0+125.00); Link:-i Mr. Joynal Mia House to Mr. Shahin Mia House(Ch-0+0.00-0+70.00) in Ward no - 05 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Total=Ch-0+0.00-0+195.00). (2) Upgrading of RCC Road starting from Poscimpura Mr. Abdul Kader Mia House to Mr. Moni House(Ch-0+0.00-0+125.00); Link:-i Mr. Joynal Mia House to Mr. Shahin Mia House(Ch-0+0.00-0+70.00) in Ward no - 05 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Total=Ch-0+0.00-0+195.00). (3) Construction of RCC Drain (With Slab) starting from Uttorkagojipara Mosque to Mr. Joynal Master House in Ward no - 07 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Ch-0+0.00-0+120.00). (4) Upgrading of Uni-Block Road starting from Uttorkagojipara Mosque to Mr. Joynal Master House in Ward no - 07 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Ch-0+0.00-0+120.00).	26.11.25 Time: 16:00	27.11.25 Time: 13:00
2	1163886	LGCRPP/Mirkadim/2025-2026/W-06	(1) Construction of RCC Drain (With Slab) starting from Noidhigir Pathor Rikabi Bazar High School Near Mr. Mollah Shop to Mr. Mohammad House via Mr. Humayon House(Ch-0+0.00-0+185.00); Link:-i Poscimpura Graveyard(Ch-0+0.00-0+55.00) in Ward no - 06 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Total=Ch-0+0.00-0+240.00). (2) Upgrading of RCC Road starting from Noidhigir Pathor Rikabi Bazar High School Near Mr. Mollah Shop to Mr. Mohammad House via Mr. Humayon House(Ch-0+0.00-0+185.00); Link:-i Poscimpura Graveyard(Ch-0+0.00-0+55.00) in Ward no - 06 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Total=Ch-0+0.00-0+240.00). (3) Construction of RCC Drain (With Slab) starting from Bastola Mr. Hasem House to Mr. Mostafa Master House in Ward no - 04 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Ch-0+0.00-0+80.00). (4) Upgrading of Uni-Block Road starting from Bastola Mr. Hasem House to Mr. Mostafa Master House in Ward no - 04 at Mirkadim Paurashava, Munshiganj Sadar, Munshiganj. (Ch-0+0.00-0+80.00).	26.11.25 Time: 16:00	27.11.25 Time: 13:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration to the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*10/11/2025*  
(Mohammad Quayum Chowdhury)  
Executive Engineer  
Mirkadim Paurashava.

GD-2421



## আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিঃ

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

সরকারি নির্দিষ্ট  
তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি  
আগমনিক  
নির্গতি

ISO 9001:2015, ISO: 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified Management System.

Date: 13/11/2025

## Career Opportunity

Memo No: 27.25.1233.000.211.11.0003.18 (Ad-2).1607

1. Executive Director (Planning & Development), (01 Post)	1. Executive Director (Finance), (01 Post)
<b>2. Job Description:</b> The Executive Director (Planning & Development) is one of the members of the management of the Company who reports through the Managing Director to the Board of Directors. He/She is responsible for technical studies, planning, development of projects, policies and strategies, engineering, construction, supervision of all the running & upcoming projects of the company. He is also responsible for providing proper assistance to the Managing Director for ensuring timely completion of the project, financing and compliance issues of the projects.	<b>2. Job Description:</b> The Executive Director (Finance) is one of the members of the management of the Company who reports through the Managing Director to the Board of Directors. He/She is responsible for financial planning and analysis, financial forecasts for future business growth, debt management, accounting management, MIS preparation, Public Issue Management related activities and ensuring that the company operates within the legal framework of the country. Forge strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders of the company to win support for the Company's growth initiatives.
<b>3. Educational Qualification and Requirement</b> (a) At least graduate in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering from any recognized university/ institute. (b) Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable; (c) In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector; (d) In case of State-owned companies (SOCs) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector; (e) In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority; (f) At least 5 years of work experience in planning or project management/relevant field of generation/transmission/ distribution utilities. (g) Must demonstrate skill in the preparation of DPP, PPP Projects. (h) Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations, PPA and PPR, etc. (i) Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in company law, labor law, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Management (TPM), Corporate Governance, Strategic Management, etc.; (j) Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in Corporate Management; (k) Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely and convincingly for the intended audience; (l) Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management; (m) Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.	<b>3. Educational Qualification and Requirement</b> (a) At least MBA/MCom in Finance/Accounting from any recognized university. Professional qualification such as ACA/ACMA will be counted as an added advantage. (b) Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable; (c) In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector; (d) In case of State-owned companies (SOCs) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector; (e) In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority; (f) Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations, PPA and PPR, etc. (g) Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in business laws, labor law, Tax/VAT Laws, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Management (TPM), Corporate Governance, Strategic Management, etc.; (h) Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in Corporate Management; (i) Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely and convincingly for the intended audience; (j) Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management; (k) Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.
<b>4. Age:</b> Between 45-60 years of age as on 13-11-2025.	
<b>5. Tenure of Appointment:</b> The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years. It can be extended for two more terms of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.	
<b>6. Salary &amp; Allowances:</b> Basic pay Tk. 1,49,000/- (One lac forty-nine thousand) per month plus house rent 50% of basic pay. 2 (two) festival bonuses. Boishakhi allowance (20% of basic) per year, gratuity, contributory provident fund, group insurance, leave encashment, reimbursement of medical expenses and other fringe benefits will be admissible as per provisions of the Company's Rules/Policies/Provisions. He/She will also be entitled to full-time transport with fuel and driver. Income tax shall be paid by the incumbent.	
<b>7. Submission of Application:</b> (a) Candidates should apply in prescribed application form which is available in APSCL website: <a href="http://www.apsc.gov.bd">www.apsc.gov.bd</a> and should attach necessary documents as described in the form. Hard copy of the application must be reached on or before 07/12/2025 (within 5:00 PM BST) (need not any attestation). Candidates passed from foreign university(s)/institute(s) should have equivalent result and certificate from competent authority. (b) Candidates still serving in GoB/SOE's/Autonomous bodies/SOCs should attach an NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the authority. (c) Application (hard copy) must be submitted within office hours to the Deputy General Manager (HR & Admin), Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCL), Navana Rahim Ardent (Level-10), 185 Shahid Sayed Nazrul Islam Sarani, Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka-1000.	
<b>8. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. No fee is required for submitting this application. No TA/DA will be given for participating in the interviews.</b>	
<b>9. The authority of APSCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.</b>	

*13.11.2025*  
(Mohammad Anamul Haque)  
Deputy General Manager (HR & Admin)  
Email: [dgmhradmin@apsc.org.bd](mailto:dgmhradmin@apsc.org.bd)  
Phone: 01730026789

# These are trying times, you need to let us work: Shihab Shaheen

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

With the web film 'Tomar Jonno Mon', director Shihab Shaheen has crafted yet another bittersweet and relatable love story—this time featuring the acclaimed pair of Yash Rohan and Tanjim Sayara Totini. The director, known for his mastery in subverting audience expectations, speaks to *The Daily Star* about the project, his upcoming work, and more.

**How did you come up with the concept of 'Tomar Jonno Mon'?**

I had this image in mind of two people sitting morosely beside a coffin on a pickup truck. It stayed with me for a long time, and I had been waiting for the right opportunity to bring it to the screen.

Was the pairing of Yash and Totini your

first choice to lead the web film?

I don't develop a concept with any specific actors in mind—I focus solely on the story. That being said, I truly applaud Yash and Totini for bringing the characters of Piul and Raonak Hazari to life. It was a challenging task, especially considering the semi-rural setting and dialect.

**Rising actor Arefin Zilani, in my opinion, was a standout in the film. How did you come up with his character?**

(Laughs) I have to give partial credit to Chorki for that discovery. Zilani is extremely hard-working and made that comic relief character memorable through his own talent. I wanted to shed light on hypocritical people—those who think highly of themselves but, in reality, never extend a helping hand to others.

Which of your projects are

next in line for release?

*Myself Allen Swapna 3* and *Golam Mamun 2* will be released very soon!

**I'll give you the floor to say anything you'd like.**

I just want to tell the audience that these are truly trying times. It has become increasingly difficult to enjoy—or even produce—any form of entertainment or art.

So, I ask everyone to have faith in us and allow us to continue our work.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## ADELE to make acting debut in new Tom Ford film

Adele is set to transition from music to acting with her debut role in Tom Ford's upcoming film.

The Grammy-winning singer will join an impressive cast that includes Nicholas Hoult, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Colin Firth, Paul Bettany, and *Adolescence* breakout star Owen Cooper in *Cry to Heaven*.

The film is based on Anne Rice's 1982 novel, which unfolds in the 18th-century world of the castrati—male singers who were castrated to maintain their high-pitched voices.

Tom Ford will serve as the director, producer, and screenwriter for the project. However, the specific roles of Adele and her co-stars remain under wraps.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?



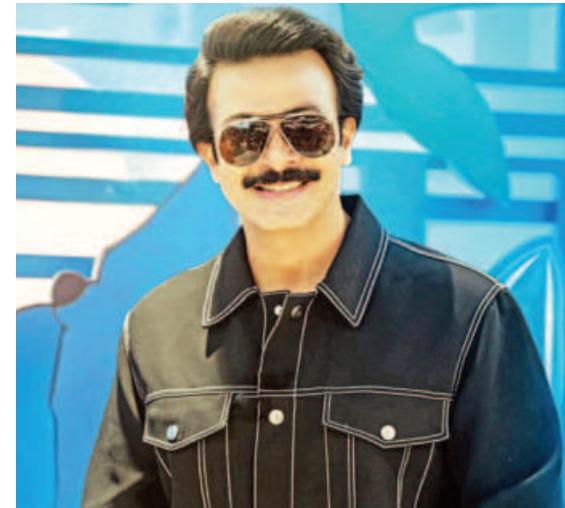
#### Legends Live in Dhaka'

For the first time, two South Asian rock icons—Pakistan's Ali Azmat and Bangladesh's James—share the stage in a historic cross-border concert. *Legends Live in Dhaka* celebrates the spirit of rock, unity, and musical rebellion that shaped generations across borders.

Date: Friday | November 14, 2025

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: United Convention Centre, Dhaka Tongi Highway



## Shakib Khan to star as 'rockstar' in new romantic film

Acclaimed actor Shakib Khan has signed a new film with Sun Music and Motion Pictures, slated for release during Eid-ul-Azha 2026. While currently busy shooting his action project *Soldier*, the Dhallywood superstar has officially signed this second big-budget film.

The project will mark the feature debut of Azman Rusho, a prominent advertising director known for his acclaimed commercial work. While the film's title and female lead remain undisclosed, producers confirmed it will feature several new faces.

Shakib will begin shooting this new production after completing *Prince*. The story has already been finalised, marking a significant addition to Shakib Khan's upcoming slate of films and building anticipation among audiences ahead of the festive release.

# NEWS

## Judge's son 'strangled to death' 9 assaulted, handed over to police

FROM PAGE 16

sharp weapon.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police's Deputy Commissioner (CTTC) Gaziur Rahman said that a sharp weapon had been recovered. "It's not an ordinary kitchen knife. He must have brought it with him beforehand," he added.

He said according to the initial inquest report, it is suspected that the judge's son was likely strangled to death, as marks were found on his neck. There were also two injuries below his knees, but those are not believed to be the cause of death.

He further said that the assailant entered the flat and was talking with the judge's wife. At one point, an argument broke out, and the attacker pulled out a knife.

Seeing this, the judge's wife ran into a room and locked herself in. As the assailant tried to break the door, the judge's son, who was sleeping in a nearby room, came out and confronted the suspect. During a scuffle, the attacker allegedly strangled the son.

The house help managed to run out and alert the neighbours, said Gaziur.

He added that during a recent visit to her son-in-law's home in Sylhet, the victim's mother, Tasnim, met a young man named Limon.

Disturbed by his behaviour, she filed a General Diary (GD) with Jalalabad

## Referendum

FROM PAGE 1

Taher said, "The chief adviser gave two flimsy reasons—that holding the election and referendum together would save some money. Yes, it may save a little, but state budgets are meant for national needs. The expenditure in this case is negligible compared to the benefits to the nation."

He added that the eight parties will explain today why the chief adviser must withdraw his announcement to hold the two events on the same day.

Taher further said, "We had hoped the chief adviser's address would help resolve the political stalemate surrounding the election and other demands, bringing relief to the nation. But after analysing the speech, it cannot be said that the nation's expectation for relief and clarity has been fulfilled."

He also announced that as part

of the eight-party simultaneous movement, protest rallies will continue across the country today to press home their five-point demands.

When asked about Dhaka's specific programme for the day, Taher said the details would be announced at today's press conference.

Meanwhile, in an instant reaction to CA's address, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said the decision to hold the national election and the referendum on the same day could trigger a new political crisis.

By announcing the national election and the referendum on the same day, the government has ignored the people's demand. We want to make it very clear that this announcement has not fulfilled the aspirations of the people," Porwar also told reporters at a press conference at the party's central office in Dhaka's Moghbazar.

FROM PAGE 16

holding a fair and credible election would not be possible without their cooperation.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin, in his opening remarks, said all 54 registered political parties are equal in the eyes of the commission, regardless of their size or influence.

"We want to act as a neutral referee. Without your cooperation, it will be difficult to play that role or to ensure a fair election. If the main players do not cooperate, the election will become questionable."

Addressing the timing of the dialogue, the CEC said political leaders had long been engaged in discussions with the National Consensus Commission on electoral reform. "If we had held simultaneous talks with the parties, it would not have been practical. That's why we waited."



Protesters beat up a rickshaw-puller and hand him over to police, accusing him of being an Awami League supporter. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the AL party office in Gulistan.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

leader of NCP.

This newspaper tried to contact her over the phone for comment several times, but she did not receive calls.

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of DMP's Ramna Division, identified the woman, who was beaten at Dhanmondi 32, as Salma Akhter. He said she often visits places linked to the AL on different occasions to create chaos.

Yesterday, she was beaten after

reportedly chanting the "Joy Bangla" slogan.

An officer from Dhanmondi Police Station, who wished to remain anonymous, told this correspondent that no action was taken against those who carried out the assaults on the suspected AL operatives.

"It was like a mob. The current situation is not favourable to taking action against them," he said.

When asked why the police did

not take action against those who checked people's phones and beat up the suspected AL activists, DMP spokesperson Talebur Rahman said they were unaware of any such incident.

Meanwhile, in front of the Awami League's central office in Gulistan, several groups, including July Joddha, Inquilab Moncho, and Islami Chhatra Shibir, gathered from morning, chanting slogans and attempting to remove terracotta designs from the building's facade. A banner of Dhaka South Islami Chhatra Shibir was seen hanging in front.

Around 1:00pm, a group of agitators entered the office building and set fire to the fourth floor after piling up wood, cartons, and other materials, police said. Witnesses added that protesters questioned several people in the area and handed at least two of them over to police.

Around 1:30pm, the group identifying themselves as "July Joddha" beat up a rickshaw-puller named Mohammad Babu on suspicion of being an AL supporter.

He was dragged into a nearby market and beaten unconscious, witnesses said, adding that even as police tried to take him into a vehicle, the attackers struck him again.

Moniruzzaman, an inspector (investigation) of Paltan Police Station, said four people were taken to the police station from the Gulistan area, including the two detainees handed over by protesters.

Decision on referendum after formal instructions: CEC

The Election Commission will decide on the referendum only after receiving formal instructions from the government, the CEC told reporters near the end of the dialogue.

Regarding the chief adviser's address, mentioning that the national election and the referendum on the July charter would be held on the same day, the CEC said he had not heard the speech and therefore could not comment.

"I was present at a dialogue, and I did not know what exactly was said or in what context. Since I did not hear it, it would not be appropriate to comment without knowing the details."

"Once we are formally informed, we can review, discuss, and provide our opinion in consultation with all involved."

## Some parties slam EC over RPO changes

FROM PAGE 16

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Addressing the timing of the dialogue, the CEC said political leaders had long been engaged in discussions with the National Consensus Commission on electoral reform. "If we had held simultaneous talks with the parties, it would not have been practical. That's why we waited."

The CEC also urged parties to strictly follow the code of conduct. "If anyone stubbornly refuses to comply, it will create confrontation. We don't want conflict with anyone."

Referring to the large number of posters now covering Dhaka city, the CEC said, "We have already banned posters. These must be removed. Once the schedule is announced, we will take strong action."

Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarkar said restoring public trust is the commission's biggest challenge, echoing the CEC's remark that it cannot ensure a fair election without cooperation from political leaders.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan said the candidate deposit should be reduced to Tk 10,000 so elections are not limited to the wealthy.

Biplabi Workers' Party General

Secretary Saiful Haque said the EC should have consulted parties before proposing amendments to the RPO and urged it to remain firm on delivering an election free from any kind of influence.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidium member Lt Gen (retd) Chowdhury Hasan Sarwary said voter safety remains a concern across the country and urged the authorities to ensure security before announcing the election schedule.

In the morning session, the EC talked with LDP, Bangladesh Congress, Bangladesh Muslim League, National People's Party, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, and Jamiatul Ulama Islam.

The afternoon session included the CPB, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Biplabi Workers' Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front, and Bangladesh Nationalist Movement.

# STIGMA, STRESS, SUGAR SPIKES

## Diabetes at work is a real thing

**Diabetes was once seen as an "old person's disease," but that myth has collapsed. Today, many Bangladeshi professionals in their 20s and 30s are being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, struggling to manage it amid long hours, stress, deadlines, and workplaces that leave little room for self-care.**

The 2025 World Diabetes Day sub-campaign, "Diabetes and the Workplace," highlights this growing crisis and while offices must adapt, diabetic employees also need practical strategies to stay healthy in environments not built with them in mind.

**YOUNGER, BUSIER, SICKER**  
"Diabetes is no longer an old person's disease," says endocrinologist Dr Marufa Mustari. She points to screen addiction, late nights, processed food, and long hours of sitting as the real culprits. A decade ago, her youngest Type 2 patients were in their mid-40s. Now, many are under 30.

Dr Mirza Sharifuzzaman, Associate Professor at Dhaka Medical College, adds that even children and teenagers are now being diagnosed. "Urbanisation, inactivity and poor diets are pushing diabetes into younger age groups."

For young professionals, this creates a

### ALL FOUR SPECIALISTS STRESS THAT WORKPLACES MUST BECOME ALLIES

- » Flexible meal timings
- » Private space for glucose checks
- » Low-oil, low-carb canteen options
- » Movement breaks
- » Screening camps
- » Zero stigma

perfect storm: long workdays, no breaks, and energy crashes dismissed as "just stress." In reality, these are early signs of metabolic dysfunction.

#### STIGMA IN THE OFFICE

Several doctors highlight one uncomfortable truth: many diabetic employees hide their condition. They fear being seen as weak, "high-maintenance," or less promotion-ready. This secrecy leads to skipped glucose checks, pushing meals, or ignoring symptoms like thirst, sudden fatigue, or blurred vision.

"People overlook the earliest symptoms because they're nonspecific," says Prof Dr Kazi Shahnoor Alam, Head of Nephrology at Mitford Hospital. "Fatigue, frequent urination and infections appear early, but most people dismiss them as stress." That dismissal often delays care. Kidney disease, for example, develops silently. "By the time symptoms show, the damage is often advanced," he warns.

#### THE BURNOUT LOOP

Diabetes isn't just physical. It carries a heavy mental load. Constant monitoring, meal schedules, medication, and fear of complications weigh on the mind, and workplace pressure pushes many into diabetes burnout, a recognised state of exhaustion. "Stress and poor sleep can significantly worsen blood sugar control," says Dr Mustari. Dr Sharifuzzaman adds that many patients delay care until complications like retinopathy or neuropathy appear because they "don't have time." Burnout at work disrupts glucose control, triggering symptoms that fuel even more stress. It is a cycle that steadily erodes both productivity and mental well-being.

#### THE HEART TAKES A HIT TOO

"You need to do more than exercising for a healthier heart," warns cardiologist Prof Dr

A.F. Khabir Uddin Ahmed. Young diabetic professionals who sit all day face increased cardiac risk even if they appear muscular or slim. He emphasises that diabetics must control both blood sugar and cholesterol: "They're interconnected. You can't protect the heart by treating sugar alone."

What workplaces must do — and what diabetics CAN do

But diabetic employees also have agency. They can take steps today, even in imperfect work environments:

**Protect your meal schedule:** Use reminders, carry small snacks, and don't skip meals for meetings.

**Move every hour:** Refill water, stand during calls, or take the stairs to keep glucose stable.

**Monitor regularly:** Do discreet glucose checks before long meetings or after stressful tasks.

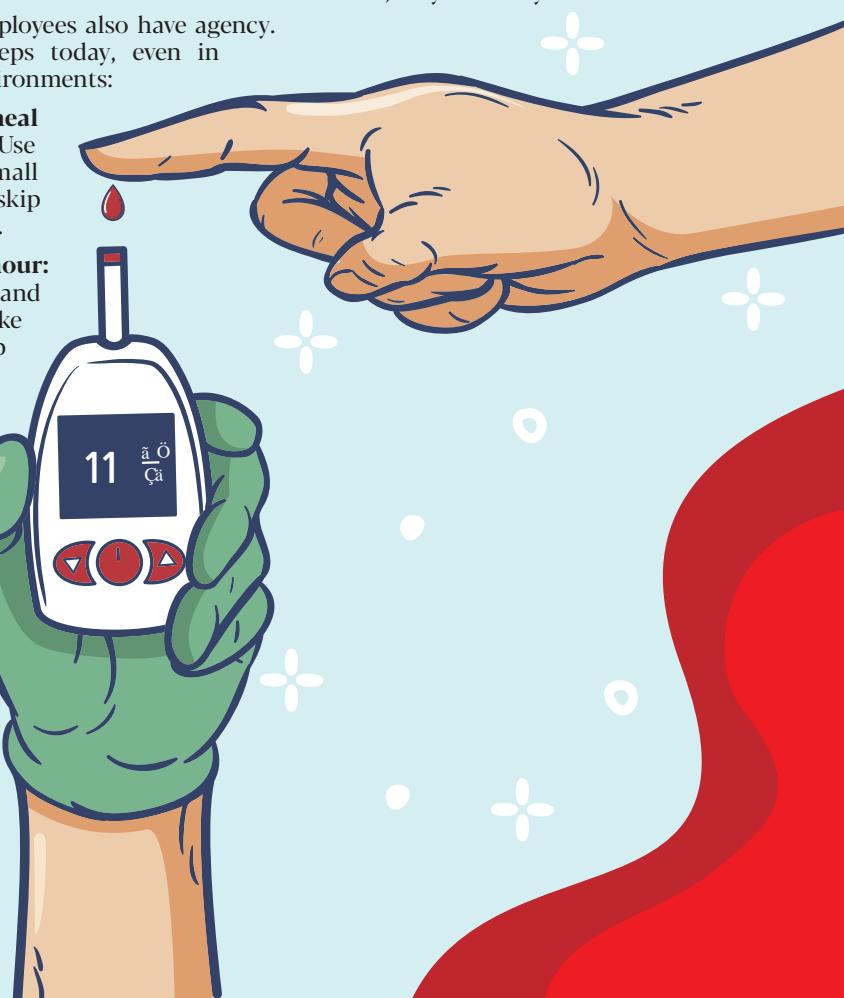
**Prioritise sleep:** Poor sleep raises cortisol, which disrupts blood sugar control.

**Speak up when needed:** A simple

disclosure to HR or a supervisor ensures support during emergencies.

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

Diabetes doesn't stop someone from being productive, creative or high-performing. With the right environment, and the right habits, diabetic employees don't just survive at work, they can truly thrive.



## Diabetes and its four frontlines



**PROF. DR A.F. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED**

Heart Diseases, Rheumatic Fever, Hypertension & Medicine Specialist

"Both blood sugar and cholesterol must be controlled together to truly protect the heart."



**DR MARUFA MUSTARI**

Diabetes, Thyroid, Other Hormone & Medicine Specialist

"People with diabetes can eat sweets in moderation as long as they are part of a balanced diet."

**On World Diabetes Day, Bangladesh's leading specialists have delivered a unified message: diabetes is not just a "sugar problem." It is a full-body condition that quietly affects the heart, kidneys, eyes, and the entire endocrine system. Each complication begins silently, often without obvious symptoms.**



**PROF. DR KAZI SHAHNOOR ALAM**

FCPS (Medicine) MD (Nephrology) FASN, FISN

"Early diabetic kidney disease is often silent, so routine urine and kidney function tests are essential for every diabetic."



**DR MIRZA SHARIFUZZAMAN**

Diabetes, Thyroid & Endocrine Disorder Specialist

"Early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy can stop progression, though full reversal is usually not possible."

### Looking fit is not enough for your heart

Cardiologist Prof. Dr A.F. Khabir Uddin Ahmed warns that looking fit does not always mean being heart-healthy. "A person who only does static exercises like weightlifting may build muscle, but for cardiovascular health, movement is key," he says. Dynamic activities like walking, running, swimming, and cycling keep the heart active and resilient.

Diabetes amplifies the danger by damaging blood vessels and increasing cholesterol buildup. "Poorly controlled blood sugar injures arteries, and unmanaged cholesterol accelerates plaque formation. Both must be controlled together to protect the heart," Dr Khabir explains.

Another common mistake is not monitoring blood sugar levels regularly. Patients also often misunderstand diet management; they might think "eating less" is enough, but this can lead to hypoglycemia. It's not just about eating less, but eating correctly.

### The age of processed foods

Dr Marufa Mustari, an endocrinologist, draws attention to how urban diets are fueling insulin resistance. "Our traditional Bangladeshi diet was once healthy—rich in fish, lentils, and vegetables. But processed foods, refined rice, and oily meals have made it high in calories and unhealthy fats, leading to weight gain and insulin resistance."

She also clears up a common confusion: Type 1 diabetes is autoimmune and insulin-dependent, while Type 2 results from insulin resistance, often linked to lifestyle. Stress, poor sleep, and excessive screen time worsen blood sugar control, as cortisol and inactivity disrupt insulin function.

Dispelling popular myths, Dr Mustari adds, "Diabetics can eat sweets in moderation within a balanced diet. Sugar alone doesn't cause diabetes—it's a mix of genetics and lifestyle factors. And it's not true that only overweight people get diabetes; anyone can."

### Signs of early kidney damage

Dr Kazi Shahnoor Alam, a nephrologist, explains how diabetes quietly erodes kidney function. "Initially, protein leaks through the glomeruli, the kidneys' filters, while high blood pressure adds to the damage. Over time, filtration capacity drops permanently," he says.

The danger lies in silence. "Early stages are symptom-free, so patients skip tests until it's too late," he warns. When signs do appear—foamy urine, fatigue, swelling of legs or face—they're often dismissed as minor.

Routine check-ups are crucial: "Every diabetic should test urine albumin and serum creatinine at least once a year," he advises. "If kidney disease is already present, tests should be done every two to three months." A diabetic who has not yet developed kidney disease, should do the tests at least yearly to exclude protein leakage or low glomerular filtration rate (eGFR).

### The unseen eye damage

According to Dr Mirza Sharifuzzaman, diabetes damages tiny blood vessels throughout the body, including those in the retina. "When these vessels swell or leak, the retina can't send clear images to the brain," he says. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of vision loss among diabetic patients.

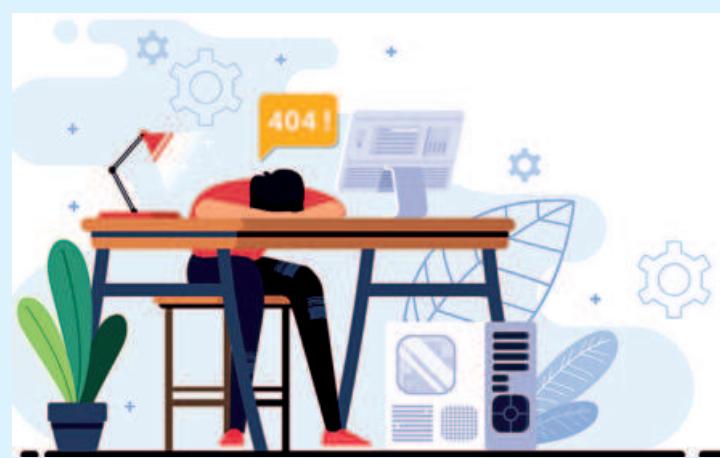
The risk isn't limited to retinopathy. "Diabetes increases the likelihood of cataracts and glaucoma," Dr Sharifuzzaman notes. Type 2 diabetics should get an eye exam immediately upon diagnosis. For Type 1 diabetics, screening should begin within five years.

Dr Sharifuzzaman emphasises on controlling blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol for delayed eye damage. A diet rich in leafy greens, fruits, whole grains, and omega-3 fats, alongside regular exercise and no smoking, can preserve vision. However he cautions, "Once vision loss occurs, it's rarely fully reversible—but timely treatment can prevent further decline."



## WORLD DIABETES DAY 2025: Enhancing workplace diabetes awareness and action

World Diabetes Day, observed annually on November 14, marks the birth anniversary of Sir Frederick Banting, whose discovery of insulin transformed global diabetes care. Established by the International Diabetes Federation and World Health Organisation in 1991, it is now the world's largest diabetes awareness campaign, reaching over one billion people in more than 160 countries. Each year highlights a specific theme, and the 2025 focus—"Know More and Do More for Diabetes at Work"—emphasises the link



between diabetes awareness and occupational wellbeing.

### THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

According to the IDF Diabetes Atlas 2024, an estimated 537 million adults worldwide have diabetes, a figure projected to rise to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045. Alarmingly, more than half remain undiagnosed.

### THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONNECTION

Work environments strongly influence daily nutrition, movement, and stress patterns. Irregular eating, long sedentary hours, and limited access to nutritious food increase the risk of metabolic disorders.

Diabetic employees often face practical challenges—from maintaining glucose levels during work hours to accessing appropriate meals and managing their condition discreetly. Without adequate support, diabetes contributes to absenteeism, reduced productivity, and increased healthcare costs.

### SUMMARY

The 2025 campaign reinforces that awareness must be paired with action. Integrating diabetes education, prevention, and management into workplace health systems can reduce the national disease burden and improve quality of life. Through shared responsibility, organisations can build diabetes-informed workplaces where knowledge leads to meaningful, sustained wellbeing.

### Dr Shahjada Selim

Associate Professor,  
Department of Endocrinology  
Bangladesh Medical  
University

**"Bangladesh alone faces nearly 20 million diabetic adults, with rates accelerating due to rapid urbanisation, dietary changes, and limited physical activity. Because most adults spend the majority of their day at work, workplaces are critical settings for prevention, early detection, and management."**



## Neeramoy: smarter HR, healthier teams, stronger workplaces

Diabetes is often treated as a personal issue. It is something employees must manage alone, usually outside office hours. But in Bangladesh today, that assumption no longer applies. With employees spending nearly 60% of their waking hours at work, the workplace has become one of the most crucial environments for early detection, prevention, and long term management of chronic conditions such as diabetes.

The urgency is undeniable. According to the International Diabetes Federation, more than 13% of Bangladeshi adults live with diabetes, and almost half remain undiagnosed. Among working-age individuals, undetected or poorly managed diabetes results in fatigue, reduced concentration, repeated sick leave, and rising long-term healthcare expenses—challenges that employers across all industries are now grappling with.

HR in Bangladesh is evolving as well. Many organisations have introduced dedicated Wellbeing Teams or People & Culture units tasked with supporting employee health, not just processing policies. But meaningful impact requires more than intention. These teams need structured systems, reliable data, and continuous support to truly transform workplace health. This is where Neeramoy becomes the catalyst.

A unified workplace wellness platform allows HR to shift from reactive crisis management to proactive workforce care. Instead of responding only when illness, burnout, or emergencies occur, HR



teams gain early visibility into stress patterns, chronic risk indicators, fatigue trends, and dips in employee engagement. Employees, in parallel, receive year-round support through 24/7 doctor access, mental health care, diagnostics, lifestyle coaching, and personalised health nudges that keep risks manageable. This preventive approach lowers absenteeism, stabilises productivity, and builds a healthier, more resilient organisation long before problems become costly.

Neeramoy's integrated B2B wellness ecosystem supports employees through the entire continuum of care:

- On-site health screenings and workplace health camps
- 24/7 doctor consultation via phone, app, or web
- Instant mental wellbeing support for stress and anxiety
- Diagnostic tests with home sample collection
- Medicine delivery, physiotherapy, and caregiver services
- Priority appointments with specialist doctors
- Employee health dashboards for HR
- Comprehensive wellbeing reports for leadership

A healthier workforce builds stronger businesses and that transformation begins inside the workplace.

For more support, download the "Neeramoy Patient" app.

## GLOBAL WEIGHT OF DIABETES

1 in 9

Are living with diabetes

4 out of 10

Are unaware that they have the condition

589 million

Approximately 589 million people are living with diabetes.

853 million by 2050

The total number of people living with diabetes is projected to rise to 853 million by 2050.

4 in 5

Over 4 in 5 adults (81%) with diabetes live in low- and middle-income countries

### Diabetes and Well-being

7 in 10

People living with diabetes are of working age

3 in 4

People living with diabetes have experienced anxiety, depression or another mental health condition due to the disease.

4 in 5

People living with diabetes experienced diabetes burnout.

### Diabetes in Bangladesh

113,054,500

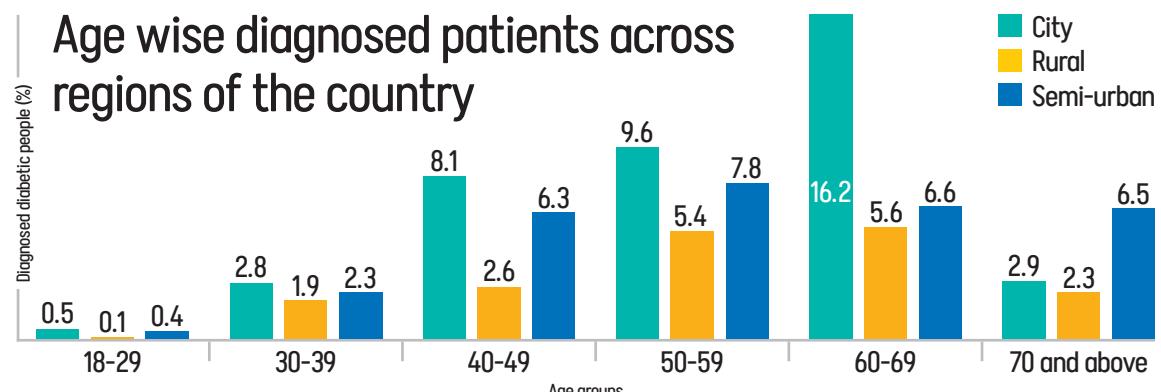
Total adult population (20 years and above)

13.2%

prevalence of diabetes in adults

13,877,400

Total cases of diabetes in adults



SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION (2024), PLOS ONE JOURNAL

## Can I have sugar if I have diabetes? Yes, you can and here is how

For decades, a myth has lingered in the public mind: that sugar is the sole culprit behind diabetes, and once diagnosed, individuals with diabetes must ban all sugar from their lives. This is an oversimplified narrative that caused unnecessary anxiety and fear. Prof. Dr A.F. Khabir Uddin Ahmed shares that, "For a person who does not have diabetes, eating sugar will not cause them to develop the disease. Sugar itself is not the cause of diabetes. However, for someone who has already been diagnosed with diabetes, there is a restriction on consuming sugary foods."

When we consume sugar, our bodies break it down into glucose, which then enters the bloodstream. For diabetics, this influx of glucose can lead to elevated blood sugar. The good news is that a strict,

zero-sugar diet is generally not necessary or even recommended.

The focus should be on overall dietary patterns and moderation.

1. **Unrefined carbohydrates:** All carbohydrates break down into glucose. The key is to choose nutrient-dense carbohydrates and manage portion sizes.

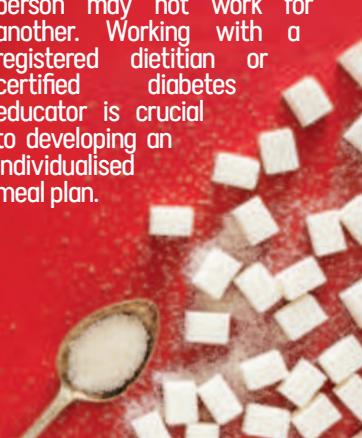
2. **Focus on whole foods:** Prioritise whole, unprocessed, fibrous foods. Fibre helps slow down the absorption of sugar, mitigating blood sugar spikes.

3. **Mind added sugars:** The real concern lies with added sugars found in processed foods, sugary beverages, candies, and many desserts. These are "empty calories" that should be avoided.

4. **Balance and moderation:** A small treat or a piece of fruit

can often be incorporated into a diabetes-friendly meal plan when balanced with other foods and appropriate medication or insulin.

5. **Individualised plans:** Diabetes management is highly personal. What works for one person may not work for another. Working with a registered dietitian or certified diabetes educator is crucial to developing an individualised meal plan.



## To Add SWEETNESS In Life

STOP  
SUGAR

WORLD  
DIABETES DAY  
NOVEMBER 14

"Diabetes and Well-being"

BEACON

Light for life

## Yunus's address merits serious reflection

We urge all parties to rise above narrow partisan interests

Within hours of Prof Yunus's address to the nation outlining a way out of the persistent deadlock on July charter, our political parties started expressing their dissent, creating doubts as to whether they have really examined the merits of his assertions. Do they constitute the best possible solution? No. Do they address all underlying issues? No. But they are the most practical and doable ones at the moment. So, political parties shouldn't be so prompt in rejecting the chief adviser's suggestions.

His proposal for holding the election and the referendum on the same day is both sensible and practical. Jamaat's demand for the latter to be held on a separate day boggles the mind, given the logistical challenges it would entail. Moreover, no explanation has been provided as to what the problem would be if both were held on the same day. We hope Jamaat accepts this proposal.

The suggestion regarding the formation of an Upper House on the basis of proportional representation (PR) of votes received through a free and fair election also seems the best option for Bangladesh. The idea of a second chamber in parliament is to restrain the arbitrariness of the majority party in the lower house. We have had too many instances where the majority party made laws that suited them, and even amended the constitution at will—the abolition of the caretaker system through the 15th Amendment in 2011 being a case in point. Therefore, the upper house should not be a mirror reflection of the lower house if it is to exert any restraint on it. A balance of power between the two chambers is necessary. We hope the BNP sees the merit of this change.

The NCP's central demand that a decision must be taken to implement the July charter has now been met. A gazette has been issued addressing all the legal aspects of this issue. But for them to state that they do not accept it because the president signed it is really throwing a spanner in the works of the charter's implementation. Our focus should be to lay the groundwork for its execution.

Naturally, differences between political parties are bound to exist. In fact, they are a healthy feature that encourages innovation in politics. We want differing ideas to percolate through our political discourse. But the existing habit of issuing ultimatums and threatening sit-ins and street agitations whenever demands are not met will only lead to further confrontation. We must move away from this habit.

The nearly nine months of dialogue held by the National Consensus Commission seem to have amounted to very little, as again evidenced by the instant political reactions to Prof Yunus's address. We believe political parties should take a more serious look at it. The election is only a few months away, and we need to focus entirely on holding it in the freest and fairest manner possible. We urge all parties to take a practical view of things and come together in a way that will restore confidence among the people that we are finally set on the path to restoring democracy and rule by an elected government.

## Ensure quality medical education

Recent seat cuts reflect poor state of many medical colleges

The government's decision to cut the number of seats in public and private medical colleges appears to be a well-considered move, given the long-standing crisis in ensuring quality medical education. According to the 2025-26 admission circular, the total number of seats has been reduced by 572, with 5,100 seats across 37 government medical colleges (down from 5,380) and 6,001 seats in 66 private medical colleges (down from 6,293). Reportedly, the health ministry made the decision after conducting a comprehensive assessment of all medical colleges considering their infrastructure, teacher-student ratio, hospital facilities, and other criteria. While the government's intention to improve standards is commendable, the approval of a new private medical college with 50 seats raises questions.

The country's medical colleges, both public and private, have been struggling with numerous crises for years, including a severe shortage of teachers. According to a recent report, 43 percent of teaching posts in government medical colleges remain vacant, jeopardising medical education. Earlier this year, students of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barishal took to the streets protesting the acute teacher shortage. Another report revealed that a lack of classrooms, overcrowding, and insufficient hands-on training have posed major challenges for students of Habiganj Medical College. Reportedly, even after around seven years, the college has yet to provide practising opportunities for intern doctors, which is most unfortunate. Situations in private medical colleges are even worse, with many lacking the infrastructure and resources for adequate academic activities.

The previous administration increased the number of seats by 1,030 for the 2023-24 session, a move that was widely criticised. Many new colleges were also established during the Awami League's 15-year tenure. After the fall of the AL last year, the interim administration announced plans to rationalise seat allocations to uphold academic standards. Therefore, reducing seats was long overdue. The authorities have also suspended student enrolment at six private medical colleges this year, which is indeed a bold decision.

However, the quality of medical education cannot be ensured by merely cutting seats or suspending enrolments. The government must focus on addressing the persistent teacher shortage, upgrading infrastructure and laboratory facilities, and providing the necessary resources to support both students and faculty. Additionally, strict enforcement of academic standards is essential to ensure that graduates are well-trained and competent. Only through such comprehensive measures can the country build a robust healthcare system and uphold the integrity of its medical education.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### BBC begins radio broadcast

On this day in 1922, BBC begins daily radio broadcasts from the 2LO transmitter at Marconi House.

# EDITORIAL

## Five hours of work, three hours of gratitude



### NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin  
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

Lately, my newsfeed has been ablaze with outrage over certain remarks by the head of Jamaat-e-Islami. His latest statement is that if his party comes to power, women will work for five hours but be paid for eight, with the employers footing five, the government kindly covering the other three. How generous! And for women who choose not to work outside the home? They will be anointed as "Rotnogorba mothers" (women who give birth to successful offspring). As for the rebellious ones who dare to work a full eight hours? They will be "respected." Magnanimity personified!

All this should not have been a cause to get our eyebrows in permanent scowls, but somehow these words just don't sit well in the stomach. First of all, why this attempt to micromanage women's working hours? After managing to elbow us out of all discussions on the future of our country, why this encroachment on how long we should work? Should the government decide how many hours women should work, or should women decide that for themselves?

They work to contribute to family income, to pay for parents' treatment, to put food on the table, send children to school, and yes, to meet their own needs. Why are we even explaining this in the year 2025? It feels like we have time-travelled to an era when it was considered "unseemly" for women to earn a living.

It is not about easing women's burden as so charmingly hinted. It is about making them invisible. The idea is to let her spend more time cooking, cleaning and tending to her children and husband. But dear saviours of womanhood, here's a newsflash: she is already doing all that and bringing home a pay cheque. In today's economy, few families survive on a single income.

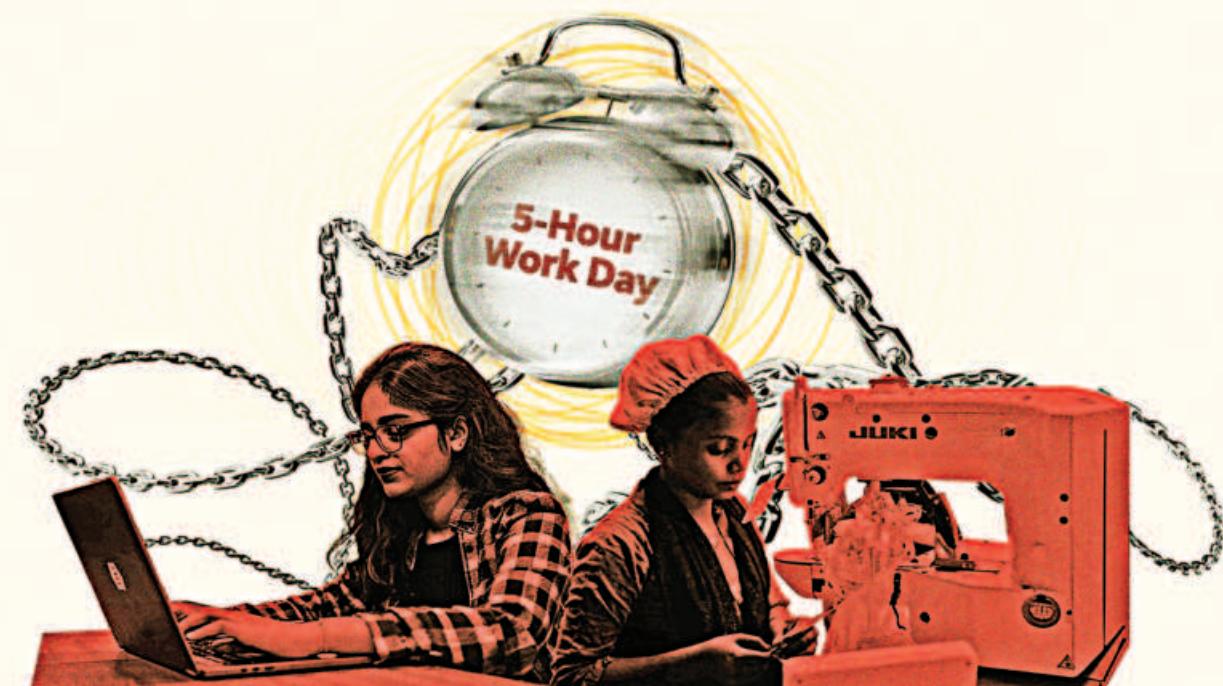
Then there are women who are the sole breadwinners of the family. According to Bangladesh Bureau

of Statistics (BBS), 17.4 percent of households were headed by women in 2022, up from 16 percent the year before and 15 percent in 2020. Being widowed at an early age, husband's chronic illness or disability, being abandoned by husband, divorced, having a husband who just refuses to work or is a drug addict—there are a myriad of reasons why a woman does

is a disingenuous way to push women back home where "they are supposed to be." Ironically, there is no talk about women not going out to vote because that would mess things up, wouldn't they?

Also, what will happen to the women working in the informal sectors—agriculture, domestic work, construction—who work many more hours than the eight-hour shift? Will they be also relieved of the burden of labour?

While these proclamations are disturbing and conjure images of women excluded from all public spheres, like in Afghanistan, it is hard to believe that the people of this country will accept a Bangladesh where there will no longer be any women in any professions, such as



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

not have a husband to rely on. Working is for survival, to feed the family.

And what if it is not for survival but because a woman wants to utilise her degree, her creativity and her intelligence, or just wants to be financially independent? If women are limited to working only five hours, why would any employer want to hire employees who will work fewer hours? Who will take on the extra three?

This is not "honouring" women, it

medicine, banking, law, or in the RMG sector. How will hospitals run without women nurses?

At present, around 43 percent of working-age Bangladeshi women participate in the labour market, not the most ideal percentage, but at least a considerable presence. Latest BBS statistics show that a very large number of women have dropped out of the workforce due to various factors, with a decline in the number of jobs

must wake up from their Rip Van Winkle slumber. We are in 2025, not 1825. Let women decide whether they want to work five hours or eight, or be stay-at-home moms (who, by the way, work 24/7 without any pay and very little recognition, if any). This is what is called choice, which is part and parcel of a democracy—something all political parties claiming to serve the "new Bangladesh" would do well to remember.

## COP30: Why is gender justice still a footnote?



Farah Kabir  
is country director at ActionAid Bangladesh.

FARAH KABIR

As the world gathers in Belém, Brazil, for the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a sobering truth becomes increasingly clear: the promise of gender justice as part of climate justice remains unfulfilled.

Acknowledged in rhetoric, excluded in reality, gender equality still sits at the margins of climate finance and policy 10 years after the Paris Agreement (PA). The result is a climate architecture that continues to privilege fossil fuels and corporate projects while neglecting the women and communities who live the crisis every day.

The PA committed nations to ensure that climate action is "gender-responsive, participatory, and equitable." The Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan under the UNFCCC were designed to turn this into real inclusion and funding. Yet, gender justice has been treated as an afterthought, a side event topic, not a policy priority. The data makes this painfully clear.

According to ActionAid's 2024 "Fund Our Future" report, only 2.8 percent of multilateral climate finance for mitigation supports just transitions that prioritise workers, women, and affected communities. The report calls this "jaw-droppingly underfunded," warning that climate funds are "failing the people they claim to serve while subsidising the polluters who caused the crisis."

This failure is not abstract. It is visible

in every village where women farmers are battling saltwater intrusion, every informal worker displaced by climate disasters, and every community are still waiting for adaptation funds that never arrive.

The problem is structural, not accidental. As the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) notes, "Feminist climate finance means resourcing solutions defined by women, Indigenous peoples, and grassroots movements—not trickle-down projects managed by distant intermediaries."

But global climate finance still operates through complex, top-down systems—large loans, multilateral channels, and co-financing requirements that exclude grassroots actors. Decision-making remains concentrated in institutions far removed from the communities most affected by climate breakdown.

Meanwhile, public money continues to prop up the fossil fuel economy. Global fossil fuel subsidies and investments exceed hundreds of billions of dollars annually, dwarfing adaptation budgets. Every dollar spent sustaining fossil dependence is a dollar stolen from the future of the planet and from the women and communities holding the line against climate chaos.

This isn't a moral appeal alone; it's an argument for effectiveness. Research consistently shows that gender-responsive climate policies deliver better outcomes like greater resilience, stronger adaptation, and

deeper community participation. Women are not "victims" of climate change; they are key actors in climate solutions.

Across Bangladesh and the Global South, women lead cooperatives in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and disaster preparedness. Yet, these efforts operate on shoestring budgets, excluded from international finance streams and national decision-making. Ignoring gender justice doesn't make climate policy neutral; it makes it ineffective.

The COP30 must mark a turning point—from rhetorical inclusion to financial redistribution and structural reform. Three priorities are urgent: (i) the new UNFCCC Gender Action Plan must come with measurable finance targets. Governments must earmark dedicated funding for gender-responsive adaptation and just transition programmes—not symbolic commitments buried in technical annexes; (ii) public money must stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry and instead fund the communities confronting its consequences. Fossil fuel phase-out and gender just financing must be negotiated together—not separately; (iii) the system must be simplified and made accessible to women's rights organisations, Indigenous movements, and community-based groups. Dedicated grant windows and direct funding mechanisms should replace bureaucratic barriers.

Without these shifts, the Gender Action Plan will remain another well-intentioned document—underfunded, unimplemented, and ultimately meaningless.

For Bangladesh, one of the most climate-vulnerable nations and a global voice for equity, COP30 offers an opportunity to lead by example. Gender justice must not be a footnote in its delegation brief; it should define its negotiation agenda.

Bangladesh should push for a dedicated allocation within the new climate finance goal that guarantees direct access for women-led and community-based organisations. This could include advocating for a minimum percentage of adaptation funds to be earmarked for gender-responsive initiatives.

The country can demand that global mitigation funding, especially for energy transition, include mandatory social and gender justice safeguards. As Bangladesh transitions from coal and gas towards renewables, ensuring that women workers and communities benefit from new green jobs and energy access must be part of its national model.

Bangladesh can push for reforms in the Green Climate Fund and other multilateral channels to reduce complexity, remove co-financing barriers, and enable direct access for local women's groups. It could pilot such mechanisms domestically and showcase results internationally.

We should institutionalise gender budgeting in all climate-related ministries and ensure that their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) reflect gender equality as a measurable goal. That would strengthen its credibility as a leader on gender responsive governance.

By building alliances with countries from the Global South, especially those with strong feminist movements such as Kenya, the Philippines, and Colombia, Bangladesh can amplify its voice for systemic change in climate finance architecture.

COP30 in Belém must not be another conference of promises. It must be the moment the world finally funds the future it has long promised—one built on justice, equality, and shared power. Because when women lead, climate action works. And when justice is sidelined, so is hope.

# The president and the professor

How Ziaur Rahman was influenced by Muhammad Yunus on rural development policies



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MUNIR QUDDUS

Good ideas can emerge from anywhere and anyone. Confident political leaders search for the best ideas and embrace those. Politics should not get in the way. This is an important lesson for politicians in Bangladesh today, as we are busy preparing for the forthcoming democratic elections. Instead of emphasising "ideology," the politicians should campaign on "good ideas."

Academics often complain that politicians are either unaware of their research and policy recommendations or simply ignore their work. Perhaps we, the "armchair" academics, should contemplate our own modus operandi to understand why our ideas lack credibility and are ignored by those in power. Our research must go beyond the knowledge and theories learned from textbooks written by experts who may never have visited Bangladesh, let alone lived in a village.

This article describes a few episodes from Bangladesh's history that illustrate how an interested political leader, President Ziaur Rahman, reached out to an academic, Muhammad Yunus, producing positive results for the nation. The president took this extraordinary step because the professor had earned credibility through his field work, living and working in villages, as part of his "action research" agenda on poverty alleviation.

After the great famine of 1974, which claimed more than a million lives, Prof Yunus became increasingly involved in rural development efforts. In 1975, he developed the "Nabajug Tehbaga Khamar" (New Era Three-Share Farm) project, a real-world action-research initiative to increase farm productivity. Given the success of this innovative project, he received the prestigious President's Award in 1978. The

BNP government under Zia adopted and scaled up core elements of this programme, renaming it the Packaged Input Programme (PIP). Unfortunately, the nationwide scale-up was not as successful, since it was made mandatory.

The award elevated Professor Yunus's profile both on campus and nationally. Consequently, a professional relationship developed between the two, with President Zia often seeking Yunus's ideas and feedback on his own rural development initiatives. The two corresponded and even partnered on a few projects aimed at rural development.

To enhance the effectiveness of rural development efforts, Dr Yunus had proposed the idea of village governance called "Gram Sarkar," to empower local communities to take initiatives for their own progress and prosperity.

President Zia's government formally adopted this concept, leading to the formation of over 40,000 village governments (implemented during Khaleda Zia's 2001-2006 government), serving as a fourth tier of government. A key difference, which rendered the nation-wide programme less effective, was its mandatory nature as opposed to Yunus's initiative, which was voluntary.

Alex Counts, the author of *Small Loans, Big Dreams: Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank and the Global Microfinance Revolution*, (2025 edition), cites several instances when the two men interacted in the late 1970s.

Counts writes on these two programmes:

"While he was working to establish his ideas at the local level, Yunus continued to be involved with national political figures. He had a warmer and more complex relationship with President Zia Ur Rahman than he'd had with Sheikh Mujib. The two had first come

into contact in 1977 when Yunus received the President's Award on behalf of the Tehbaga Khamar project. On several occasions, Zia called on Yunus as a representative of the younger generation of academics to speak out on subjects ranging from the wisdom of conducting state planning on two year cycles (rather than the traditional five) to the proposal for beginning to transmit television signals in color instead of black and white..."

in an issue—rural development in this case—spending significant amount of time visiting villages to understand villagers' problems and inspiring them to work hard to escape poverty. Secondly, it is uncommon for a young academic to be so influential that the head of state would be impressed by his ideas and work in the field, to the extent of adopting and scaling them up nationally.

In 1975, Yunus was a 35-year-old academic

secondary sources, running regressions on computers, and writing scholarly articles for publication, which is considered the "gold standard" for academic success. These publications carry great weight in terms of tenure and promotion. However, they are normally of little immediate practical benefit for farmers and the impoverished villagers, who are often the subject of academics' research.

In his book, Counts mentions several interactions between Zia and Yunus:

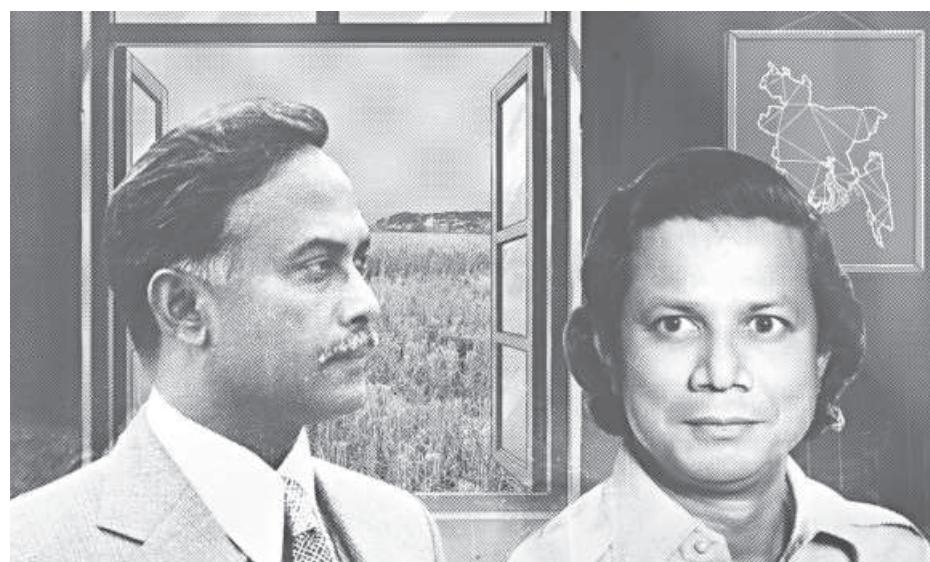
"On that hot Friday in April, Yunus followed Zia and his entourage for seven miles. On two occasions, he listened to the president's speeches, and both times Zia made sure that Yunus was sitting next to him when he delivered his remarks..."

"Soon after Yunus left Zia so that he could unwind, presidential assistants came running in search of him. He was told that the president wanted to speak to him. When Yunus, still drenched with sweat from the walking, entered the room where Zia was resting, he was ushered into a chair by the president's bedside. Zia looked up at his guest and said, 'So, what did you think?'

Taken aback, Yunus innocently asked, 'About what?'

'About my speech.' Measuring his words carefully, Yunus said: 'Well, I think people were very inspired to hear from you.' He paused, and then continued: 'But there is one thing I would have changed. You see, people are talking about how bad this drought is, but I saw a lot of water in the river we passed over in the helicopter. If some of that water was diverted to the fields by canals or even lifted by hand, then we would be seeing some green fields instead of brown ones. And that's something people can do right now. What I'm trying to say, Mr. President, is that in your speech you kept telling people what you are going to do for them. I think it would be much more useful if you talked about what they could do for themselves.' (Counts, page: 52-53)

To summarise, good-to-great ideas are essential for a nation's growth and prosperity. As Bangladesh moves towards the 2026 elections, the benefits of partnership between politicians and researchers must not be lost on the next elected government for the nation to move forward.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

(Counts, page 51)

...After taking over, Zia discussed the matter with Yunus and indicated that he, with the help of Mahabub Alam Chashee, intended to implement gram sarkar nationwide. Many Bangladeshi intellectuals were outraged that the proposal was being taken seriously, perhaps because on some level it valued the knowledge of semiliterate villagers more than theirs. (Counts, page 31)"

It should be noted that though Grameen Bank was formally established as an independent financial institution in 1983, after Zia's death, the idea for this unique bank originated in 1976 from a microcredit research project of Prof Yunus.

The story of partnership and collaboration between the Zia and Yunus offers valuable lessons for future politicians. It is rare for a head of state to take such a personal interest

with a degree from Vanderbilt University in the United States, teaching economics at Chittagong University (CU). He frequently visited villages near the CU campus to learn about the lives of both men and women. He called his approach "action research," involving colleagues and students who shared his passion for this work. His colleague, Prof H I Latifee, recently shared with me that, when HYV, the high yield variety of rice, was newly introduced, the farmers were somewhat reluctant to adopt it. "We would sometimes get into the field ourselves to demonstrate how to plant the saplings in straight lines," he said.

Clearly, Dr Yunus was not your typical academic. Most young professors early in their career are interested in securing research grants, recruiting students to collect data, either in the field or from

## What the BBC controversy tells us about Western media bias



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ZAKIR KIBRIA

The recent departure of BBC bosses Tim Davie and Deborah Turness is a masterclass in unspoken power dynamics. The headlines told a story of scandal and pressure. But if you listen closely, you hear the real plot twist: the story wasn't about their journalism; it was about whom they offended.

Their exit was precipitated not by a failure to accurately report on one of the great crimes of our age in Gaza that has claimed over 69,000 lives and prompted accusations of genocide from leading international lawyers, but by the controversy surrounding a BBC programme that mis-edited a Donald Trump speech delivered just before the Capitol riot in January 2021.

Let that sink in. Offending a powerful Western politician carries more consequences than the systemic dehumanisation of an entire people. This exposes the hidden script that Western state-affiliated media like the BBC, Deutsche Welle (DW), and others have been following for decades. They are not neutral chroniclers of truth. They are architects of narrative, and it is long past time we in the Global South stopped treating their broadcasts as gospel.

For the last 80 years or so, Western media has been considered the primary engine of global "common sense." Its newsrooms, with

their imposing glass facades and sonorous voiceovers, project an aura of impartial authority which is a carefully crafted illusion. Outlets like the BBC World Service were founded explicitly as instruments of British soft power during the Cold War. Today, they continue to be funded by their governments to shape a worldview that is favourable to Western foreign policy.

There's a scene in the film *The Matrix*



Smoke rises during an Israeli military operation in Gaza City, as seen from the central Gaza Strip on September 29, 2025.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

that captures this phenomenon perfectly. The protagonist, Neo, is offered a choice: a blue pill to remain blissfully ignorant within a simulated reality, or a red pill to awaken to the painful truth of the real world. For decades, the steady, reassuring drone of the BBC has been the global blue pill. It's time we chose the red one.

When the US invaded Iraq in 2003 based

on the false premise of weapons of mass destruction, much of the Western media, including *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*, became a megaphone for the administration's claims. The catastrophic consequences—hundreds of thousands of Iraqi deaths and a region plunged into chaos—were, for their audiences, a distant tragedy, often framed as the unintended consequence of a noble mission. The "common sense" was that America spreads democracy, even when the facts on the ground scream otherwise.

This narrative power is not passive; it is integral to the machinery of domination. As the Palestinian-American academic Edward Said argued, the West has long created an "Orientalist" image of the East as backward, irrational, and violent to justify its colonial and imperial projects. The media is the modern vehicle for this. When a population is systematically dehumanised in news reports—their deaths downplayed, their grief unseen, their history erased—it creates a permissive environment for their physical destruction. Narrative becomes a weapon.

Why do we, in the Global South, then continue to treat these outlets as the gold standard? The answer lies in the lingering ghost of colonialism. Our universities teach their theories, our policymakers quote their reports, and our own media outlets exhibit a Pavlovian reflex to republish their "breaking news" without cross-checking. We have been taught that our own stories are less valid, our own perspectives parochial. We have internalised our own marginalisation.

The great awakening of our time is the realisation that the multipolar world is not just a geopolitical reality but a narrative imperative. We must seize the means of storytelling.

This is not about creating a mirror image of propaganda or trading one set of biases for another. It is about achieving genuine pluralism. It is about building our own institutions that can tell our stories with the nuance, context, and humanity they deserve. Look at the impact of Al Jazeera, which burst onto the scene and fundamentally changed the media landscape by giving a platform to Arab perspectives. It proved that there is a hungry audience for narratives not filtered through London or New York.

We must actively follow and amplify media from the countries of the Global South. Why must a crisis in Senegal be explained to a Nigerian audience by the BBC? Why must an economic shift in Bolivia be interpreted for Colombians by the *Financial Times*? We have vibrant, independent media across our continents—from *The Continent* in Africa to *Daily Maverick* in South Africa and *TeleSUR* in Venezuela. We must platform our own experts, our own historians, and our own journalists.

The task is to decolonise our newsrooms and minds. This means implementing a simple but radical rule: never republish a report from a Western outlet without cross-referencing it with a local source or a source from a different geopolitical bloc. It means cultivating a critical literacy that asks of every news report, old or new: who benefits from this story being told this way? What is being left out? Whose voice is missing?

The resignations at the BBC are a mere subplot. The main story is our collective journey towards narrative sovereignty. It is the most important story we will ever tell, because whoever tells the story defines the world. It is time we took back the pen, and the camera, and directed our own future.

### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US, SEND US YOUR  
OPINION PIECES TO  
[dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com)

#### ACROSS

- 1 Use mouthwash
- 7 Minor fight
- 11 Spain setting
- 12 Half a sextet
- 13 Biased, in a way
- 14 Took the bus
- 15 Musical mixture
- 17 Spiked club
- 20 Plentiful
- 23 Make goofs
- 24 Yokel
- 26 In addition
- 27 Low bill
- 28 U.N.'s
- 29 Hammarskjold
- 29 Hires
- 31 Try out
- 32 Swift

#### DOWN

- 1 USO patrons
- 2 Penny prez
- 3 Mystery writer Stout
- 4 Filth
- 5 Maggie and Bart's sister
- 6 Puts away
- 7 Makes banjo music
- 8 Braced
- 9 Lend a hand
- 10 Sock part
- 16 Grant's successor
- 17 Taxi part
- 18 Fragrance
- 19 Arose
- 21 Tenant's paper
- 22 Defeated, but barely
- 24 Parka parts
- 25 One or more
- 30 Cruise ships
- 33 Middling card
- 35 Golden Spike state
- 36 Hindu hero
- 37 CEO's deg.
- 38 Utterly
- 40 Golfer Ernie
- 41 Carnival city
- 42 "Platoon" setting

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[dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com)



## LAW OPINION

# The curious case of S Alam and our investment treaty regime

FORHAD AHMED

The S Alam group has recently lodged an arbitration claim against Bangladesh at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). This event is significant for our investment law regime. The claim was made under one of our older Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with Singapore from 2004.

**On the merits, Bangladesh may argue that its actions, whether in the form of bank supervision, asset recovery, or anti-money-laundering enforcement, were legitimate sovereign measures taken in the public interest. The claimant, for its part, will possibly assert that these steps were arbitrary, discriminatory, or procedurally unfair, thereby breaching FET and amounting to indirect expropriation. Whether such arguments succeed will depend heavily on evidence of proportionality and due process, as well as the tribunal's interpretive approach to the FET standard.**

It needs to be mentioned here that our older generation BITs used too much 'investor protective language'. This is because at that time we had less experience in negotiation to protect our own interests. Hence, it is no surprise that the present claim could in fact be lodged.

The Bangladesh-Singapore BIT defines an "investor" as any natural person who is a national of either contracting party, without requiring a genuine or effective link to nationality. Such an expansive definition allows for what is known as *treaty-shopping*, where individuals or companies restructure their nationality or corporate ownership to gain treaty protection.

Moreover, Article 3 of the treaty guarantees "fair and equitable treatment" (FET) and "full protection and security" provisions that have been interpreted liberally by arbitral tribunals to limit a state's regulatory discretion. The absence of qualifying texts around these terms has the effect of interpreting almost any administrative action as a potential treaty breach if considered adverse to investor expectations.

Perhaps most significantly, Article 7 permits investors to file an ICSID claim after only six months of failed negotiations, without any requirement first to exhaust local legal remedies. This is rather a "blank cheque" approach in the light of modern standards. Many countries have adopted more balanced approaches. India's 2016 Model BIT, for instance, introduced an 18-month "Exhaustion of Local Remedies" requirement before arbitration. Brazil abandoned investor-state arbitration altogether, preferring a system of *Cooperation and Facilitation Investment Agreements* built on preventive diplomacy. South Africa, after terminating its earlier BITs,

enacted the *Promotion and Protection of Investment Act 2015*, which grants protection under domestic law rather than international arbitration. Bangladesh's treaties, by contrast, still retain the 1990s model of one-sided investor protection.

A number of jurisdictional and substantive questions will shape the S Alam dispute. The first concerns nationality and admissibility: can the claimant truly qualify as a "Singaporean investor"? If the investments were made before the claimant secured Singaporean citizenship, Bangladesh might argue that this effectively constitutes *treaty-shopping*. Notably, this BIT does not contain an explicit, specific clause that broadly bars treaty shopping. However, the treaty does include provisions that require investments to be made in accordance with the host state's laws and regulations, which can serve as a *de facto* mechanism against abusive routing of investments. Also, the prospective tribunal could apply an "effective nationality" test to determine whether the investor's connection to Singapore is genuine or merely formal.

The second question flags the definition of "investment." Article 1(a) limits coverage to investments made "in accordance with the laws" of Bangladesh. If the investments in question were not compliant with domestic law, or if accusations of financial misconduct are proven, Bangladesh could invoke the *clean hands* doctrine. This principle,

increasingly recognised in arbitral jurisprudence, denies treaty protection to investors who have engaged in fraud, corruption, or other illegal acts in making or managing their investments. This invocation would challenge the tribunal's jurisdiction and strengthen Bangladesh's claim to sovereign regulatory authority.

On the merits, Bangladesh may argue that its actions, whether in the form of bank supervision, asset recovery, or anti-money-laundering enforcement, were legitimate sovereign measures taken in the public interest. The claimant, for its part, will possibly assert that these steps were arbitrary, discriminatory, or procedurally unfair, thereby breaching FET and amounting to indirect expropriation. Whether such arguments succeed will depend heavily on evidence of proportionality and due process, as well as the tribunal's interpretive approach to the FET standard.

Reportedly, the S Alam Group served its legal notice on the Government of Bangladesh on 18 December 2024, that is more than six months before the present arbitration, hence satisfying the consultation period requirement under Article 7 of the BIT. This timeline means the matter has now formally moved into the arbitration phase. Bangladesh must therefore respond promptly and accordingly nominate an arbitrator. Beyond the requirement of nominating an arbitrator, Bangladesh must also ensure legal representation before the tribunal. Under ICSID practice, the State

is typically represented by the Office of the Attorney General or a designated international law firm instructed by the government. A delayed approach could severely undermine Bangladesh's position at the jurisdictional and merits stages. Since, under the ICSID Convention, proceedings may continue even if the respondent fails to appear, as the Secretary-General can appoint arbitrators on its behalf.

It is worth recalling that Bangladesh has faced ICSID arbitration before. In *Saipem SpA v People's Republic of Bangladesh* (ICSID Case No ARB/05/7), the tribunal ruled against Bangladesh and awarded millions in damages. That case, like the present one, revealed how loosely drafted BITs can restrict a state's rather lawful prerogative to regulate and expose it to costly claims.

The S Alam arbitration should therefore be seen not simply as a legal challenge but as a policy signal. Bangladesh must urgently modernise its investment-treaty architecture by adopting a comprehensive Model BIT that balances investor protection with the state's prerogative to regulate. Such a model should clarify definitions, include exhaustion of local remedies and mediation provisions, and recognise exceptions for legitimate public-interest regulation.

**The writer is researcher in international investment law and arbitration, Member of the Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA).**

## LAW AND SOCIETY

# Progressive evolution of guardianship laws in Bangladesh

JEBIA MOBASHIRWA

A "guardian" is someone who takes care of a child, looks after the child's property, or both, according to Section 4(2) of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. However, under Muslim law, guardianship is divided into two types based on function: *Waliyat al-Nafs* and *Waliyat al-Mal*.

*Waliyat al-Nafs* refers to the guardianship of a minor's person, which includes all aspects of personal care and supervision, such as education, marriage, and other personal matters. The father is regarded as the natural guardian of his minor child, and this right is considered absolute. His authority as guardian continues irrespective of who has the actual custody of the child. Even if the mother or another person has physical care of the child, the father remains the legal guardian of both the person and the property of the minor. It is worth noting that, along with this right of guardianship, the father bears the primary duty of maintaining his child. In the absence of the father, the right of guardianship passes to the male agnates according to a specific order. After the father, the paternal grandfather becomes the guardian, and upon his death, the responsibility may pass to the adult brother, then to the adult sons of the brother, and finally to the paternal uncle (Haque 2015).

*Waliyat al-Mal* on the other hand,

concerns the management and protection of a minor's property. The father is also the legal guardian of the child's property. If the father dies, the paternal grandfather assumes the same authority. After the death of both the father and the paternal grandfather, the guardianship may be exercised by a person appointed through a will (*wasiyat*) made by either of them. In absence of such an appointment, the court may designate a guardian known as a statutory guardian, whose appointment is guided by the best interest and welfare of the child.

Consequently, under classical Sharia law, the mother does not have the right of guardianship over her child, even in the absence of the father. This position is supported by Section 19(b) of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, which states that the court cannot appoint another person as a child's guardian if the father is alive and considered fit to take that responsibility. However, this provision has recently been challenged in Bangladesh on the grounds of equality and gender-based discrimination. In a landmark judgment, the High Court Division in the Azmeri Haque Badhon case declared Section 19(b) unconstitutional for being inconsistent with Articles 26, 27, and 28 of the Constitution. As a result, Azmeri Haque Badhon became the first mother in Bangladesh to be recognised as the full legal guardian of her daughter despite the



father being alive. Previously, in 2009, a collective initiative by three human rights organisations—Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, and Naripokkho led to a writ petition demanding that mothers be recognised as the legal guardians of their children for school registration and admission. In this case, the court also responded progressively, stating that even a single mother alone would suffice as the legal guardian. These rulings represent a significant step toward gender equality in family law and have broadened the scope

for equal rights of guardianship for both father and mother.

Although the mother holds the first right to *hidat* or custody, this right is limited to physical care and upbringing and does not extend to making legal or financial decisions for the child. For a son, this right continues until he reaches the age of seven, and for a daughter, until she attains puberty. When a child reaches the age of discretion, usually around seven years or upon attaining maturity, the court may take the child's preference into account regarding which parent they wish to live

with. However, the final decision ultimately rests with the court, guided by the best interest of the child.

Section 17 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, provides that in appointing or declaring a guardian, the court must always consider what would best serve the interest of the minor. Factors such as the age, sex, and religion of the minor, the character and capacity of the proposed guardian, and the child's own preference, if mature enough, must all be taken into account. The Md. Abu Bakar Siddique v. S.M.A. Bakar (1986) case established an important precedent in this regard, holding that the welfare of the minor can override traditional age- and sex-based rules of custody under Muslim law.

Thus, the laws of guardianship and custody under Muslim family law in Bangladesh reflects a gradual evolution from classical interpretations to modern, welfare-oriented approaches. Traditionally, the father's authority was regarded as paramount, but recent judicial developments, which maintain a harmonious balance between Islamic jurisprudence and the constitutional principles of equality and justice, have initiated a progressive shift toward recognising the mother's equal capacity as guardian.

**The writer is official contributor to Law & Our Rights, The Daily Star.**

## Two held over rape of woman in Shariatpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Police arrested two men yesterday in Shariatpur Sadar upazila on charges of raping the wife of an expatriate living in Italy.

The arrestees were identified as Iqbal Sikder, 35, and Alfar Bepari, 40, said Palang Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Helal Uddin.

Following the arrests, the accused were sent to a court, said the OC.

The victim filed a case with the police station, alleging that she was raped early Wednesday when she stepped outside her home.

The accused denied the allegations, claiming the case was fabricated due to a financial dispute, said police.

OC Helal said the medical examination of the woman has been completed.

Police said the investigation is going on, and further action will be taken based on the medical report.

The medical officer concerned said they are yet to receive the medical report.



A man harvests water chestnuts from a waterbody in Rajshahi yesterday. The fruit, locally known as "panifal", can be eaten raw or boiled. The photo was taken in the Deloa Bari area of Naogaon.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## BSCIC estate struggles to thrive in Rajbari

SUZIT KUMAR DAS, Faridpur

The industrial estate under the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in Rajbari has been struggling for years, with investors losing interest in setting up new projects due to a host of unresolved problems.

The estate faces poor drainage and waste management, inadequate roads, lack of security, frequent load-shedding and insufficient firefighting measures.

Entrepreneurs say that without proper planning and government support, reviving the estate is nearly impossible.

BSCIC estates are set up across the country to support cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises by providing a secure, service-ready space for operations.

But the Rajbari estate, established in 1964 on 15.28 acres in the Ramkantapur area, lacks even a boundary fence to prevent break-ins. Its already dilapidated roads become submerged after rainfall because of poor drainage. Although it began with 77 plots, only 35 now have operational factories. Of the 53 industries that once ran there, most have shut down.

"The road is so bad that vehicles can hardly enter. Even walking is difficult. We've managed to fix parts of it with bricks on our own,"

said Tariqul Islam, owner of Farms Organic Fertilizer.

Md Ibrahim, manager of Best Agro Solution, said there are no street lights.

"There's no water supply here, and no sanitation facilities for women workers. After rains, the roads become waterlogged and impassable due to overflowing drains," said

Maksud Organic Fertilizer Factory.

Imam-ul Karim Jaki, president of Rajbari Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "The BSCIC entrepreneurs receive no government benefits. Many had to shut down their operations due to rising land taxes."

Contacted, Chayan Biswas, assistant general manager of the



worker Happy Akhter.

"Frequent power cuts disrupt production and we face huge losses," said worker Zubayer Hossain.

"There's no security here. Theft is common. Yet, despite repeated complaints, no steps are taken," said Harun ur-Rashid, manager of Khan

Rajbari BSCIC Industrial Estate, said, "We have already discussed these issues with the deputy commissioner, municipality and superintendent of police. Hopefully, with allocation in the next fiscal year, the problems will be resolved gradually."

## CRUDE BOMB ATTACKS

### Arrest those responsible

Says Dhaka's archbishop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka's Archbishop Bejoy ND Cruze has said the recent series of cocktail bomb explosions at two church premises and a renowned school have raised serious questions about religious freedom in the country.

"Christians in Bangladesh are deeply shocked and alarmed by the unprecedented incidents," he said in a statement yesterday, urging the government to take immediate legal action against those responsible.

He called on the government to ensure that Christians, as well as followers of all other religions, can live safely and practice their faith without fear.

St Mary's Cathedral Church, which also houses the Archbishop's residence, came under crude bomb attack on the night of November 7. Within hours, similar bombs exploded at 2:00am on November 8 at St Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Mohammadpur.

On October 8, crude bombs went off at the centuries-old Holy Rosary Church in Tejgaon.

"An explosion of this nature in such an important and prominent location is extremely tragic and utterly unacceptable," the archbishop said.

## FIRING 177 BANGLADESHIS Ansell cuts ties with Malaysian firm

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australian buying company, Ansell Limited, has suspended its relationship with Malaysian company Mediceram, which has recently terminated 177 Bangladeshi workers and deported some of them under coercion, said Ansell in a statement on its website on November 12.

Mediceram, supplier of ceramic formers, on October 31, terminated the workers for staging protests against non-renewal of about 90 migrants. These workers had migrated to Malaysia in 2023 but got irregular or no pay, while their work permits were not renewed on time.

In last August, Mediceram entered into a remediation agreement with its workers following concerns raised by its customers including Ansell.

Ansell said progress has been made in implementing this agreement, with more than \$1 million in recruitment fees reimbursed to current workers ahead of originally agreed timelines, supported by favourable trading terms provided by Ansell.

"Ansell was therefore surprised to be informed on October 31 that Mediceram had terminated 177 foreign workers on the grounds of their refusal to work," it said.

"In the absence of any willingness by Mediceram to reconsider, Ansell informed Mediceram on November 4, 2025 that Ansell is suspending its supplier relationship with the company."

## Three more die of dengue, 833 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died, while 833 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Of the deaths, one each was reported in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka North City Corporation, and Rajshahi, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the new deaths and cases, dengue fatalities this year have risen to 326, while total cases stand at 82,606.

Currently, 3,332 dengue patients are receiving treatment in different hospitals across the country.

Contacted, HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said most deaths occur among patients who arrive at hospitals in extremely critical condition – often too late to be saved.

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

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Bangladesh Forest Department

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer

Tangail Forest Division, Tangail

[www.forest.tangail.gov.bd](http://www.forest.tangail.gov.bd)

Memo No. 22.01.0000.000.654.29.001.25.5264

Date: 11.11. 2025

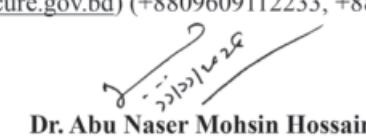
### e-Tender Notice (Corrigendum Notice)

This is to notify to all concern that the following e-Tenders (OTM) have been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works & goods.

Sl.	e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of goods/works	Date & time of publication on e-GP	Last date & time for selling/ downloading tender document	Tender closing date & time
01	1160495	TFD/Sal Forest/2025-26/W-03	Establishment of Deer Breeding Center and Wild Boar Breeding Center at Lahoria Bit, Jatio Uddan Sador, under Tangail Forest Division	11 November 2025 at 20:16pm	25 November 2025 at 12:00pm	25 November 2025 at 15:00pm
02	1160775	TFD/Sal Forest/2025-26/W-04	Fire lines created to prevent forest fires at Jatio Uddan Sador, Dokhola, Modhupur and Aronkhola Range under Tangail Forest Division	11 November 2025 at 20:38pm	25 November 2025 at 12:00pm	25 November 2025 at 15:00pm
03	1160777	TFD/Sal Forest/2025-26/W-05	Expenditure and renovating Gargaria Lake at Jatio Uddan Sador, under Tangail Forest Division.	11 November 2025 at 20:37pm	25 November 2025 at 12:00pm	25 November 2025 at 15:00pm
04	1160778	TFD/Sal Forest/2025-26/W-06	Re-excavation/renovation of 10 ponds under Modhupur National Park, under Tangail Forest Division.	11 November 2025 at 21:44pm	25 November 2025 at 12:00pm	25 November 2025 at 15:00pm
05	1160779	TFD/Sal Forest/2025-26/W-07	Installing ropeways at the designated locations at Modhupur, under Tangail Forest Division.	11 November 2025 at 22:52pm	25 November 2025 at 12:00pm	25 November 2025 at 15:00pm

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (+8809609112233, +880176225528, +880176265529).



Dr. Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain

Divisional Forest Officer

Tangail Forest Division

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<b>গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার</b>	
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর	
পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আগারগাঁও	
শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭	
<a href="http://www.doe.gov.bd">www.doe.gov.bd</a>	
নং-২২.০২.০০০০.০১২.২৩.০১৮.২৫-২২৪	তারিখঃ ২৮ কার্তিক ১৪৩২
১৩ নভেম্বর ২০২৫	
<b>জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক-২০২৫</b>	
পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও উন্নয়নে অসামান্য অবদানের শীর্ষক প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক মানিমালা, ২০২২ অনুযায়ী যোগ্য ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক ২০২৫ এর আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। মানিমালা অনুযায়ী নিম্নোক্ত ক্ষাটোগরিসমূহে ক্ষতিগত ও প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পর্যায়ে ০৩টি করে মোট ০৬টি জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক প্রদান করা হবে।	
(ক) ব্যক্তিগত	(১) পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ
(২) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক শিক্ষা ও প্রচার	জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদকপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ২২ (বাইশ) ক্যারেট মানের ২ (দুই) তোলা ও জেনের স্বর্ণের বাজার মূল্য ও আরো ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার চেক, ক্রেস্ট এবং সনদপত্র প্রদান করা হবে।
(খ) প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক	(১) পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ
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(৩) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক গবেষণা ও প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন	
বিজয়ী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আগামী বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস উদযাপন উপলক্ষে অনুষ্ঠো উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান অথবা সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত যে কোনো সুবিধাজনক সময়ে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে এ পদক প্রদান করা হবে। বাংলাদেশে পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে অসামান্য এবং অনুসরণীয় অবদান রেখেছেন এমন যেকোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান উক্ত পদকের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।	
এমতপ্রক্রিতে, জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক-২০২৫ এর জন্য আগ্রহী উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান নিজের অথবা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা/বিভাগ/মহানগর কার্যালয়ে আবেদনগত প্রেরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো। আবেদনের নির্ধারিত ফরম পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের যে কোন অফিস বা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.doe.gov.bd">www.doe.gov.bd</a> থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।	

## YOUTH ANXIETIES

# Entering the workforce AS A FRESH GRADUATE

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

Your quarter-life crisis presents itself with you having the daunting task of deciding what you want to do for the rest of your life, whether it's your personal life or your professional one. The crisis worsens for students who have graduated or are about to graduate soon, as the time for them to enter the workforce draws nearer. As the job market is highly unpredictable and competitive, this turns into a period of anxiety even for those who have their lives planned out and know exactly what they want to do. Those without direction have another battle to fight. Both demographics often face the same dilemma, which is that the entry-level salaries offered in most jobs do not live up to the expectations of young graduates or soon-to-be graduates.

Of course, there's the debacle of insufficient entry-level jobs being available in the first place, with most companies asking for candidates with prior work experience. Entry-level jobs in various fields are also being replaced by the advent of artificial intelligence

(AI). In the context of Bangladesh, this phenomenon is not particularly widespread yet. The more pressing problem for fresh graduates is finding an entry-level job that offers a liveable wage.

From an employer's perspective, it may make sense to offer a lower salary for those immediately starting at the workplace, as there's generally a learning curve to every job. Not to mention, it's widely assumed that a fresh graduate in our society has some financial support from their families as they get on their own feet. However, this is not always the case. A lot of students move to cities for higher education as well as to seek employment, which creates an added expense of solo accommodation and day-to-day costs. There's a fair number of students who bear the obligation to financially support their families, which means the low salary offered is more difficult for them to make do with.

Due to the nature of the job market and low entry-level salaries, graduates often find themselves straying further away from their fields for better-paying

jobs. The job market for Engineering graduates is extremely competitive, so they migrate to fields that have little relevance to their degrees. Employers also find it more lucrative to hire people with technical knowledge for a supposedly non-technical position, further intensifying an already competitive field.

Some graduates even go as far as to juggle several jobs right out of university. Those who sign up for low-paying internships or full-time jobs in their relevant fields end up doing something else on the side, leading to quick burnout and very little time for themselves. Some graduates often continue with their tuition gigs after graduating, which adds little experience of value to their resumes for future employment. Not to mention, the negative effects of a daily 9-to-5 are debated as it is; adding another job exerts immense pressure on the mind and body, as the added commute and extra hours are strenuous. The human body needs sufficient rest to remain productive, so stacking several jobs on top of one another is rather

counterintuitive.

Although the phrase "comparison is the thief of joy" has been drilled into us since childhood, we often cannot help but evaluate our own situation with that of those around us. Discussions about entering the workforce, starting salaries, and employment benefits end up feeling rather depressing. Inadvertently or otherwise, it also creates anxiety amongst those less fortunate than their relatively successful peers.

After a four-year degree, we often feel the need for a break, but it also feels like we'll lag behind if we choose to take it. It's important to remember, however, that it's alright to move at your own pace. Finding your footing will take time, and regardless of what the outcome is, it's crucial not to be overwhelmed by comparison or anxiety.

**Zabin** is an Electrical and Electronic Engineering graduate from the Islamic University of Technology, a chronically online night owl, and a sufferer of many migraines. Find her at: [zabintrn@gmail.com](mailto:zabintrn@gmail.com).



ILLUSTRATION: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

## The highs, lows, and how-tos of a long-distance relationship

TINATH ZAeba

A long-distance relationship can feel like balancing on a thin line between comfort and chaos. There's beauty in it, a kind of strength, and also an ache that you know will be there. Two people connected by something invisible, separated by something as ordinary as geography, learn to love through absence. It's both a challenge and a chance to rediscover what love really means when touch and proximity are taken away.

The highs of a long-distance relationship often surprise those who expect only loneliness. What follows is a deepened sense of communication, a deliberate effort to talk, to listen, and to understand. You learn the art of expressing emotions through words instead of gestures, of making someone feel seen even from miles away. Each call brings you closer, and every reunion feels like the entire world is folding in on itself just to bring you together.

In long-distance relationships, independence grows alongside connection. Two of you will still grow as individuals, nurturing your own goals and identity, but with the comfort that someone is walking beside you, just on a different road. In a strange way, space allows love to breathe; it stops being about habit and becomes about choice. You might feel lonely, but you know you are never alone.

But the lows are real, and they arrive uninvited, even if expected. There will be nights when silence feels too heavy, when you start missing things you didn't know mattered, something as normal as a shared meal, a laugh, or even just the warmth of physical presence. Technology can only do so much; a screen cannot hold your hand or steady your breathing when the world feels too hard. Misunderstandings can stretch longer because messages can't always convey your intended tone.

There's also the uncertainty that creeps in: the question of how long the distance will remain and whether both hearts will still be as close when the waiting ends. It takes trust, patience, and a lot of stubborn hope to keep believing in something that can't always be seen.

In fact, trust is the base that keeps everything real. When distance removes

the comfort of physical presence, trust must show up in the basics: you have to do what you said you would, communicate when plans change, and be honest even when the truth is uncomfortable. Make it a habit to have hard conversations, to ask your partner if there's anything you can do better, and to actually tell your partner if you are insecure.

Over time, these simple actions create emotional security. You stop wondering if the other person cares because their behaviour proves it. Trust isn't a feeling that appears out of nowhere; it's the result of showing up for each other again and again, especially on the days when it would be easier not to.

Another layer often overlooked is learning attachment styles. Some people crave reassurance, some crave space, and others simply hover somewhere in between. These are known as anxious, secure, avoidant, or disorganized attachment styles.

work, so you have to create your own. Maybe it's sending a voice note every morning, writing a letter, or watching the same film at the same time. Whatever it is, it's important to discuss it beforehand and to keep it consistent throughout the relationship. The trick is to make the ordinary special, to keep inventing new ways of saying you care without always needing to say it.

Another layer often overlooked is learning attachment styles. Some people crave reassurance, some crave space, and others simply hover somewhere in between. These are known as anxious, secure, avoidant, or disorganized attachment styles.

What many people don't understand is that a long-distance relationship isn't about surviving until you meet again; it's about learning how to love through waiting. There will be dips – in mood, in patience, in WiFi (a good piece of advice is to get strong WiFi; it's an investment), but each moment apart also sharpens what truly matters. It's not just a test of how strong you are alone but how committed you are together.

What keeps the relationship alive isn't constant communication or grand gestures. It's the daily choice to stay, to show up, to listen, and to keep building bridges out of words, time, and care. Love, when stretched across distance, becomes something softer and stronger all at once. It teaches you that connection isn't just about presence but also about persistence. It's about knowing that even when you stand miles apart, your hearts are still learning to meet halfway again and again.

In the end, the best advice is simple: keep choosing each other, even when it's hard. Celebrate small milestones. Speak kindly, even when tired. Laugh, plan, dream, and keep making tiny bridges out of words and effort. Distance might stretch your connection, but it can't weaken what's built on intention.

After all, love doesn't only exist where you stand; it also lives in the space between, patiently waiting for you both to meet halfway. And it's always worth it in the end.

**Tinath Zaeba** is an optimistic daydreamer, a cat mom of 5 and a student of Economics at North South University. Get in touch via [tinathzaeba25@gmail.com](mailto:tinathzaeba25@gmail.com).

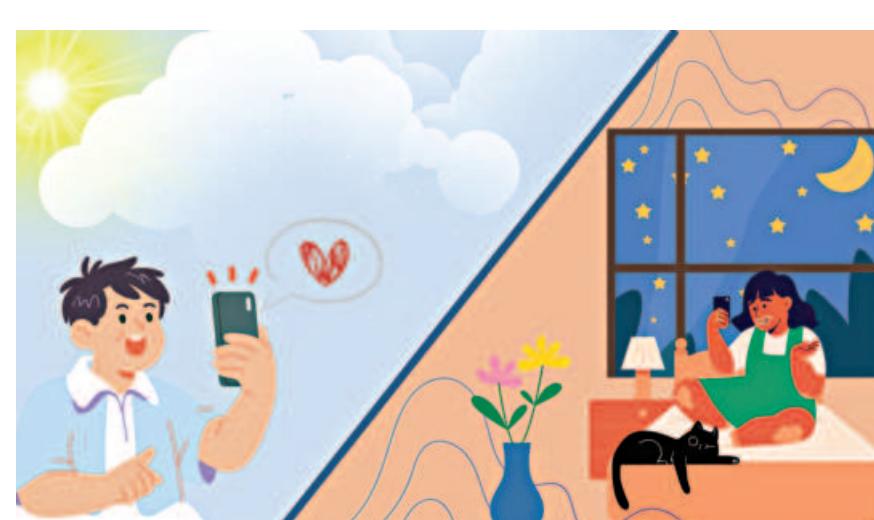


ILLUSTRATION: ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

That's also why having a plan matters. Not a fixed, listed blueprint, but a shared direction. Preferably, before entering a long-distance relationship, knowing how long it will stay long-distance, or at least talking about what comes next, gives the relationship a sense of purpose. A plan is what turns waiting into preparing. It's a reminder that the distance is temporary, and every effort made now is an investment in something real and near.

Still, even the best plans need warmth and love to work. This is where love languages come in, which refers to the way we show affection. Everyone speaks a slightly different one, generally through words, acts, gifts, time, or touch. But when you're apart, the usual gestures might not

understanding your own and your partner's attachment styles helps soften the edges of miscommunication. It requires a lot of self-awareness but allows you to respond instead of react. It's not about fixing yourself or your partner, but about knowing what love looks like for both of you when fear tries to sneak in. It's also how you grow as individuals, because the more you understand yourself and others, the better decisions you make, not just in relationships but also in business, with family, and in life.

And then there's the question of what shared activities to do, even when you can't be together. The simplest things often matter the most: watching a show, cooking the same recipe, reading the

## The disruptive force of Substack in the world of independent media

AAQIB HASIB

If you have never used Substack before, the platform might appear as just another simple newsletter service. As you initially browse the site, it might come off as a cacophony of various interests, presented in a blog-style format.

However, the more you use Substack, the more you will realize that it might just be the future of independent media. And when I say independent media, I am not just talking about the news.

Corporate media is more than just mainstream news platforms like *The New York Times* and *Fox News*. It also refers to the scores of lifestyle, fashion, technology, food, wellbeing, health, and entertainment publications that are driven by the dollars of billionaires and influence our consumption choices.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

In such a media environment, where funding from corporations often shapes the direction of modern-day news content, it is refreshing to see that many media organisations and individual journalists operating on Substack are funded through their subscribers. This offers a level of transparency which warrants that our valuable money is going toward funding actual information and not corporate hogwash.

Don't believe me? Just visit Sidestack's directory of Substack newsletters and writers and look under the category for news, sports, business, and world politics, just to name a few, and you will see exactly what I mean. Sidestack is an independently created, open-source site that acts like a directory or phonebook for Substack. With this, you can track down exactly the kind of Substack you are looking to follow or read. Personally, I follow Mehdi Hasan's Zeteo—the British-American journalist's independent media platform that has been built on Substack.

Not only does Substack allow you to create a news-blog site, it also lets you raise funding directly from your readers. Zeteo, for example, has a paid tier that gives you access to all of the latest reports from the platform. However, for those looking for a free option, Zeteo has a variety of articles available to read for free, albeit the free-tier users usually can access them a week later.

Even better is the fact that Substack recently added the option to host video podcasts on the site and then distribute them to audio-podcast platforms like Apple and Spotify directly through Substack.

Moreover, unlike other websites, you are not greeted by a deluge of cheap advertisements the moment you click onto any Substack site. Instead, depending on whose Substack you visit, you are greeted by an option to subscribe to keep up with the specific site or the option to become a paying member. As such, you can just focus on the topic at hand, without constant distractions getting in your way.

In an ever-evolving media landscape, where most of the evolution is happening in all the wrong directions, a free-to-use platform like Substack is a godsend. It lets new independent media companies and even individual journalists take control over their content, while allowing them to build a loyal and organic audience.

## HOW SUBSTACK BECAME MY COSY CORNER OF THE INTERNET

IRINA JAHAN

Bed rotting and doomsrolling are terrible long-term "strategies" for your health. They have left our attention spans in shambles, and like everyone else, I also resolved to do something about it. It's now safe to say that a hobby rehabilitation is on the horizon, as reading has made a refreshing comeback into my life.

Ironically, algorithms are not the antagonists of my story. In fact, much of this return to reading has been possible thanks to Substack—the internet's new favourite publishing site.

Substack's stack (pun unintended) of captivating newsletters and blogs has become a delightful retreat from scrolling Instagram. I suppose one could best describe it as the nice and cosy corner of the internet where the best contemporary writers are flocking to write their thought-provoking pieces.

The quality of content here is definitely higher, but one cannot ignore the fact that it is basically another social media platform at the end of the day. The exposure to new ideas here feels like a good trade-off right now, but eventually, one needs to grapple with the issue surrounding the overconsumption of content online.

Until then, Substack remains my favourite app on the internet, and I would unapologetically recommend it to anyone seeking something that could spark curiosity or simply lead them to some excellent book or movie recommendations.



## HAMZA'S WONDER GOAL NOT ENOUGH

Jaws dropped and hands landed on heads as Bangladesh star Hamza Choudhury produced a moment of sheer brilliance that left spectators breathless – not only at the National Stadium but also in front of TV screens, bringing Bangladesh back into the game in their FIFA friendly against

Nepal yesterday. In a match that had offered little to cheer for the home side, the Leicester City midfielder delivered a one-man show, drawing Bangladesh level at 1-1 just a minute after the restart with an outrageous bicycle kick. Hamza then followed it up with an audacious Panenka penalty

in the 50th minute to give the hosts a 2-1 lead, but ultimately, Bangladesh were deprived of their second win of the year as Nepal's Ananta Tamang found an equaliser in the third minute of stoppage time. Earlier, Rohit Chand fired Nepal into the lead with a thunderous strike in the 29th minute.



PHOTO: STAR

## NSC orders all federations to form anti-harassment committees

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) has instructed all federations and associations under its jurisdiction to form five-member committees to prevent sexual harassment of women.

In a press release issued on Wednesday, the NSC stated that each committee would have to have at least three women and the list of members will have to be submitted to the NSC by November 19.

Female athletes and others involved with the sports body can file complaints of sexual harassment with the committee, who will be responsible to take appropriate actions.

The press release further read that if a complainant is not addressed or if the complainant is not happy with the verdict, they can approach the NSC. The directive follows the recent allegations of sexual harassment made by former Bangladesh cricket team captain Jahanara Alam, which have shaken the country's sports fraternity, and has raised calls for independent inquiry committees and other measures to ensure the safety of female athletes.



**"Alhamdulillah, it feels wonderful to win Bangladesh's first-ever medal in the compound event of the Asian Archery Championships."**

**Bonna Akter,** silver medalist, compound mixed team event

**"They [Olympic gold medallist opponents] can hit 10s, and so can I. I've only been playing for two years; they're much more experienced. But I never felt intimidated."**

**Kulsum Akter Moni,** bronze medalist, women's compound individual event



**Bangladesh shone brightly at the 24th Asian Archery Championships 2025, securing both silver and bronze on an inspiring Thursday in Dhaka. Bonna Akter and Himu Bachar won silver in the compound mixed team event after a thrilling 151-153 final loss to India -- Bangladesh's first-ever medal in the compound category. [Inset] Later, Kulsum Akter Moni added to the glory with a bronze in the women's compound individual event, edging Chinese Taipei's Si-yu Chen 145-144.**

PHOTO: BAF

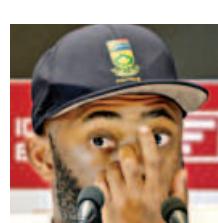
## A two-match Test series between India and world champions South Africa begins at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Friday.

South Africa have a poor recent record in India, having lost their previous two series 3-0. Their last series win came under Hansie Cronje in 2000. But under Bavuma, South Africa have a leader with a top success rate – winning nine and drawing one of 10 Tests as captain.

For the first time in decades, South African cricket will move away from their tradition of

playing a Boxing Day Test at home to accommodate an SA T20 competition.

India's recent 2-0 sweep of West Indies took them past South Africa to become the third-most successful team at home in Test cricket. They have 122 wins in the five-day format in India, behind only Australia, who have 262 home wins, and England, who have 241.



**"Coming to India, it's never easy. We understand the magnitude of the challenge. Some of us in the group have experienced moments of hurt."**

— South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma



**"Whenever we play in India, more or less the spinners decide the game. The better the quality of the spin attack you have, the better your chances of winning the match."**

— India captain Shubman Gill

## A division without own daughters

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI FROM SYLHET

Despite over a decade of promises, women's cricket in Bangladesh still lacks a true culture emerging from a vibrant domestic system that nurtures competitiveness and identity, as evident in the ongoing Women's National Cricket League (NCL) T20 2025-26.

The NCL differs from club or franchise cricket in that teams are formed by divisions, with most players drawn from their own regions. Yet, in the 14th edition, which began at BKSP on November 8 and runs until November 17, Sylhet Division's side included not a single player from Sylhet itself.

Icon players Sharmin Akhter Supta and Sanjida Akter represent Sylhet but come from Gaibandha and Jessor, respectively. The omission has frustrated local cricketers.

BCB sources confirmed that player selection follows board instructions -- with the binding commitment that selection must be done from the draft -- but local cricketer Pinky Akter argued that "such rules exist every year, yet 2-3 local players are usually picked." She also alleged that cricketers who were made captains had "picked others who they had friendships with."

Sylhet coach Mohammad Al Wadud Sweet explained that only one Sylhet player, Kulsuma, was in the BCB draft and was picked by Chittagong before Sylhet could act. "Since the auction system began, even replacements must come from the draft," he said.

An official admitted that "names from the divisions weren't sent up this time," though the reason was unclear. National selector Sazzad Ahmed said the draft was based on performances in Premier League



and First Division cricket, adding that divisions like Sylhet, Chattogram and Barisal have "fewer players." Records show at least three Sylhet players -- Pinky, Jui Talukdar, and Kulsuma -- played or were registered in recent Premier League seasons. Sazzad said he was "not sure why their names weren't pushed" but that he simply compiles lists based on submissions.

Officials from other divisions reportedly lobbied for their own players, while "no one from Sylhet took initiative," one Sylhet player said. Sylhet Division

Men's team manager Ali Wasiquzzaman linked the issue to the outcome of transition following a change of government and officials, leaving the division "without proper oversight." Players from Sylhet have also alleged that others represent their divisions despite comparable Premier League performances.

Wasiquzzaman, who previously coached the Sylhet women's team, said the local structure collapsed after 2015. "We had around 65 players once, but the programme stopped, and gradually they drifted away," he said, adding that few now play top-tier cricket.

BCB director and Bangladesh Tigers Standing Committee chairman Rahat Shams, himself from Sylhet, admitted he "missed the train this time" as the team was already formed from Dhaka through the draft before he assumed his new role. He acknowledged that "the stock in the pipeline isn't big" and said the priority now is to rebuild it.

"The goal is to create a pool of 15-20 players [from Sylhet]," he said, adding that a female manager, Selina Akhter Chowdhury, has been appointed to oversee the team, while coaching and development programmes are being planned for the region.

With few local leagues and limited opportunities, Sylhet reflects the absence of a cricketing ecosystem that rewards continuity and representation. Although expanding women's cricket nationwide is often discussed at board meetings, the reality is that it remains trapped in a cycle of promise and neglect.

In the meantime, the Sylheti girls wait in limbo, each missed season chipping away at their experience and confidence. For many, the future remains uncertain, and no one seems there to witness their disappointment or bear the weight of their dreams deferred.



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## 9 assaulted, handed over to police

**Suspected AL activists held at Dhanmondi 32, party's office**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesters opposing the Awami League's "Lockdown" programme yesterday detained and handed over at least nine people, including a teenager, to police on suspicion of being linked to the party in Dhaka's Dhanmondi 32 and near the AL's central office in Gulistan.

Law enforcers took up positions in Dhanmondi 32 early in the morning, setting up barricades and checking all entry points.

Around 11:00am, several Jamaat-e-Islami activists gathered near the area, reportedly to resist any Awami League activity, which remains banned.

Soon after, members of Islami Chhatra Shibir, National Citizen Party, and others identifying themselves as "July Joddha" joined them.

Witnesses said many protesters,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

## Some parties slam EC over RPO changes

**EC says decisions on referendum after official govt order**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several political parties have criticised the Election Commission for amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) and drafting the electoral code of conduct without prior consultation.

They also demanded a free, fair, and credible election and called on the EC to ensure the safety of voters and prevent the influence of criminal elements and black money before, during, and after the polls.

Meanwhile, the EC sought cooperation from the political parties ahead of the election and urged them to comply with the electoral code of conduct.

The remarks were made during a dialogue held yesterday in two phases, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, between EC officials and 12 political parties at the Election Commission headquarters in Agargaon.

This is the first time the EC sat with registered political parties ahead of the 13th national election. Representatives from 12 parties attended the talks, where the commission engaged them on 11 issues.

The agenda covered party and candidate responsibilities, adherence to the code of conduct, preventing AI misuse and misinformation, promoting communal harmony, and avoiding discrimination or the use of religion in politics.

At the dialogue, the political parties pressed the commission to announce the election schedule soon and to take immediate steps to ensure a secure and level playing field for all candidates.

The EC, on its part, repeatedly reminded the parties to comply with the electoral code of conduct, saying that



### A STORM OF YELLOW

**A One-spot Grass Yellow, four Broad-bordered Grass Yellows, and two pale green Mottled Emigrants – all different species of butterflies – pause together to sip minerals from the sand in Fatikchhari's Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary. These gentle wanderers range widely across South and Southeast Asia, drifting through forest edges, open fields and sunlit clearings. Adults feed on nectar from small flowering plants, while caterpillars rely on legumes (Grass Yellows) and Senna species (Emigrant). They shelter low in shrubs and light woodland, rarely still for long. All three are listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, yet habitat loss, pesticides and disappearing host plants quietly threaten their future.**

PHOTO: SHAMEEM HASAN

15-year-old beaten to death over 'theft'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-year-old boy was allegedly tortured to death on suspicion of theft in Dhaka's Mir Hajirbag area under Jatrabari.

The victim, Bappi, son of rickshaw-puller Md Shahjahan, lived with his family in Dholaipear's Prem Goli area and worked at a local factory alongside his mother.

Around 2:00am on Tuesday, three local youths – Rasel, Molla Shubho and Shakib – came to Bappi's house and took him away, said his elder brother Md Parvez.

They accused him of stealing cash and a prepaid electricity meter card from Fouzia Rowshan Akter Priti's residence.

"They confined him in a club room at Abu Hazi Mosque lane and beat him throughout the night. The next morning, they brought Bappi back home and told him to return the stolen items. When they didn't find anything, they took him away again."

Bappi's mother followed them to plead for his

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

## Pak president, army chief get lifelong immunity

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's parliament yesterday approved a sweeping constitutional amendment granting lifetime immunity to the president as well as the current army chief, a move critics warned would erode democratic checks and judicial independence.

The 27th amendment, passed by a two-thirds majority, also consolidates military power under a new Chief of Defence Forces role and establishes a Federal Constitutional Court.

The changes grant army chief Asim Munir, promoted to field marshal after Pakistan's clash with India in May, command over the army, air force and the navy.

He and other top military brass will enjoy lifelong protections.

Under the amendment, any officer promoted to field marshal, marshal of the air force, or admiral of the fleet will now retain rank and privileges for life, remain in uniform, and enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings.

Such protections were previously only reserved for the head of state.

"This constitutional amendment will increase authoritarianism and whatever little semblance of democracy existed in this country will fade away," said Osama Malik, an Islamabad-based lawyer.

"It will not only remove civilian oversight from the military's activities, it will also completely destroy the military hierarchy where all service chiefs were considered equal under the joint chief system," he told AFP.



**US President Donald Trump displays the signed bill package to reopen the federal government in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on Wednesday. Congress ended the longest shutdown in US history – 43 days that left hundreds of thousands unpaid and paralyzed Washington amid partisan blame games.**

## Judge's son 'strangled to death' at home

**Injured wife, suspect in hospital**

STAR REPORT

The son of a judge was stabbed inside their home in Rajshahi city's Dabtola area yesterday.

Police have detained the alleged assailant, who was also injured during the incident.

Tawshif Rahman Sumon, 18, son of Rajshahi Metropolitan and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman, was killed around 3:00pm on the fifth floor of a building.

Abdul Latif, who lives in the same building, said, "I found two boys -- the victim and the suspect -- lying in a pool of blood. Madam [the judge's wife] came out from their home and fell to the ground. I took all three to the hospital [Rajshahi Medical College Hospital]."

Doctors at RMCH declared Sumon dead on arrival. The judge's wife Tasmin Nahar and the suspect is undergoing treatment at the hospital

The building's caretaker, Meser Ali, said that when the young man entered the building around 2:30pm, he wrote his name as "Milon" and his address as Shahe Bazar in the caretaker's register.

He introduced himself as Judge Abdur Rahman's brother and went up to the fifth-floor flat carrying a bag.

About 30 minutes later, a woman who works in the flat as a domestic helper came running to inform Meser Ali that the judge's wife and son had been attacked with a

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

**23 districts get new DCs ahead of polls**

**Four new divisional commissioner also appointed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two districts yesterday got new deputy commissioners as part of a reshuffle in the field administration ahead of the national election.

Only Narayanganj DC Mohammad Zaidul Islam Minya was transferred to Chattogram.

The government also appointed four new divisional commissioners to Khulna, Rajshahi, Barishal and Mymensingh.

The appointments were announced through separate notifications issued by the public administration ministry.

The new DCs were appointed to Lakshmpur, Munshiganj, Netrakona, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Khagrachhari, Comilla, Pabna, Dhaka, Rangpur, Jessor, Meherpur, Noakhali, Gazipur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Madaripur, Moulivibazar, Barishal, Barguna, Rangamati, and others.

With the new orders, the government has now reshuffled DC positions in 50 districts in three phases ahead of the 13th national election, likely to be held in the first half of February.

In the national election, divisional and deputy commissioners serve as returning officers. As a result, the positions are considered highly important in the run-up to the polls.

**Ali Riaz now CA's special assistant**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has appointed Ali Riaz as a special assistant to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

Riaz, who was vice-chairman of the National Commission, will hold the status of an adviser, as per the gazette notification from the cabinet division.

On September 18 last year, the government named Riaz as head of the Constitution Reform Commission, replacing Supreme Court lawyer Shahid Malik.

A Bangladeshi American, Riaz is a distinguished professor of politics and government at Illinois State University in the US. He chaired the Department of Politics between 2007 and 2017.

He is a non-resident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council and currently serves as president of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies.

