

# Hasina sentenced to death

ICT also hands down capital punishment to ex-home boss Asaduzzaman Khan for crimes against humanity; ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned a state witness, given 5yrs

SHARIFUL ISLAM and  
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

In its first judgment on crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death.

The Awami League chief was found guilty of incitement, abetment, inaction, conspiracy, and superior command responsibility that led to the murder and torture of protesters nationwide.

The three-judge panel said the five-time premier received imprisonment until natural death for one charge, and death for another, which included the murder of six protesters in Chankharpul and another six in Ashulia.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was also sentenced to death, while former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who testified as an approver, was given five years in prison.

Mamun, the first accused to become a state witness in an ICT trial, remains in custody and has pleaded guilty.

The former IGP sat in the



**Sheikh Hasina,  
Asaduzzaman Khan  
Kamal and Chowdhury  
Abdullah Al- Mamun  
acted jointly ... and  
committed atrocities in  
order to kill protesters  
across the country.**

ICT-1 Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder

dock with his head bowed, tears streaming down his face as the tribunal chair announced his sentence.

Hasina and Asaduzzaman remain fugitives since they fled to India following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5 last year.

As the death penalty was pronounced at 2:50pm, around

40 family members of martyrs, wounded victims and movement organisers burst into applause, some crying "Alhamdulillah."

Zartaj Parveen, mother of July martyr Shafiq Uddin Ahmed Ahnaf, who had been sitting silently in the packed gallery, began to weep.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman urged the crowd to maintain court decorum.

Reading portions of the 453-page judgment over two and a half hours from 12:30pm, tribunal chief Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder said, "As prime minister, Sheikh Hasina exercised ultimate authority over the law-enforcement chain -- from the home minister to the inspector general of police. Given the pattern of impunity, the ongoing student protests, and the role of state and

ruling party actors in the alleged atrocities, it is evident that she could not have been ignorant of these events."

"Accused prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accused home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and accused inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al- Mamun acted jointly in connivance and

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## A courtroom of tears and prayers

**Families welcome verdict, unhappy over ex-IGP's 5-yr term**

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

From the early hours, the air inside the courtroom of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 felt thick with anticipation and grief.

In the front rows of the packed chamber sat families of those killed in last year's July uprising, waiting for a verdict they hoped would finally deliver justice.

The emotions were palpable as parents who lost their children prayed quietly, tears slipping down their faces.

Before the delivery of the verdict began, Mir Mustafizur Rahman, father of martyr Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho, was holding a bottle of water when someone requested some. He softly said, "Of course. My son embraced martyrdom while handing out water to the July protesters."

The words were spoken with both sorrow and pride.

Around 12:30pm, the three-member ICT-1, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, began reading portions of the 453-page judgement.

After an almost two-and-hour wait, the verdict was finally pronounced: "...For all these three counts we have decided to inflict [Sheikh Hasina] with only one sentence, that is sentence of death."

The chamber erupted in both applause and tears.

Reacting to the death sentences of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal for crimes against humanity during the July uprising, the victims' families described it as "bringing relief but not healing". They said closure would come only when the punishments are carried out.

Speaking to reporters following the verdict, Mugdho's brother

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**Verdict shows no one is above the law: Yunus  
India under obligation to return Hasina: govt**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said sentencing of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her associates shows that no one is above the law, as the government intensified its push to bring her back from India.

"Today, the courts of Bangladesh have spoken with a clarity that resonates across the nation and beyond. The conviction and sentencing affirm a fundamental principle: no one, regardless of power, is above the law," he said in a statement issued by his press wing yesterday.

His statement came after Dhaka urged New Delhi to immediately extradite Hasina, who was sentenced to death in a crimes against humanity case filed over last year's uprising, saying it was "an



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## BNP, Jamaat, NCP hail the verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major political parties yesterday welcomed the International Crimes Tribunal's decision to sentence ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death.

Following the ICT verdict, the BNP said justice has been served, while Jamaat-e-Islami urged India to return Hasina so that she may face her punishment.

Meanwhile, the NCP demanded that Hasina's death sentence be carried out within a month and insisted that the Awami League, as a political party, also be brought to trial.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, in a statement, said, "The souls of the thousands of martyrs -- victims of 16 years of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and state terrorism, as well as those who died in the 2024 student uprising -- will finally find peace, and the anguish of their families will be eased to some extent."

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said that the verdict delivers justice and serves as a warning against future dictatorship.

"It sends a message that no one can ever again establish a fascist regime in this country, no one can become a fascist ruler, and dictatorship must never return. This is a lesson for the future, not just a judgement for the past, and we must remember that," he told reporters at Dhaka University.

Calling the verdict a "milestone", he said, "Through today's verdict, several things are proven: no matter how strong a fascist dictator may be, or how long they exercise power illegally, they must eventually face trial..."

Speaking at a press briefing at Jamaat central office, Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, "We believe there is no scope for anyone to question this trial. It was transparent, impartial and met

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## THE CHARGES

### CHARGE 1

**FIRST COUNT  
Incitement**

**SECOND COUNT  
Ordering the killings**

**THIRD COUNT  
Failure to prevent atrocities  
or take punitive action  
against perpetrators**

**PUNISHMENT  
Imprisonment until natural  
death.**

### CHARGE 2

**FIRST COUNT  
Crimes against humanity  
by issuing order to deploy  
drones, helicopters, and  
lethal weapons to kill  
protesters**

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## REACTION

**Evidence strong,  
but defence did  
bare minimum**

DAVID BERGMAN

One must distinguish between two separate issues: the evidence presented by the prosecution against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and the fairness of the process and procedure of the trial itself.



The evidentiary record points toward Hasina's involvement in crimes against humanity. Substantial evidence demonstrated the existence of a "widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population" carried out "pursuant to, or in furtherance of, a State or organisational policy".

In relation to Hasina's own connection to this attack and policy, the prosecution relied on her statements captured in intercepted communications as well as testimony from the former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah

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**Protesters try to demolish Mujib's house, clash with cops**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers clashed with demonstrators yesterday in and around Dhanmondi-32 in the capital, as the latter attempted to demolish the remaining parts of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's house with diggers.

Members of army, police, Rab, and BGB guarded the site and used truncheons, sound grenades, and teargas shells to disperse the agitating people.

"Several sound grenades were used to disperse the demonstrators," said Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Ramma division.

Over 20 people, including demonstrators and law enforcers, were injured in the sporadic clashes.

Vehicular movement on Mirpur Road and surrounding areas was

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Protesters bring an excavator to completely tear down the already damaged Dhanmondi-32 house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the verdict against Sheikh Hasina was being declared by the ICT yesterday. The army and police barred the demonstrators, leading to chase and counter-chase. The photo was taken around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Pallabi shop

**Attack caught on CCTV; assailants also fire at rickshaw-puller**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo Dal leader was shot dead inside a shop in the capital's Pallabi area last evening.

The victim, Golam Kibria, 47, was the member secretary of the organisation's Pallabi thana unit.

CCTV footage shows that three attackers, who were masked and helmeted, pushed open the glass door of Bikrampur Sanitary shop, in Pallabi's Block-C, and fired multiple shots point-blank around 6:40pm when Kibria collapsed. Within seconds, the three slipped out of the shop.

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## SNAPS FROM COURT TO STREET

*Clockwise from top left:* Addressing the press, relatives of July uprising victims give their reaction to Hasina's sentencing at the ICT. Survivors maimed in last year's uprising exit the tribunal after attending proceedings. Former police chief Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun being escorted out after receiving a five-year sentence. Army personnel maintain security at the ICT premises. Protesters torch an effigy of Hasina near her Dhanmondi 32 residence hours before the ruling. A rickshaw-puller stands atop his vehicle outside the court and raises his hands in prayer after the verdict is announced.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, PRABIR DAS, RASHED SHUMON



## TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS OF SHEIKH HASINA USED AS EVIDENCE



### WITH THEN DHAKA UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR ASM MAKSLAM KAMAL ON JULY 14, 2024

"I have hanged the Razakars, and now I will do the same to them. I won't spare a single one. I'm telling you [...] What kind of country do we live in? Haven't you seen what happened to the Razakars – I had them all executed; now I won't spare them either [...] All of these people must be kicked out... I'm giving the order. Let today pass and then I will arrest them, detain them and take whatever action is necessary."

### WITH SHEIKH FAZLE NOOR TAPOSH ON JULY 18, 2024

"I have spoken with the army chief, they'll be on alert. Now we are taking other steps. We are taking photos with drones and using helicopters over a few locations [...] I've given the order to arrest all of them [...] RAB, DGFI, everyone has been told detain as many as they can [...] I've already given the instruction. They will use lethal weapons now. Wherever they are seen, shoot at sight."

### WITH HASANUL HUQ INU ON JULY 20, 2024

"Forces will descend from the air and arrest them from all sides [...] they will bomb the area from helicopters. RAB's helicopters will attack from above."

### WITH HASANUL HUQ INU ON AUGUST 4, 2024

"I have told them to update the news scrolls [...] We are telling the guardians that there has been a terrorist attack [...] An international organisation gave me a message that these are terrorist attacks. [...] I will put it in the newspapers."

## Hasina sentenced to death

FROM PAGE 1  
collaboration with each other and committed atrocities in order to kill protesters across the country," said the tribunal chair.

The court premises and surrounding area were under tight security from early morning. With arson and crude bomb attacks in recent days, safety had already been heightened nationwide.

Injured protesters and families of July martyrs gathered outside, demanding that the government ask India to send Hasina back.

In his reaction to the verdict, state-appointed defence lawyer Amir Hossain said he accepted it but was "angry and deeply hurt" by the outcome. "The verdict could have been different. But it

human rights bodies, and newspaper reports.

It also documents the "extent of cruelty" endured by the victims killed, seriously injured, or permanently disabled during the July 2024 uprising.

On the contested casualty figures,

"The videos displayed in the courtroom showing the dead and injured, their cries of agony, and the appearances of victim witnesses who lost skulls, eyes, noses, hands, and legs were so harrowing that any human being would struggle to remain in a

normal state of mind," the judge said. "Such atrocities must be brought to an end at any cost. Justice must not fail."

In view of the tribunal's findings, Hasina was found guilty on three counts under Charge 1 – incitement, ordering the killings, and failure to prevent the atrocities or take punitive action.

The judgment also analyses police communications and top-down directives during the protests, and records the arguments of the chief prosecutor and the state-appointed defence counsel.

The tribunal said the defence "made allegations without showing any substantive contradiction," and after reviewing both sides, found "sufficient grounds" for framing charges.

The chair added that the chief prosecutor, in summing up, sought an order restraining Awami League from political activities. "The tribunal does not include [this in] the instant case."

For these, she received imprisonment until natural death.

Under Charge 2, the first count concerned her orders to deploy drones, helicopters and lethal weapons to kill protesters, which the tribunal deemed crimes against humanity.

The second concerned the killing of six persons at Chankharpul and another six at Ashulia in execution of her earlier orders.

On these counts, the tribunal imposed a single sentence of death.

The tribunal also found Kamal and Mamun liable on four counts of crimes against humanity linked to the Chankharpul and Ashulia killings.

They were found guilty of abetment, failure to prevent the atrocities, and failure to take punitive measures.

"For all these four counts, we have decided to award a single sentence of death to Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal," Justice Muzumder said.

The tribunal noted that Mamun materially assisted the proceedings by making a full and truthful disclosure of the facts, admitting involvement across the 36-day movement.

Citing his cooperation and admissions, it showed leniency and sentenced him to five years in prison despite the gravity of offences that typically warrant death.

The tribunal ordered the confiscation of all properties belonging to Hasina and Asaduzzaman in favour of the state.

It also directed the government to pay adequate compensation to the families of the slain protesters mentioned in the case, and to the wounded victims in consideration of the gravity of their injury and loss.

The sentence will be executed under Section 20(3) of the International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973, "preferably following longstanding practice".

A copy of the judgment will be sent to the Dhaka district magistrate, and one provided to Mamun. The absconding accused will not receive copies at this stage.

The ICT chair said the actions of the authorities in question were unprecedented in Bangladesh's history. He said the nature and extent of the cruelty inflicted on protesters, including infants, women and the elderly, remain etched in the nation's collective memory.

The judgment details the prosecution's case, the defence submissions, the evidence presented, and the tribunal's findings, including witness testimonies, video footage, reports of national and international

the chair noted the wide disparities – government gazettes, UN assessments, and other reports place deaths at 800; 1,000; or 1,400. He said such variations were "natural" in mass atrocity situations, adding that even post-1971 lists remain incomplete.

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## BNP, Jamaat, NCP hail

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international standards. "Those who have provided shelter to a fugitive death row convict, in our view, have taken a stand in favour of the heinous criminal. We demand that she be returned to Bangladesh."

Speaking to reporters at NCP central office, Convenor Nahid Islam said the party welcomed the verdict but would not be satisfied until the sentence was executed.

Terming the judgement "historic", he called for her immediate return from India.

Meanwhile, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Hefazat-e-Islam, and a faction of the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party also said the verdict sends a warning to future fascists.

In a statement, Islami Andolan Bangladesh called on the interim government to complete all remaining legal procedures and take steps to carry out the verdict without delay.

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis said the ICT verdict would serve as an example against the use of state power to murder and abduct citizens.

Hefazat-e-Islam said justice had been served and peace had reached the families of the martyrs.

"Those who want to become fascists

and autocrats again in the future will also have to face the consequences of Hasina and the Awami League," Hefazat-e-Islam Babunagari said in a statement.

A faction of the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party went as far as to demand that Hasina's death sentence be executed in public.

Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Bangladesh welcomed the verdict, while the Biplobi Workers Party, in a statement, said the judgement proves that even dictators are not above the law.

Earlier in the day, Hasina was given the death penalty after being found guilty of crimes against humanity for the violent suppression of student protests last year that led to the collapse of her government.

A panel of three judges from the ICT delivered their verdict, ruling that she was responsible for inciting hundreds of extrajudicial killings carried out by law enforcement.

Hasina was tried in absentia, having been exiled in India since she was forced from power in August 2024.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who was on trial alongside Hasina, was also sentenced to death, while former police chief Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun was sentenced to five years in prison.

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Several families said it was under Al-Mamun's orders that police across the country opened fire on protesters, killing their loved ones.

Zartaj Parvin, mother of martyr Afnah, said, "Such a massacre took place under the direction of Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun, yet he has been given only five years' imprisonment. We don't accept this sentence."

Meanwhile, back in Rangpur's Piroganj, parents, siblings, relatives and neighbours of martyr Abu Sayed, the first reported victim of the July killings, were waiting in front of the television with bated breath since early morning, our Salmonirah correspondent reported.

As soon as the verdict came, they all raised their hands in the air, expressing their gratitude to the Almighty. Some rushed to Abu Sayed's grave and prayed for his departed soul's peace.

Abu Sayed's father Mokbul Hossain said, "I am satisfied with the ICT court's verdict. I'll be even happier if it's executed soon. This is one execution I want to witness in my lifetime. My son was very talented. Had he been alive today, our home would still be filled with joy. My child was shot dead on killer Hasina's orders."

Breaking down at the news, Monowara Begum, mother of Abu Sayed, prayed that the verdict be executed without delay. "The government must ensure this happens swiftly."

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced Hasina to death on several counts of crimes against humanity committed during last year's July uprising that toppled her, forcing her to flee to India.

At the start of the trial on June 1 this year, the tribunal first issued an arrest warrant for her. The tribunal then issued circulars in newspapers for her to appear before the court and face the trial, but she did not. Separately, the interim government has requested India to return Hasina, but New Delhi is yet to honour the request.

## Hasina can't appeal before surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next legal recourse for ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina is to file an appeal against the tribunal's verdict, but she must surrender before she can do that, legal experts have said.

Talking to The Daily Star after the tribunal sentenced her to death on charges of crimes against humanity, state-appointed defence lawyer Amir Hossain said he cannot file an appeal as his client is absconding. "If she is arrested or if she surrenders before the tribunal, only then can an appeal be filed," he said.</

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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



From left, Farhad Mazhar, Moshahida Sultana and Firoz Ahmed at "Krishoker Mukti o Bangladesher Sarbobbomotta: Bhashani Sadhana", held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## EC must ensure a level playing field

**Say parties on 3rd day of dialogue with commission**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday resumed its electoral dialogue, meeting 11 more registered political parties as part of its consultations for the polls scheduled for February next year.

Participating parties called on the EC to ensure a level playing field, strict enforcement of the electoral code of conduct and greater transparency.

Several leaders also highlighted the need to modernise election management, strengthen oversight, curb the influence of black money and guarantee equal opportunities for smaller parties.

The first session of the day ran from 10:30am to 12:00pm at the EC headquarters in



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## 663 cases against Hasina to proceed as usual

**ICT verdict won't halt other criminal proceedings, say legal experts**

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Agargaon, with representatives from Bangladesh Shangskritik Muktiote, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Bangladesh Kallyan Party and Bangladesh Muslim League.

The second session, held from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, included representatives from Zaker Party, Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party, Bangladesh Development Party, Bangladesh Islami Front, Khelafat Majlis and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party-Jagpa.

According to police headquarters sources, Hasina is accused in at least 663 cases nationwide, while Kamal faces 295.

Former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun -- who became a state witness and received a five-year prison sentence from ICT-1 -- is facing 259 cases.

After being removed from power in the wake of the mass uprising, Hasina and Kamal are currently fugitives in India.

ICT prosecutor Mizanul Islam said, "If there are cases against these three convicted individuals in other courts, each of those cases

will proceed at its own pace."

Only the charges already tried by the tribunal will not proceed further, as verdicts on those counts have been delivered.

According to the ICT judgement, Hasina, 78, was sentenced to death on two counts.

She was handed the death penalty for the charge involving the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year. In another charge, she was found guilty of ordering the shooting of six student protesters in Ashulia on the same day -- five of whom were later burned after death, while the sixth was allegedly burned alive.

She also received imprisonment until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against protesters. She was also found guilty of ordering the killing of student protesters using helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons.

Hasina is additionally facing three more ICT

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Standing beside his closed shop, a man looks on as Dhaka South City Corporation carries out drainage improvement work on Dholakhal Road in Old Dhaka. Most of the stores along the roadside have remained shut due to the work. The maintenance has been ongoing for the past two months, leaving businesses and locals suffering daily.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Three more die of dengue, 1,007 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died, while 1,007 others were hospitalised, in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, two are reported from Dhaka South City Corporation and one from Mymensingh division.

With the new deaths and cases, dengue-related deaths this year rose to 339, while total cases reached 86,004.

Currently, 3,053 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

**Open your Account from anywhere**



## 'Bhashani's ideals key to restoring people's rights'

**Speakers call for renewed focus on farmer-centred politics**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Columnist and poet Farhad Mazhar yesterday said the July uprising has reminded the nation of a fundamental truth: all power belongs to the people, and neither the state nor parliament has any authority to take away their rights or livelihood.

He said any force that seizes citizens' "frizik" -- whether a government, corporation or professional body -- must be resisted, as ensuring people's wellbeing is the primary duty of administration.

He made the remarks at "Krishoker Mukti o Bangladesher Sarbobbomotta: Bhashani Sadhana" (Liberation of Farmers and Bangladesh's Sovereignty: Bhashani's Struggle), held at The Daily Star Centre.

The session, the fourth instalment of the series, was

organised by The Daily Star Itihas Adda.

Mazhar said, "If we want to practise popular sovereignty and return power to the people, we must read Bhashani with serious attention."

He said at this stage of history, Bhashani's political language is crucial because it enables political engagement with ordinary, religious-minded citizens and prevents religion from being artificially separated from politics.

Mazhar said Bhashani's politics cannot be understood without recognising this spiritual foundation. Bhashani lived an extremely simple life, free from greed or attachment to wealth, practising what he described as a "strict, practising Muslim life" in the tradition of saints and awliya.

At the same time, Bhashani fought consistently "on the side

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**JNU STUDENT UNION  
JCD, left-leaning groups announce panels for polls**

Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal

has announced its panel for the first ever Jagannath University Central Students' Union election, scheduled for December 22.

The 21-member panel -- formed with leaders from JnU Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad and student representatives from cultural organisations -- has been named "Oikyoboddho Nirbhik Jobian".

The announcement was made around 1:00pm yesterday by JCD central president Rakibul Islam Rakib.

The panel has nominated AKM Rakib, president of JnU Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, for the vice-president post, and Khadijatul Kubra, joint convener of JnU Chhatra SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## Dhaka sees sparse traffic Students hail Hasina verdict at DU, Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital yesterday saw light traffic as it waited for the International Crimes Tribunal's verdict in a case involving deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Very few buses plied on the roads, while public movement also remained limited. Rickshaws dominated the city's thoroughfares, although inter-district buses operated normally.

The city appeared unusually quiet through the morning till afternoon.

The ICT sentenced Hasina to death for crimes against humanity linked to the July uprising last year.

The tribunal also sentenced former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death. Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who testified as a state witness, was sentenced to five years of imprisonment.

Soon after the verdict was announced, leaders of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) distributed sweets on the DU campus.

Around 200-300 students had been watching the verdict live on a large outdoor screen set up in the TSC area since morning. Many cheered and chanted slogans after hearing the verdict.

DUCSU Social Welfare Secretary AB Zubaid said they welcomed the court's decision and hoped the sentence would be carried out once Hasina is extradited from India.



PHOTO: STAR

**Students hail the verdict at TSC yesterday.**

DUCSU Literature and Cultural Affairs Secretary Musaddiq Ali Ibn Mohammad echoed him.

A similar atmosphere prevailed at Shahbagh, where several groups held separate programmes and distributed sweets after the verdict was announced at around 2:50pm.

Later in the evening, leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party distributed sweets and joined a public rally organised by its Dhaka Metropolitan Committee in Bangla Motor area.

NCP leaders, including its Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary, thanked the judiciary and called for the quick implementation of the verdict.

In front of the High Court's main entrance, families of July uprising victims, among others, gathered with banners and photographs and chanted slogans demanding justice.

Mancha 24, an organisation imbued with the spirit of the July uprising, also held a briefing in front of the HC demanding implementation of the verdict after Hasina's extradition as soon as possible.

Security remained visibly tightened in the city throughout the day, with additional checkpoints, barricades and patrol teams set up at major points. Police, Rab, BGB and other forces were deployed in significant numbers around the HC area.



## South Africa warns of Gaza expulsion: FM

AFP, Johannesburg

The arrival in South Africa of 153 Palestinians on a plane last week was "suspicious" and indicated "a clear agenda to cleanse Palestinians out of Gaza and the West Bank," the foreign minister said yesterday.

The group landed in Johannesburg on a chartered flight on Thursday without departure stamps from Israel on their passports.

"We are suspicious as the South African government about the circumstances surrounding the arrival of the plane," Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola told reporters.

South Africa border police kept the group on the plane for 12 hours before President Cyril Ramaphosa allowed them entry on a standard 90-day visa exemption.

It emerged later that a first plane carrying 176 Palestinians had arrived on October 28, according to the Gift of the Givers charity which is assisting the Palestinians.

Reports said a shadowy organisation named Al-Majd was involved in the departure from Gaza of both groups.

## ASYLUM POLICY

### Britain reviews human rights laws

REUTERS, London

Britain will overhaul its approach to human rights laws to make it easier to deport migrants who arrive in the country illegally as part of a major shake-up of asylum policy to be set out yesterday.

Interior minister Shabana Mahmood will outline changes to how the European Convention on Human Rights will be interpreted by courts, the government said.

"These reforms will block endless appeals, stop last minute claims and scale up removals of those with no right to be here," PM Keir Starmer said. In what the government claims to be the most sweeping asylum policy overhaul of modern times, Mahmood will also announce plans to make refugee status temporary and to quadruple the length of time refugees will have to wait for permanent settlement in Britain.



Indigenous people attend a protest to call for climate justice and territorial protection during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), in Belem, Brazil, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## US escalates military presence near Venezuela

Trump signals possible talks with Maduro; Pentagon says it struck another suspected drug boat in Pacific

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump suggested Sunday that future talks with Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro could be on the table, as a regional US military buildup has whipped up tensions between the nations.

The US president spoke after Washington further upped the ante by announcing plans to designate as a terrorist group a cartel that it claims Maduro runs.

"We may be having some discussions with Maduro, and we'll see how that turns out," Trump told reporters in Florida, adding: "They would like to talk."

Pressed for more details, he replied: "Venezuela would like to talk. What does it mean? You tell me, I don't know... I'd talk to anybody."



Earlier Sunday, the US State Department said it would classify Cartel de los Soles (Cartel of the Suns) -- which it claims is headed by Maduro -- as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).

"Cartel de los Soles by and with other designated FTOs, including Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa Cartel

are responsible for terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere as well as for trafficking drugs into the United States and Europe," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

The designation, effective from November 24, follows a huge US military mobilization in the Caribbean which Washington states is necessary to prevent drug smuggling into the United States.

The US conducted another attack on an alleged drug trafficking boat in the eastern Pacific on Saturday, killing three people aboard, the Pentagon said on Sunday. "Intelligence confirmed that the vessel was involved in illicit narcotics smuggling, transiting along a known narco-trafficking route, and carrying narcotics," the US Southern Command announced in a post on social media.

## Trump reverses stance on Epstein files

### Urges Republicans to vote for releasing them

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Sunday urged his fellow Republicans in Congress to vote for the release of files related to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, reversing his earlier resistance to such a move.

Trump's post on his Truth Social came after House Speaker Mike Johnson said earlier that he believed a vote on releasing Justice Department documents in the Epstein case should help put to rest allegations that Trump had any connection to Epstein's abuse and trafficking of underage girls.

"House Republicans should vote to release the Epstein files, because we have nothing to hide," Trump wrote on Sunday night.

Although Trump and Epstein were photographed together decades ago, the president has said the two men fell out before Epstein's convictions. Emails released last week by a House committee showed the disgraced financier believed Trump "knew about the girls," though it was not clear what that phrase meant. Trump has since instructed the Department of Justice to investigate prominent Democrats' ties to Epstein.

## 45 pilgrims killed in Saudi bus crash: India police

AGENCIES



Indian police said yesterday that an overnight bus accident in Saudi Arabia killed 45 Muslim pilgrims.

"The tragic bus accident involving Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia is deeply distressing," V C Sajjanar, police commissioner for the city of Hyderabad, where many of the Indian citizens were reported to have come from, told reporters.

"According to preliminary information, 46 people were travelling in the bus at the time of the incident, and heartbreakingly, only one person survived."

The group was reportedly returning from Makkah after completing their rituals and was en route to Medina at the time of the accident.

According to a Gulf News report, many passengers were reportedly asleep at the time, leaving them little chance to escape when the bus burst into flames after the collision with the diesel tanker.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project  
Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level-10, Plot-F,  
Administrative Area, 20/B west Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Ref: HEAT/NCS-02/140/2025-1518

Date: 17 November 2025

#### Invitation for Tenders (Re-Tender)

Framework Agreement for Non-Consulting Service

(Selection of Event Management Firm for conducting workshop/seminar/national and international conference)

|    |   |   |                                 |                 |
|----|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Ministry/Division   | Ministry of Education   |                                 |                 |
| 2  | Agency  | University Grants Commission of Bangladesh  |                                 |                 |
| 3  | Procuring Entity Name   | Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project   |                                 |                 |
| 4  | Procuring Entity District   | Dhaka   |                                 |                 |
| 5  | Invitation for  | Framework Agreement(s) for Non-Consulting Service   |                                 |                 |
| 6  | Procurement Method  | OTM (National) (Framework Agreement)  |                                 |                 |
| 7  | Source of Funds & Development Partner   | Development Budget, IDA   |                                 |                 |
| 8  | Project Code  | 224386600   |                                 |                 |
| 9  | Project Name  | Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project   |                                 |                 |
| 10 | Tender Package No.  | NCS-2 (Re-tender)   |                                 |                 |
| 11 | Tender Package Name   | Selection of Event Management Firm for conducting workshop/seminar/national and international conference  |                                 |                 |
| 12 | Tender Publication Date   | 18 November 2025  |                                 |                 |
| 13 | Tender Last Selling Date  | 02 December 2025 5.00 PM  |                                 |                 |
| 14 | Tender Closing Date and Time  | 03 December 2025 2.30 PM  |                                 |                 |
| 15 | Tender Opening Date and Time  | 03 December 2025 2.00 PM  |                                 |                 |
| 16 | Name & Address of the office  | Tender Selling. Primary place of receiving & Opening place Address is:<br>Project Director, HEAT Project<br>Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level-10, Plot-F, Administrative Area, 20/B west Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  |                                 |                 |
| 17 | Qualification Criteria of Tenderer:   | 1) ITT 11.1(a)-The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contract or shall be 3 (Three) years.<br>2) ITT 11.1(b)-Specific Experience: With public sector one Contract of Event Management of similar nature and complexity completed within the last Five (5) year with a value of at least of BDT 2,00,00,000.00 (Two Crore Taka).<br>3) ITT 12.1(a)-The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 60,00,000.00 (Sixty Lac Taka) over the last three years (Certified payment with the public sector) (Year 1: 2022-2023, Year 2: 2023-2024 & Year 3: 2024-2025).<br>4) ITT 12.1(b)-The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 80,00,000.00 (Eighty Lac Taka).<br>5) ITT 13.1- A contract supervisor with post-graduation having 8 years specific experience.<br>(Others requirements have been mentioned in the Tender Documents) |                                 |                 |
| 18 | Brief Description of Services: Non-consulting services related to Two International Events & Four National Events |   |                                 |                 |
| 19 | Pre-tender meeting shall be held. Place / Date / Time of Pre-tender meeting:                                      | Office of the Project Director, HEAT Project (address stated above) Date: 24 November 2025 at 11.00 AM  |                                 |                 |
| 20 | Price of Tender Document BDT 4,000.00 (Four Thousand Taka)  |   |                                 |                 |
| 21 | Package No  | Identification of Package   | Tender Security Amount (Tk)     | Completion Time |
|    | Package: NCS-2 (Re-Tender)  | Selection of Event Management Firm for conducting workshop/seminar/national and international conference  | BDT 10,00,000.00 (Ten Lac Taka) | 30 Months       |
| 22 | Name of Official Inviting Tender  | Prof Dr. Asaduzzaman,   |                                 |                 |
| 23 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender   | Project Director  |                                 |                 |
| 24 | Address of Official Inviting Tender   | Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level-10, Plot-F, Administrative Area, 20/B west Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  |                                 |                 |
| 25 | Contact details of concerned official   | E-mail address: pdheat@ucg.gov.bd Phone: 09666368508  |                                 |                 |

Note: Provision of Non-consulting service under Framework agreement with e-GP is not available and therefore, Offline Tendering process is adopted. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. The adopted Procurement Framework is PPR 2025 & World bank Procurement Regulations 2025.

(Prof Dr. Asaduzzaman,  
Project Director  
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation Project

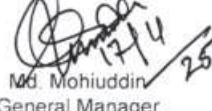
### DHAKA BUS RAPID TRANSIT PLC

Road Transport And Highways Division  
House# 04, Road# 21, Sector# 04, Uttara, Dhaka – 1230

[www.dhakabrt.gov.bd](http://www.dhakabrt.gov.bd)

#### Invitation for Tender

|                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1                               | Ministry/Division   | Road Transport And Highways Division   |
| 2                               | Agency  | Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC  |
| 3                               | Procuring Entity Name   | Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC represented by General Manager   |
| 4                               | Procuring Entity Code   | N/A  |
| 5                               | Procuring Entity District   | Dhaka  |
| 6                               | Invitation for  | Hiring of six (06) vehicles for Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC  |
| 7                               | Invitation Ref No   | APP ID : 219318  |
| 8                               | Date  | 16/11/2025   |
| <b>KEY INFORMATION</b>          |   |  |
| 9                               | Procurement Method  | NCT OTM  |
| <b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>      |   |  |
| 10                              | Budget and Source of Funds  | Own Fund   |
| 11                              | Development Partner (if applicable)                                     | N/A  |
| <b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>   |   |  |
| 12                              | Project / Programme Code (if applicable)                                | N/A  |
| 13                              | Project / Programme Name (if applicable)                                | N/A  |
| 14                              | Tender Package No.  | DBRT/2025-26/Vehicle/02  |
| 15                              | Tender Package Name   | Hiring of six (06) vehicles for Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC  |
| 16                              | Tender Publication Date   | 18/11/2025   |
| 17                              | Tender Last Selling Date & Time   | 02/12/2025 4:30 PM   |
| 18                              | Tender Closing Date and Time  | Date Time<br>03/12/2025 12.00 PM<br>03/12/2025 12.10 PM  |
| 19                              | Tender Opening Date and Time  | Address(s)   |
| 20                              | Name & Address of the Office(s)   | Manager (Admin), DBRTPLC, House No.-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230   |
|                                 | -Selling Tender Document(Principal)                                     | N/A  |
|                                 | -Selling Tender Document(Others)  | Manager (Admin), DBRTPLC, House No.-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230   |
|                                 | -Receiving Tender Document  | Manager (Admin), DBRTPLC, House No.-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230   |
|                                 | -Opening Tender Document  | Conference Room, DBRTPLC, House No.-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230   |
| 21                              | Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)                        | Name/Address Date Time<br>Conference Room, DBRTPLC, House No-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 24/12/2025 11:00 AM  |
| <b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b> |   |  |
| 22                              | Eligibility of Tenderer   | As per Tender Data Sheet   |
| 23                              | Brief Description of Physical Services                                  | i) 4WD Jeep (SUV), not less than 2477 CC-01 No; ii) Sedan Car, not less than 1490 CC-03 Nos; iii) 7-seat Microbus, not less than 1797 CC-01 No; iv) 10-seat Commuter Microbus, not less than 2000 CC-01 No |
| 24                              | Brief Description of Related Services                                   | NA   |
| 25                              | Tender Document Price in Taka   | 1500.00  |
| Lot No                          | Identification of Lot   | Location Tender Security Amount in Taka Completion Time in months  |
| 26                              | 1   | DHAKA BRT COMPANY LIMITED 200,000.00 12  |
| <b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b> |   |  |
| 30                              | Name of Official Inviting Tender  | Md. Mohiuddin  |
| 31                              | Designation of Official Inviting Tender                                 | General Manager  |
| 32                              | Address of Official Inviting Tender                                     | Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC  |
| 33                              | Contact details of Official Inviting Tender                             | House No.-04, Road No.-21, Sector No.-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 dbrtcl3@gmail.com   |
| 34                              | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders |  |

  
Md. Mohiuddin  
General Manager  
Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC

## An inevitable verdict

It may provide some closure for the victims

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death for crimes against humanity committed during the mass uprising last year. The tribunal has also sentenced former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who is a state witness and has pleaded guilty, to five years' imprisonment. The case concerns the brutal killing of what the UN estimates to be around 1,400 protesters during the July-August uprising.

Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death on two charges. She received the death penalty for Charge 4, concerning the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year. Charge 5 relates to the shooting of six student protesters in Ashulia on the same day—five of whom were later burned after death, while the sixth was allegedly set on fire while still alive.

Hasina was also sentenced to imprisonment until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against protesting students. Under Charge 2, she was found guilty of ordering the killing of student protesters through the use of helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons. According to the tribunal, Asaduzzaman was sentenced to death on two charges. Prosecutors filed five charges against the accused, including failure to prevent murder, amounting to crimes against humanity under Bangladeshi law. They also asked the tribunal to confiscate the assets of all three defendants, if convicted, and distribute them among the victims' families.

The court's conclusion regarding Sheikh Hasina's superior command responsibility in the execution of the atrocities by subordinates, including the police forces, has been well established. The UN Human Rights Commission's report also corroborates this. Videos, verified by international organisations and media, of law enforcers and security forces shooting down unarmed protesters have evidenced the brutal and deliberate use of excessive force. The deaths of small children who happened to be in the line of fire when security forces shot from helicopters have been widely reported by the media, including our own paper. Audios of telephone conversations provide further reinforcement of the allegation that the former PM, along with her aides, was complicit in planning the crackdown and instructing subordinates to carry it out in the cruelest way. As the tribunal has found, none of the accused took any steps to prevent the atrocities committed by law enforcers, nor did they take any measures against them after the fact. Given such compelling facts, the verdict was inevitable.

For the families of the martyrs, as well as the thousands of protesters who have been permanently disabled by the horrific shootings during the uprising, the verdict against the former prime minister and former home minister may provide some measure of closure. We hope that, as the cases under the ICT continue, all legal steps are taken for the sake of transparency and fairness.

## Rise in fertility rate concerning

Govt needs to revise its policies for population control

The rise in the country's fertility rate, as revealed in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2025, should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers. After decades of remarkable progress, bringing the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) down from 6.3 in 1975 to 2.3 by 2012, the rate has now increased to 2.4. This reversing trend is worrying. Experts warn that without effective family planning and population policies, it could negatively impact the country's economy, education, health, and overall development.

The survey shows that contraceptive use among married women has fallen from 62.7 percent in 2019 to 58.2 percent, while access to modern methods has also declined, with 73.5 percent of women's needs met, compared to 77.4 percent in 2019. Moreover, the rise in fertility occurs alongside some other worrying social indicators. For instance, child marriage, though reduced to some degree over time, still remains alarmingly high. Reportedly, the rate of child marriage among girls under 18 in Bangladesh is still 56 percent, which is unacceptable. Moreover, the number of adolescent girls aged 15-19 who have already had children has risen sharply, from 83 percent in 2019 to 92 percent. Teenage childbearing is clearly one of the major contributors to the rising fertility rate.

The survey also highlights some meaningful progress in health and nutrition. For example, institutional deliveries have risen to 71 percent, and skilled birth attendance has reached 77 percent, marking significant improvements in maternal health. The under-five mortality rate has fallen from 40 to 33 per 1,000 live births, while infant mortality has improved from 34 to 29 per 1,000. These gains show that well-designed interventions can deliver results, giving hope that renewed efforts in family planning can reverse the current trend as well.

We, therefore, urge the government to revise its family planning programmes and policies and take coordinated action across ministries. It must immediately strengthen its family planning services, including ensuring an uninterrupted contraceptive supply, rebuilding outreach networks, and restoring strong community-level engagement. Preventing child marriage must also be prioritised, with necessary support systems and incentives to keep adolescent girls in school. Awareness campaigns targeting young couples, especially in poverty-affected areas, are equally essential. Without such urgent interventions, the decades of progress made in population control and management risk being undone.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Push-button telephones come to market



On this day in 1963, the first push-button (Touch-Tone) telephones debuted in the United States, eventually replacing most rotary-dial models.

# EDITORIAL

## It is time Bangladesh pursued inclusive growth



### MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun  
is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

#### FAHMIDA KATUN

Emerging from the ruins of the war of independence in 1971 with a devastated economy, Bangladesh has gradually transformed into a vibrant lower-middle-income country, which is poised to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in November 2026. Over the years, factors such as remittances, exports, agriculture, small enterprises, microfinance, and the increasing participation of women in the labour force have played crucial roles in poverty alleviation and improving several human development indicators of the country.

Yet, behind the success lies an emerging set of concerns. Income inequality has increased, urban poverty is becoming more complex, and a series of external shocks, including the pandemic, the Ukraine war, global price volatility, climate impacts, and persistent inflation, have revealed deep-rooted structural vulnerabilities. For Bangladesh, the issue is not about the rate of growth, but whether growth can be inclusive.

Bangladesh's fight against poverty has indeed been one of its notable achievements. Rural households gained from expanded irrigation, the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties, better connectivity, and the growth of non-farm enterprises. Women's employment, particularly in the ready-made garment sector, provided millions with stable incomes and greatly increased their independence. Microfinance institutions helped poor households smooth their income, invest in livestock or small shops, and send their children to school. Remittances from migrant workers offered financial stability to rural families.

However, poverty reduction faces specific limitations. Nationwide, 85 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector, characterised by limited job security and a lack of social protection, which makes households very vulnerable to shocks. High inflation, particularly food inflation, has decreased real incomes, causing many families that had escaped poverty to fall back below the poverty line or remain just above it.

Inequality, meanwhile, continues to grow in noticeable ways. According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022, the national income Gini coefficient increased from 0.482 in 2016 to 0.499 in 2022, indicating that

income distribution is becoming more unequal. The HIES 2022 shows that the richest of the rich—the top five percent of households—possess 30.04 percent of the total national income, while the poorest of the poor—the bottom five percent—hold just 0.37 percent. In 2016, the top five percent's income share was 27.82 percent, whereas that of the bottom five percent was only 0.23 percent of the total national income.

Besides, urban-rural disparities remain significant. Cities are expanding through higher-

unpredictable rainfall, and flash floods. In recent years, while severe and prolonged flooding in rural areas has led to local food shortages and price hikes, low-income households in urban areas also struggled with high food prices, reducing their food intake or meal quality. The paradox today is that Bangladesh often has enough food supplies nationwide, but poor households cannot always afford enough food due to inflation, low incomes, and weak market governance.

Although Bangladesh has a social protection system with around 120 programmes, including old-age allowances, widow benefits, food assistance, and employment support, the effectiveness of this system remains limited. Spending on the social safety net (SSN) accounts for less than two percent of Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In fact, the SSN allocation accounts for only 1.87 percent of the national budget for the fiscal year (FY) 2026. However,

suggests that inequality tends to rise during early development as economies shift from agriculture to industry, and then decline as more people gain access to education and modern employment opportunities. However, recent evidence indicates that inequality does not necessarily fall automatically. Since the 1980s, inequality has increased in many countries due to skill-biased technological change, financialisation, declining labour bargaining power, globalisation without adequate compensation, and the concentration of wealth among elites. Markets alone cannot address inequality. Policy decisions such as taxation, social protection, labour laws, education, and regulatory measures impact distributional outcomes.

Besides, the "capability approach" introduced by Nobel Laureate economist Professor Amartya Sen in the 1980s shifted the concept of poverty from simple income deprivation to a broader understanding encompassing health, education, empowerment, and agency. The multidimensional poverty framework, now widely adopted globally, emphasises that poverty involves multiple disadvantages, such as poor schooling, unsafe housing, malnutrition, lack of access to clean energy, and social exclusion. Factors like gender, ethnicity, geography, and social class all influence who remains in poverty.

Viewed from these perspectives, Bangladesh's dual reality becomes evident. The country has made considerable progress, but the foundations of inclusive development remain uneven. Bangladesh must now emphasise not only the pace of growth but also its quality, inclusiveness, and resilience.

That means investing heavily in education and skills so that young people from all backgrounds can access more productive work. It involves promoting meaningful jobs in manufacturing and services across all cities and lagging regions beyond Dhaka. It also entails adopting a more progressive tax system where the wealthy pay a fairer share to fund public services. Additionally, it includes modernising food markets and employing digital tools to improve transparency in procurement, stocking, and distribution. Finally, it means incentivising private investment in climate-resilient agriculture through salt-tolerant seeds, flood-tolerant rice, efficient irrigation, storage, and insurance.

And most importantly, it involves recognising that poverty and inequality reduction, and food security cannot be tackled in isolation. These issues are interconnected and must be addressed through a coherent strategy rooted in equity, good governance, and strong institutions.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

productivity services and industries, while rural communities continue to depend on low-return agriculture and informal employment. Inequities in access to education, healthcare, technology, and financial resources are widening these gaps. Children from poorer households are more likely to attend poor-quality schools, suffer from undernutrition, and have limited chances to develop skills needed for modern labour markets. This hampers human development progress.

Meanwhile, food security shows a mix of progress and new risks. Bangladesh has more than doubled its food grain output in the past 30 years, thanks to advances in agricultural research, irrigation, and policy incentives. However, food security depends as much on access as on availability. Climate change now poses the greatest threat to that access. Agricultural land is endangered by rising salinity, coastal inundation,

this allocation includes various other components—such as pensions for government employees, interest on national savings certificates, and agricultural subsidies—not targeted at the poor and vulnerable. Excluding these, the share of the SSN allocation stands at just 1.03 percent of GDP in FY2026. In addition to the insufficient allocation relative to the needs of the poor, several limitations, such as targeting errors, overlapping programmes, outdated beneficiary lists, and limited coverage of the urban poor and informal workers, curtail the overall impact. Strengthening the system demands a unified social registry, digital identification and payment systems, improved targeting, and expanded coverage. Over time, Bangladesh will need to increase social protection spending while enhancing efficiency and transparency.

The classical Kuznets hypothesis, proposed by economist Simon Kuznets,

## Is climate change intensifying fires in Bangladesh?



Abdul Kader Mohiuddin  
is an alumnus of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Dhaka University.

#### ABDUL KADER MOHIUDDIN

Bangladesh is facing a growing fire crisis. Data from the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence, compiled by Dataful, shows roughly 250,000 fires occurred nationwide between 1997 and 2018. The trend is accelerating: over 24,000 incidents were reported in 2022, jumping to more than 26,600 by 2024. Over the past two decades, fires have claimed nearly 2,650 lives and left more than 13,000 injured.

In recent times, three massive fires in Dhaka and Chattogram have caused loss of life and billions of dollars, starkly revealing persistent shortcomings in safety standards, infrastructure maintenance, and emergency preparedness. However, climate shifts may also have a major role in fire hazards, as seen in other countries.

Rising global temperatures, caused by human-driven greenhouse gas emissions, have increased the risk of wildfires worldwide, as evidenced by the record-breaking US fires of 2017-2018 and in 2024-2025. Experts warn that extreme heat, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall will increasingly

contribute to large fires across the globe, adding to the risks from poor maintenance and regulatory failures.

In January 2025, unusually severe fires swept Los Angeles, fueled by dry conditions and powerful Santa Ana winds. The deadly wildfires were twice as likely and burned an area 25 times bigger than they would have in a world without global warming. Reports suggested that over 50,000 acres burned and around 16,000 structures were damaged, forcing authorities to advise more than 180,000 people to evacuate.

The same erratic pattern has made summer blazes in southeastern Europe up to ten times more likely. Between March 2024 and February 2025 alone, more than 3.7 million square kilometres of land—an area larger than India—went up in flames. Over 100 million people were affected, with homes and infrastructure worth \$215 billion at risk.

Climate scientists from World Weather Attribution at Imperial College London say climate change—through reduced rainfall, parched

vegetation, and extreme winds—intensified both the severity and likelihood of these fires in the US and Europe.

According to experts, dry weather and dusty winds heighten fire risks by creating highly flammable conditions. Low humidity and parched fuels, combined with strong winds, significantly increase the likelihood and rapid spread of fires, often prompting high fire danger alerts.

The May 2025 fires in central Israel were intensified by prolonged heat, drought, and strong winds, which fuelled the rapid spread of fire. Officials linked the extreme conditions to broader climate change trends, showing how firefighting efforts were stretched beyond capacity.

In October 2025, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning as strong winds of 60 mph and critically low humidity drove high fire risk across Colorado's Eastern Plains and Front Range, recalling the deadly East Troublesome Fire in October 2020.

A recent study published in *Nature* reveals that rising temperatures could heighten urban fire risks across 2,847 cities in 20 countries, including the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and China, threatening buildings, vehicles, and outdoor spaces. Drawing on historical records and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate scenarios, the research finds that each one-degree Celsius increase in temperature drives a 4.7 percent rise in outdoor fires and

a 2.5 percent rise in vehicle fires. High-temperature warming can potentially boost outdoor fires and vehicle fires by 22 percent and 11 percent, respectively, by the year 2100.

Urban areas are particularly vulnerable, as hotter, drier weather directly fuels faster-spreading fires, overwhelming emergency services and threatening infrastructure.

Pollution, urban heat from rapid urbanisation, poor infrastructure, and regulatory gaps are all fueling more frequent and intense fires, as trapped atmospheric heat raises temperatures, disrupts weather patterns, and worsens drought conditions.

In Bangladesh, experts link the higher pollution levels in Dhaka and Chattogram to their dense concentration of industries, commercial hubs, and employment opportunities. As the country's main economic centres, both cities suffer from severe air pollution caused by industrial emissions, traffic, construction, household fuel use, and open air waste burning.

The growing influence of major climatic shifts on urban environments necessitates a focused investigation into the rising incidence of devastating fires across Bangladesh, especially in key cities such as Dhaka and Chattogram. Consequently, a proactive and interdisciplinary approach, merging rigorous scientific analysis with robust policy frameworks, is crucial to understanding these complex dynamics and mitigating the risk of future large-scale emergencies.

## Election manifestoes must go beyond rhetoric



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Sk ABU JAHID

In the last few decades, Bangladesh has experienced a noticeable economic and social transformation. However, electoral politics and development priorities often haven't properly addressed the needs for key changes such as a skill-based education system, employment generation, poverty alleviation, social protection, and disaster management. In fact, elections have long been less about advancing national vision and more about ensuring political survival. Power, not policy, has dominated the ballot.

As the nation heads towards the 2026 polls, there seems to have been little change in this trend. This entrenched pattern has prevented the consolidation of a policy-oriented democratic culture. Unlike mature

revolve around populist appeals such as roads, bridges, or cash incentives rather than structural reforms in education, employment, or governance, for example. Until politics in Bangladesh moves beyond this short-term populism and embraces long-term planning, genuine development will remain an election slogan, not a national agenda.

Sadly, education is one area that political parties often fail to prioritise in their election manifestoes beyond, of course, routine and vague pledges. The sector is celebrated for its gains in access, but continues to be crippled by a persistent crisis of quality. The nation has achieved near-universal enrolment and gender parity in schools, but classrooms still fail to equip students with market-ready

**Bangladesh stands at a critical moment in its political and economic journey. But personality-driven politics and partisan battles continue to overshadow the need for evidence-based policymaking, stalling progress in education, employment, and social welfare. To break this cycle, the nation must embrace an inclusive, skills-oriented, and sustainable development policy anchored in institutional reform, and political parties must show greater commitment to this cause, starting with providing manifestoes that move beyond rhetorical promises and instead outline policy commitments backed by realistic implementation plans.**

democracies where election manifestoes outline clear policy priorities, implementation methodologies, and timelines, our parties promise development and prosperity at sky level without explaining how they will deliver. The absence of strong policy think tanks within major parties further deepens this void, leaving campaign rhetoric to replace genuine strategic roadmaps. Once again, campaign promises in the grassroots

skills. Youth unemployment continues to rise as degrees outpace job opportunities. During election seasons, politicians pledge more schools and seats, but rarely address the real crisis: outdated curricula, weak vocational training, and low investment in research and innovation. Without bold reforms linking education to employability, Bangladesh risks producing graduates without futures.

This is already evident among the large



FILE VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHON

number of graduates Bangladesh produces every year, many of whom remain unemployed or underemployed largely because of a lack of skills and competencies required to compete in the job market. This is particularly true for the graduates of the National University, who come from district and upazila level colleges, where there is often a severe shortage of qualified teachers, modern educational instruments, and proper academic facilities. Not surprisingly, the current system functions less as a mechanism supporting quality education and more as a machine producing unemployed or underemployed graduates—not that employment should be the only desirable career path—highlighting an urgent need for educational reform and skills development initiatives.

Skills development can be expanded using existing resources. According to the Bangladesh Technical Education Board, Bangladesh has 50 polytechnic colleges with two specialised colleges (Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramic and Graphic Arts Institute) that produce a large number of

skilled diploma engineers every year. Many of these graduates are in high demand in Middle Eastern countries, especially in the fields of civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering. Unlike unskilled workers, these diploma engineers have the technical expertise to secure better-paying jobs abroad. The government could take a strategic initiative to export this skilled labour force under a structured policy. For example, workers could be sent abroad free of cost, with the condition that 10 to 20 percent of their monthly salary would be contributed to the government's fund until their migration costs are recovered. A small amount can also be charged as a service fee. This approach would not only ensure that skilled workers receive higher salaries similar to those from countries like India and Sri Lanka, but it would also increase the country's foreign currency earnings.

Capitalism, as an economic system, has increasingly shown its limitations in many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries like Bangladesh. While

it has created job opportunities, it has also intensified inequality and economic dependence, leaving large segments of the population vulnerable. In Bangladesh, the adverse effects of capitalism, especially economic inequality, social exclusion, concentration of wealth, the overreliance on wage-based employment, and the limited scope for entrepreneurship among the general population, are increasingly evident. An analysis of data on natural resources, population growth, the size of the economy, and employment generation indicates that the formal job sector is unlikely to absorb the growing number of graduates. This reality calls for a serious rethinking of the country's economic direction and the development of alternative, non-capitalist economic models that can generate self-employment and community-based enterprises.

Such a system can integrate cooperative models, social business initiatives, and targeted government support to foster a self-reliant community economy. This approach would not only lead to poverty alleviation but also strengthen social protection and community resilience against economic and environmental shocks. By promoting social enterprises, cooperative ventures, and local production networks, Bangladesh can move towards an inclusive and sustainable development pathway. This model would empower citizens as active economic participants rather than passive job seekers, transforming the economy into one rooted in equity, solidarity, and self-reliance.

Bangladesh stands at a critical moment in its political and economic journey. But personality-driven politics and partisan battles continue to overshadow the need for evidence-based policymaking, stalling progress in education, employment, and social welfare. To break this cycle, the nation must embrace an inclusive, skills-oriented, and sustainable development policy anchored in institutional reform, and political parties must show greater commitment to this cause, starting with providing manifestoes that move beyond rhetorical promises and instead outline policy commitments backed by realistic implementation plans.

## Why secular politics in South Asia still clings to family dynasties



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ALTAF RUSSELL

Why do secular parties in South Asia, despite championing democracy, cling to family names? Because in a battle against religious nationalism, emotion often outweighs ideology. Politics here is rarely about policies alone—it is about identity, history, and belonging. Across Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, religious right-wing parties have mastered mobilising faith-based sentiments. In societies where literacy is low and institutions are weak, this poses a formidable challenge for secular parties. To survive, many lean on another emotional anchor: family dynasties.

In this case, Pakistan tells a similar story. From its inception, Islamic parties such as Jamaat-e-Islami wielded religion as a political tool, often in alliance with military

and military authoritarianism. As in Bangladesh, low literacy and weak institutions make ideological appeals insufficient; voters respond to faces, not frameworks.

Conversely, Sri Lanka illustrates the other side of the coin. While the Bandaranaike family once dominated the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, recent decades have seen secular parties partially succeed without dynastic leadership, even though remnants of family influence persist in party decision-making and local politics, reflecting the continued emotional resonance of political surnames. Add to that the roles played by party organisation, patronage networks, and local factionalism. Yet the gradual shift suggests stronger institutions and higher social development, showing that dynastic politics is not inevitable. It can fade as education, governance, and institutional strength improve.

India presents a mixed picture. The Congress party relied heavily on the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty for decades, drawing on the emotional capital of independence. When the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rose with strong religious sentiment and an extensive organisational base, Congress struggled to reinvent itself beyond dynasty politics, lacking a coherent narrative or grassroots structure to counter religious nationalism. Unlike Nehru, who championed principled secularism, Indira Gandhi increasingly used religion as a political tool—appeasing minorities for votes while signalling cultural alignment with the Hindu majority. This pragmatic shift weakened Congress's ideological clarity and made it harder to counter the BJP's rise. In this context, the BJP ascended through religious nationalism. However, in states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, Congress was defeated not by the religious right wing but by other secular parties. These regions demonstrate that where education and social progress are strong, secular politics can thrive without dynasties or religious identity politics. In contrast, in states where Congress lost to the BJP, lower literacy, weaker social indicators, and distinct local socio-economic conditions created fertile ground for religious mobilisation.

The pattern extends beyond South Asia. Indonesia offers a striking parallel. Despite being the world's largest Muslim-majority

rulers. Secular politics, represented most prominently by the PPP, faced an uphill battle. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's populist charisma gave the PPP its initial momentum, but after his execution in 1979, the party needed a way to sustain that emotional appeal. Benazir Bhutto stepped in as the torchbearer of her father's vision, and today Bilawal Bhutto Zardari carries that legacy forward. In Pakistan's volatile political landscape, dynastic politics has served as the PPP's shield against both religious parties

country, its politics has seen the rise of Islamic right-wing movements that exploit religious identity. In response, secular and nationalist parties have leaned on family dynasties to maintain power, particularly in regional politics and even nationally, where political families dominate leadership roles. Dynastic branding in Indonesia functions much like in Bangladesh and Pakistan: as an emotional counterweight to religious mobilisation in a context of uneven social development.

Critics often dismiss dynasty politics as feudal or undemocratic. Yet

in these contexts, it serves a functional purpose. Religious rightism offers voters a sense of belonging rooted in faith. Secular parties, lacking such an inherent identity, must construct alternative emotional anchors. Family dynasties provide that anchor, linking the present to a heroic past. This is not to romanticise or condone dynastic politics—it stifles internal democracy and risks corruption. However, in societies where politics is deeply personal and institutions are fragile, dynasties are not vanity projects. They have served as survival mechanisms against religious right-wing politics.

The persistence of dynasties in South Asia, and beyond, reveals a deeper truth: democracy here is mediated through identity, not ideology. Voters do not simply choose policies; they choose stories, symbols, and legacies. Religious parties exploit faith. Secular parties counter with family. Kerala, West Bengal, and parts of Sri Lanka show that this cycle can break—but only when education, social development, and institutions strengthen. Until then, family names may remain the emotional currency of secular politics.

| Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  |                                     |                         |  |   |                              |                              |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Local Government Engineering Department  |                                     |                         |  |   |                              |                              |
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| District: Bandarban  |                                     |                         |  |   |                              |                              |
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| Sl. No.  | Package No.                         | Tender ID & Ref No.     | Description of works   | Tender documents last selling (date & time) | Tender closing (date & time) | Tender opening (date & time) |
| 1  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/SADAR/VILL/W01    | 1178310, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Jowthaykhamar-Nilachal-Milanchari Road at Ch. (00-3000m), ID No. 403144038,   | 03-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 2  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/ROWA/N/UNR/W02    | 1178387, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Ruma RHD Road-Meupara Via Tarasa UP Office Road at Ch.(00-5106m), ID No. 403893007;   | 03-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 3  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/ALIKA DAM/UNR/W03 | 1178547, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Sonaichari R&H Road-Ruposipara Road at Ch.(1000-2140m); (Effective Length 1140m); ID No. 403943008;                           | 03-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 4  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/RUMA/UNR/W07      | 1178559, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Thana HQ (Ruma Mukh)-Gallanga UP office Road at Ch.(1800-2800m); (Effective Length= 1000m); ID No: 403913003;                 | 03-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 04-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 5  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/THANC HI/UZR/W08  | 1178566, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Thanchi-Bolibazar Road at Ch.(3000-6000m); (Effective Length 3000m); ID No. 403952001;  | 10-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 6  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/NAIKH ONG/UNR/W10 | 1178601, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Baishahi UPC Dochari UPC Via Longgudhu Mukh Bakkhal Road at Ch. (12000m-16800m); (Effective Length: 4800m); ID No: 403733002; | 10-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |
| 7  | WD/DDRRIP-3HD/BAN/SADAR/UZR/W11     | 1178610, APP ID: 218007 | Maintenance of Widening of Lama-Suwalc Road at Ch. (17500m-23225m; & 27398m-27760m); (Effective Length: 6087m); ID No: 403142001;            | 10-Dec-2025 17:00:00                        | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         | 11-Dec-2025 13:00:00         |

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**Perform**

FROM PAGE 12

"Through this election, the path for the nation's future century will be determined. The DCs have an extremely important role, and there can be no margin for error."

Speaking at the Chief Adviser's Office, Yunus urged the DCs to fully understand the electoral process and ensure the polls are conducted in a peaceful, celebratory manner.

He highlighted the importance of young and female voters, many of whom have been unable to exercise their voting rights over the past 15 years.

"This is a massive campaign, and we must win. As an independent nation, our survival depends on success in this endeavour."

Warning the DCs, the chief adviser said once the work begins in the districts, each DC will be evaluated based on their performance and given grades -- A, B, C, or D. Attention will be given to how each DC performs in the respective district, as it is not enough to simply hold an election somehow. People must feel that the election is free, fair, and credible. Those DCs who are found incapable of conducting the polls to the expected standard will be removed from their responsibilities, he said.

Calling the upcoming election a "tough mission", Yunus told the DCs, "You will also grade your subordinates. If someone cannot do the job, remove them; keep the ones who can... there is no chance to win by messing around."

The DCs still have the chance to mention if they have any problems, Yunus said.

"If any DC feels there is a difficulty, then say it now, tell us to move you somewhere else. Someone may have limitations... But those who will go to the field from today must take an oath that we will conduct this historic election."

He said, "Those of you going to the field must clearly understand how the referendum will be organised. If you cannot properly understand it yourselves, how will you explain it to your colleagues? And how will they deliver that information to the ordinary people?"

Sources present at the meeting said the chief adviser also expressed concern that some people may cause trouble during the election by posing as media workers.

"They will try to create problems. You [DCs] must plan in advance how to handle them."

"These troublemakers are not alone. Just like law-enforcement officers have bodycams, they also have bodycams. They will try to create chaos in a planned way and spread it across the world. So, they should not be taken lightly. There are powerful people behind them," said Yunus.

"The whole world has seen that we carried out a mass uprising. Now they are watching what we do next. We must do justice to the expectations of those who risked their lives to make this uprising successful. Only then will our efforts succeed."

After the meeting, The Daily Star spoke to at least three divisional commissioners and DCs.

They said they are going to the field with the courage they received from the chief adviser. They also hope to get the government's support in any situation that may arise in the field.

Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid chaired the meeting, which was attended by Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retired) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Public Works Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan, and Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul.

**Arson, crude bomb**

FROM PAGE 12

In Narayanganj's Fatullah, miscreants set fire to a parked bus around 2:00am. "The driver and his helper were sleeping inside. They woke up from the heat and somehow managed to get out," said Fatullah Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anowar Hossain.

Inside the Dhaka metropolitan area, a mini-truck was torched on Mohammadpur's Babar Road around 6:00am, said fire service duty officer Rozina Akter.

A parked bus in Merul Badda was also set on fire around 12:00am, confirmed Banani Police Station OC Rasel Sarwar.

He further confirmed two crude bomb explosions near Titumir College and in Mohakhali between 2:00am-2:30am.

Amid the violence, the Detective Branch of police arrested 25 leaders and activists of AI and its affiliated organisations in the capital in 24 hours till yesterday morning, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Talebir Rahman said.

Narayanganj police also arrested 15 other AI activists.

Meanwhile, a group of 100-150 people vandalised the home of the brother of former Dhaka-18 MP Mohammad Habib Hasan, and set a vehicle on fire in Uttara Sector-14 yesterday afternoon.

**Protesters try to demolish Mujib's house**

FROM PAGE 1

Suspended for hours in the afternoon, while most shops closed their shutters.

Witnesses said over 100 demonstrators from the Dhaka College area began gathering near Dhanmondi-32 around 11:30am with two diggers to dismantle the house's remains.

Later, army personnel arrived on the spot.

The demonstrators chanted slogans and tried to break through a police barricade around 1:00pm, when police and army jointly charged truncheons and chased them away.

They then regrouped at the Panthapath intersection and threw brick chunks at law enforcers, injuring two. Police responded with truncheons and sound grenades to drive the group away.

After the International Crimes Tribunal delivered its verdict against

deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, the demonstrators celebrated. Around 2:45pm, law enforcers were forced to pull back amid pressure from the demonstrators.

About 20 minutes later, army, police and Rab began using truncheons and sound grenades again, bringing the area back under control.

Some agitators regrouped near Square Hospitals on Panthapath, prompting the law enforcers to fire teargas shells.

Blocking streets, they set fire to debris at several spots.

The repeated chase and counter-chase and frequent use of sound grenades near hospitals and on surrounding streets caused panic among locals, patients and their relatives.

By evening, the demonstrators took positions at several points on Mirpur Road, including near Russell

Square and Metro Shopping Mall.

Law enforcers kept barricades in front of the house to prevent anyone from entering the site.

Around 7:00pm, a police pickup and a microbus came under attack as the demonstrators hurled brick chunks at the vehicles.

Around 8:45pm, a fresh chase and counter-chase occurred between the law enforcers and the demonstrators. Tension ran high, and traffic on both sides of the road was brought to a halt.

The situation eventually returned to normal and around 10:30pm, traffic moved smoothly, though many law enforcers remained there.

Around 11:00pm, the authorities closed the Dhanmondi-32 road. A large number of Rab and BGB members were also deployed.

In February, a group of agitators gathered in front of the house and knocked down parts of it using diggers.

**Evidence strong**

FROM PAGE 1

Al Mamun. On the basis of this evidence alone, a conviction appears reasonable.

However, the in-absentia nature of the trial of both Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was problematic.

With Hasina and Kamal deemed fugitives, the court appointed a defence lawyer, one with no experience in international criminal law, a field requiring highly specialised expertise.

He was also tasked with representing both accused simultaneously, an impossible burden even for the most capable lawyer. The interests of the two defendants could easily diverge, making dual representation inherently conflicted.

Operating in a hostile political environment, the defence counsel ultimately carried out only the bare minimum expected of him.

The trial began just five weeks after he received the prosecution's evidence -- a time insufficient to prepare an adequate defence for two clients facing five charges of crimes against humanity. Any competent lawyer would have sought an adjournment; yet no such request was made.

Meanwhile, under the separate agreement for Pangaon, Medlog SA, a subsidiary of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), will expand the terminal to support growing regional trade.

CPA Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman and MEDLOG Bangladesh Managing Director ATM Anisul Millat signed the agreement.

Millat said the project, leveraging MEDLOG's operational expertise and technology, would stimulate trade, strengthen supply chain resilience, and elevate Bangladesh's logistics sector to a globally competitive level.

The terminal's annual handling capacity is expected to increase by 160,000 TEUs. To strengthen multimodal transport, MEDLOG will charter inland barges from PICT to connect Pangaon with other river terminals and seaports, officials said.

The defence lawyer claimed

that the intercepted telephone conversations attributed to Hasina were "AI generated". If he genuinely believed this, and Hasina herself publicly denied ever giving an order to use lethal force, he should have arranged independent forensic analysis.

Rather than making an unsubstantiated assertion that the calls were fabricated, he should have rigorously challenged the prosecution's interpretation of them.

For example, in an intercepted call with Dhaka University Vice Chancellor ASM Maksud Kamal on July 14, Hasina is heard saying, "They want to become Razakars, all of them [are] happily chanting that they are Razakars. What a strange country we

are

up control of the Awami League, the party is unlikely to be allowed back into the political arena."

A spate of recent bombings and the Awami League's call for a "lockdown" have put the country on edge as it nears much anticipated national elections scheduled for February 2026, he said.

The Awami League should desist

from acts of violence, and the interim government must avoid heavy-handed crackdowns against party supporters."

Kean also said the trial process has

not been without critics.

"In absentia

trials are often a source of contention, and in this case the speed with which the hearings were conducted and the apparent lack of resources for the defence also raise questions of fairness."

These criticisms reflect

longstanding challenges within

Bangladesh's

criminal

justice

system,

which the country's interim

government

has not done enough

to address

since it came to office in

August 2024, he said.

"But they should not be used to

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These criticisms reflect

## Bhashani's ideals key to restoring

FROM PAGE 3  
of the oppressed and against the oppressor", offering an example of what Islamic politics could look like in practice, he also said.

"Bangladesh must return to the ideas of Bhashani to uphold people's rights," he added.

Dhaka University Associate Professor Moshahida Sultana said Bhashani had envisioned a state free of communal hatred and discrimination, rooted in the protection of the oppressed.

She said Bhashani's political philosophy remains strikingly relevant today, as the condition of farmers has seen little real improvement despite a century of policy shifts.

She said independent Bangladesh has yet to ensure dignity, fair prices and policy priority for those who sustain the country's food system.

She said even the July uprising could not bring meaningful reforms, noting that an agriculture commission has not been formed while other task forces have moved ahead.

Moshahida said Bangladesh remains trapped in divisive debates over external alignment rather than addressing structural issues affecting farmers, including market vulnerability, indebtedness, and declining state support.

Researcher, editor and Constitutional Reform Commission member Firoz Ahmed said two ideas lay at the heart of Bhashani's political philosophy: a peasant-centred worldview and an unwavering commitment to the liberation of farmers.

He said Bhashani's political journey took him through multiple parties, and he even founded several of his own, yet his

core politics never shifted. Firoz said it was important to distinguish between land reform and agricultural reform. Land reform was historically a political struggle aimed at changing power relations between landlords and cultivators, building national productivity and strengthening the country's industrial base, he added.

He said land reform once stood at the centre of political debates in the 1960s and during the 1969 mass upsurge but has almost disappeared from contemporary policymaking.

Writer and poet Sohrab Hossain also spoke at the event. Journalist Shamsuddoza Sajen of The Daily Star delivered the welcome speech, while fellow journalist Emran Mahfuz moderated the programme.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

People from low-income backgrounds wait for a TCB truck on Khulna West Sadar Hospital Road to purchase rice at Tk 30 per kg. For many, these trucks have become the only affordable way to buy daily essentials.

## EC must ensure

FROM PAGE 3  
At the start of the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said the code of conduct must be followed before, during and after polling to avoid disruptions.

Bangladesh Kallyan Party Chairman Syed Muhammad Ibrahim said code of conduct violations are easily detectable in the digital age and urged stronger monitoring and quick action.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Secretary General Major (retd) Abdul Mannan said strict enforcement is necessary and that cancelling even a few nominations could ensure discipline.

Bangladesh Muslim League President Sheikh Zulfikar Bulbul Chowdhury called for a level playing field and criticised the ban on posters and banners, saying they remain important for reaching voters.

## Russian navy ship arrives in Ctg on goodwill visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



The Russian Navy ship Gremyashchy yesterday arrived at Chattogram Port on a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

The Chief Staff Officer, on behalf of the Commander, Chattogram Naval Area, officially welcomed the visiting ship's officers and crew.

High-ranking local naval officers and the Russian military attaché to Bangladesh were also present, says a press release from the Bangladesh Navy.

The visiting delegation is scheduled to pay courtesy calls on several senior officials, including the Commander, Chattogram Naval Area, Commander, BN Fleet, the Area Superintendent, Dockyard, and the Chairman of Chattogram Port Authority. The ship is scheduled to depart Bangladesh on November 21.

## 663 cases against

FROM PAGE 3  
cases -- two relating to enforced disappearances and one over alleged mass killings at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar in 2013.

Kamal faces two enforced disappearance cases. Prosecutors have also urged the tribunal to dispose of another July uprising related case filed against Mamun.

Police sources said most of the cases against Hasina and Kamal filed with various police stations involve murder allegations.

They also face accusations of attempted murder, attacks and vandalism, assault, arson, and intimidation.

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Shahdeen Malik said the cases filed against them at police stations will

continue following due process. Trials will proceed in their absence, as in similar cases before.

He explained that cases are dismissed only if an accused dies.

"For example, if someone is facing three theft cases and is already serving a five-year prison sentence in one of them, the other two cases will continue. When those hearings come up, the accused is brought from prison to court."

"Now imagine the accused falls ill in prison and dies three years later. In that case, the remaining two cases would be dismissed."

Likewise, if a death sentence is carried out and the accused dies, any ongoing cases against them would also be dismissed," Malik explained.

## JCD, left-leaning

FROM PAGE 3  
Dal and a student who spent 15 months in jail under the Cyber Security Act, for the general secretary post.

BM Atikur Rahman Tanzil has been nominated for the assistant general secretary post.

Meanwhile, leaders from nine left-leaning political, social and cultural organisations have announced a joint panel titled "Maulana Bhashani Brigade".

Shamsul Alam Maruf, general secretary of the JnU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Front made the announcement.

Gourab Bhowmik, president of the JnU unit of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, has been nominated for the VP post, while Evan Tahsib, president of JnU Chhatra Front, for the GS post. Maruf has been nominated for the AGS in the 21 member panel.

According to organisers, the alliance includes nine organisations -- Chhatra Front, Chhatra Union, Chhatra Moitri, Udichi, Sangskritik Kendro, Rastrochinta, Chintak, Band Music Association and JnU Rongovumi.

PRAYER TIMING  
NOVEMBER 18

| Fazr        | Zohr  | Asr  | Magrib | Esha |
|-------------|-------|------|--------|------|
| AZAN 5-05   | 12-45 | 3-45 | 5-21   | 7-00 |
| JAMAAT 5-40 | 1-15  | 4-00 | 5-24   | 7-30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2025

AGRAHAYAN 3, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

9

GD-2465

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## e-Tender Notice

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

| S/ N | Tender ID | Tender Name  | Package No:                                 | Tender Publication Date and Time | Tender Document last selling Date and Time | Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time |
|------|-----------|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 01.  | 1169306   | Replacement of Car Engine for BSCL Car No. Dhaka Metro Gha - 15 7945       | Ref:14.39.0000.000.01<br>2.07.0003.23.94(T) | 18-Nov-2025<br>Date: 22.10.2025  | 18-Nov-2025<br>Time: 10:00<br>Hour         | 01-Dec-2025<br>Time: 17:00<br>Hour     |
| 02.  | 1169360   | Procurement of High Voltage and Low Voltage Cable for Both Ground Stations | Ref:14.39.0000.000.01<br>2.07.0002.23.95(T) | 18-Nov-2025<br>Date: 22.10.2025  | 18-Nov-2025<br>Time: 10:00<br>Hour         | 01-Dec-2025<br>Time: 12:20<br>Hour     |

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 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)).

(Signed)  
Md. Golam Sarowar  
General Manager (Admin & Procurement)  
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.

GD-2472

## Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat

## Bangladesh Bank

Head Office, Dhaka

Website: [www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

## Invitation for Tender through Web

Date: 16/11/2025

Tender No. 131/2025

Tenders are hereby invited through Electronic Media (e-Tenders) from bona fide, government-approved higher educational/training institutes/firms for Following Package:

| SL No. | Tender/Proposal ID | Tender/Proposal Package No. and Description  | Procurement nature, type & method | Tender/Proposal closing date & time | Name of work   | Tender closing date & time |
|--------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1      | 1173292            | 54.01.1543.636.88.317.25<br>Repair of different types of Traction Motor required for 2300, 2400, 6000 & 6100 Series Locomotive ((Meter Gauge)= 34 Nos. | Goods NCT OSTETM                  | 17-Dec-2025<br>13:00                | Selection of an institution/firm for conducting recruitment examination for the post of Officer (Cash) (10th Grade) for State Owned Commercial & Specialized Banks | 01/12/2025<br>2.00pm       |

The interested parties may visit the website [www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/tenders & etender.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/tenders & etender.bb.org.bd) to get the details of the tender.

DCP: 48/2025-3089

Date: 17/11/2025

GD-2469

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা  
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Signed/-  
Mizanur Rahman Akon  
Director (BSCS), Bangladesh Bank  
&  
Member Secretary, BSC  
Phone: 88-02-9530226

## Bangladesh, India face off in battle of pride

SPORTS REPORTER

With both sides already eliminated from the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers, hosts Bangladesh and India are set to meet in what has become a battle of pride rather than a dead-rubber at the National Stadium in Dhaka today. The match kicks off at 8:00 pm.

India were initially tipped to top Group C ahead of Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangladesh, who had hoped their expatriate recruits -- Hamza Choudhury, Shamit Shome and others -- would boost their chances of reaching the finals for the first time since their debut in 1980. Bangladesh started brightly with a goalless draw against the group favourites, but Javier Cabrera's men faltered thereafter, following a trajectory similar to India's, leaving both teams eliminated with two matches to spare.

Having squandered their opportunity to qualify, Bangladesh are now chasing a morale-boosting win over their higher-ranked neighbours, who have lost only three of 32 encounters against Bangladesh. Bangladesh's last victory over India came 22 years ago, during the 2003



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SAFF Championship in Dhaka, following earlier wins at the 1991 and 1999 SAFF Games. Since 2003, the sides have met 10 times, with India winning four and the

remaining six ending in draws -- five of those in their last six meetings.

Facing India at home for the first time in 16 years, the men in red and green are

determined to claim all three points in this emotionally charged contest.

"There is a lot of emotion in this match," Cabrera said at the pre-match press conference. "It feels like a derby. We must manage those emotions and take our chance to win. We are stronger than ever and have to make it count."

Bangladesh have shown promise in recent home outings but twice conceded late goals, including in last Thursday's friendly against Nepal.

"That can't happen tomorrow if we want three points," Cabrera warned. "We handled similar situations well against Hong Kong away, but not against Nepal. We must learn from that."

India coach Khalid Jamil also expects a demanding night, especially with a full home crowd behind Bangladesh.

"There is pressure, of course, but the players must take responsibility and work hard for a positive result," said the former Indian international, who oversaw their final training session on Monday morning.

"Bangladesh are a very good team with quality players. I've watched them closely. They have improved a lot since we last met in March."



FIFA Ranking: India 136, Bangladesh 183

Last meeting: March 25, 2025

Bangladesh's last home match against India: December 11, 2009

Last win over India: January 18, 2003

Last five meetings: Four draws, one India win

Bangladesh in 2025: Played 7, won 1, lost 3, drawn 4

India in 2025: Played 10, won 2, lost 3, drawn 5

Overall: Played 32, India won 16, Bangladesh won 3, drawn 16

Both of us need to win. India are a higher-ranked side than Bangladesh, who haven't got a win over them in many years. I think both sides are eager to get those points and that's why the pressure is on both teams.

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera

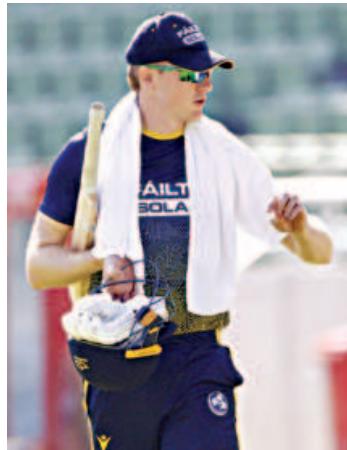
All the players of Bangladesh are good players. Not only one player [Hamza Choudhury], everybody is good. So, for us, we should not take this match lightly. We must think positive and get a positive result.

India coach Khalid Jamil

## 'There's no sport like football'

Being thousands of miles away from home did not stop Ireland batter Harry Tector from rejoicing in his country's recent 3-2 win over Hungary in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. He was even more excited with the prospect of taking part in the next ICC World Test Championship and hoped it would lead to the resumption of red-ball cricket back home. Tector said all this and more in an interview with The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan. The excerpts are as follows:

**The Daily Star (DS):** First of all, on Sunday night, Troy Parrott scored a fantastic hat-trick to take Ireland to the playoffs in the FIFA World Cup. Did you see the match?



**Harry Tector (HT):** It was amazing. Five or six of us were watching it together in Andrew Balbirnie's room. We obviously knew we needed a win and then we were 2-1 down. We were obviously worried. Then they somehow managed to get that second goal which was brilliant. And then the third goal was just amazing. We went crazy in the room. We were shouting, roaring and hugging in the spirit. There's no sport like football. So excited that they set up a chance to qualify for the World Cup.

**DS:** Coming back to cricket, Ireland have three wins in 11 Tests since their inaugural Test in 2018. How do you rate Ireland's growth as a Test-playing nation?

**HT:** I certainly didn't think we would have three wins this early in our Test careers because we don't play any domestic red-ball cricket at home. Playing Test matches from no basis is really hard. The fact that we've managed to do as well as we have is a credit to the team and a credit to the support staff. That first win against Afghanistan was brilliant and then particularly winning home and away against Zimbabwe last year and at the start of this year was brilliant too. It would be great to get another one.

**DS:** Can you enlighten us about the red-ball cricket structure in Ireland?

**HT:** There isn't one. We don't play first-class cricket. The time before we played against Zimbabwe, we played Emerald Challenge -- a best v best series in a first-class game. But we haven't played domestic first-class cricket since 2019. I don't know why it didn't take place after that, maybe because of budget constraints. Our domestic teams just play List A and T20s.

**DS:** There were recent reports that the ICC is planning to include all 12 teams in the next Test Championship Cycle. How do you see if it gets approved?

**HT:** I think it'll be huge for cricket in Ireland. We would need to invest a lot in our domestic game to produce Test cricketers because playing at the World Test Championship would be really challenging. You're going to come up against top teams and you're going to play a lot of Test cricket if you're in it. So, you need to invest in the domestic structure to make sure that you're producing players who are ready to play. But to even be thought to be included in that is incredibly exciting.

**DS:** You will be playing in India and Sri Lanka in ICC T20 World Cup in a couple of months. Do you feel the upcoming three T20Is against Bangladesh will help you prepare for that?

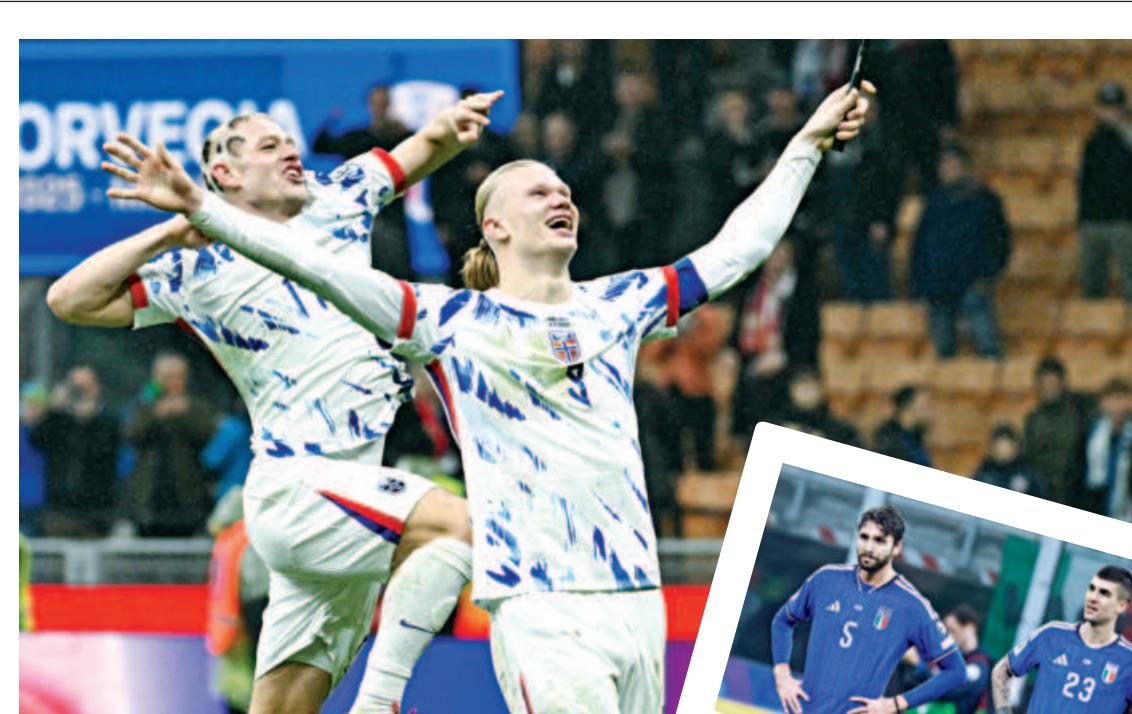
**HT:** Yes, it's very important for us. We played against England in a T20I series before we came here. It's very much at the forefront of our preparation as a team and we will use these games as a real marker for where we are right now.



Bangladesh players catch an Uganda raider during the opening match of the 2nd Women's Kabaddi World Cup at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The hosts breezed through a 42-22 points victory. In the other matches of the day, Iran beat Poland 55-11, Nepal thrashed Zanzibar 58-16 while Chinese Taipei brushed aside 38-16.

PHOTO: STAR

### A FLYING START



Ireland were on the verge of another World Cup miss, stuck on just four points from their first four qualifiers. But centre-forward Troy Parrott refused to let the dream fade. Ireland needed to beat Portugal at home and Hungary away, and Parrott delivered. He scored twice in Dublin to outshine Cristiano Ronaldo, then hit a dramatic hat-trick in one of the qualifiers' most dramatic performances on Sunday, sealing the winner in the 95th minute. Almost single-handedly, he has carried Ireland to the brink of their first World Cup since 2002. They now await Thursday's draw for two single-legged play-offs in March. Meanwhile, on Monday, Erling Haaland struck twice as Norway maintained their perfect record with a 4-1 win over Italy in Milan, securing their first World Cup appearance since 1998. The Azzurri, however, now face the play-offs, risking a third straight absence from the World Cup.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK/AFP



## SHORT CORNER



### Barishal clinch Women's NCL title

Barishal Division clinched the 14th Women's National Cricket League 2025-26 title after securing a 13-run win over Rangpur Division in their final league match at BKSP-3 yesterday. Barishal capped off a dominant campaign, winning six of their seven matches, while Khulna Division finished runners-up with 10 points. Barishal skipper Rabeya Khan was named player of the league for her all-round performance. She scored 17 runs and claimed nine wickets. Player Photo: BCB

**Mymensingh, Rangpur stay unbeaten with dominant three-day wins**  
Mymensingh Division and Rangpur Division maintained their unbeaten runs with commanding victories inside three days in the fourth round of the National Cricket League yesterday. In Chattogram, Mymensingh thumped Chattogram by 251 runs, while Rangpur Division cruised to an eight-wicket win over Barishal Division in Bogura.

\*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website.

## JOURNEY TO A MILESTONE

### A path carved through reverence

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

What does it take to play a 100 Tests?

After sifting through the statements of the 83 players who have achieved this feat till now, a few common qualities stand out: hard work, grit, discipline, and a bit of luck.

But the one quality that doesn't get mentioned enough, but is arguably of equal importance is reverence -- truly understanding the value of the format and the dedication it demands.

It's not because these players did not revere Tests, it's just that in the countries they represent, the five-day format is naturally seen above all others -- it's an accepted and practiced truth.

But in Bangladesh, things are a bit different.

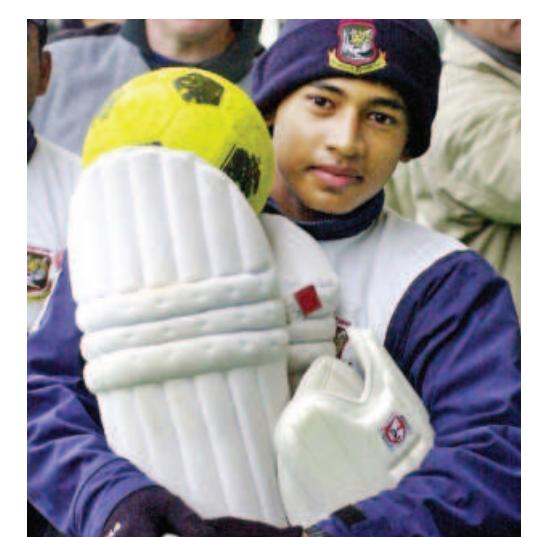
From its nascent stage, cricket in Bangladesh has mainly been a limited-overs affair. The system tried to integrate the longer format in late 90s when the country was already pushing for Test status -- not because it was eager to play Tests, but because it wanted the privileges that come with full status.

This lack of reverence is evident with how players were handed the Test cap almost at random at the naughties, getting tried out for a few matches before disappearing from the team forever.

During this period, a young 18-year-old boy, who looked 15, was given his debut at Lord's in 2005. He went out to bat at the hallowed ground with the top-order already blown to bits against a deadly English pace quartet.

From the looks of it, Bangladesh had just sent another player to the gallows, whose international career was set for an early execution.

But that player with small stature showed tremendous



heart, survived 56 deliveries and played a 19-run knock that was enough to make everyone realise that he was here to stay.

Over two decades have passed since then. That wide-eyed teenager is now a veteran international cricketer and just one Test away from becoming the first Bangladeshi to play 100 Test matches.

As a batter, he has only become better with time. In his first 50 Tests, he averaged a tad below 32 and in the 49 that have followed, his average has grown close to 45. Only four players in the world have scored more runs at a

higher average than him since 2017.

He has three double-centuries to his names -- two as a wicketkeeper, which is a world record --, has been part of numerous record stands and has led Bangladesh to their maiden Test wins over sides like England, Australia and Sri Lanka.

When trying to dissect what has been at the heart of his storied career, most have credited his discipline, dedication and hunger to get better.

But arguably Mushfiqur's secret has been on display this whole time -- his worn out cap.

Mushfiqur has carried on playing Tests with the same baggy green he was handed on debut.

Severely discoloured now, that cap symbolises his reverence for Test cricket -- a testament to the way he dedicated himself to the red-ball format with the devotion of an artist to his craft.

Mushfiqur has been the first Bangladeshi cricketer who has, in belief and practice, revered Tests as much as it warrants, and has created a blueprint of what it takes to play a 100 Tests from Bangladesh.

And now, the format is set to reward his dedication with a milestone that would forever place him alongside the greats of the game.

**MUSHFIQUR'S 100th TEST**

#### MUSHFIQUR IN TESTS

Matches

**99**

Innings

**182**

Runs

**6351**

Average

**38.02**

50/100

**27/12**

Best score

**219\***

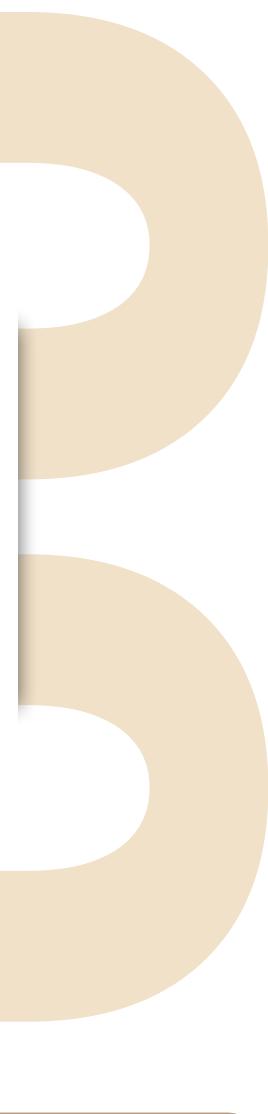


PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED, AFP

#### A CENTURY OF TESTS IN STATS

Mushfiqur is set to become the first Bangladeshi to play a 100 Tests if he takes the field against Ireland in the second Test in Mirpur, starting Wednesday. He will be the 84th player overall to reach the feat in the world.

The time span between Mushfiqur's debut and 100th Test will be 20 years and 179 days -- the longest in history. This record earlier belonged to England's Graham Gooch, who took 17 years and 203 days to reach the landmark.

Mushfiqur debuted in Tests on May 26, 2005. Since then, 20 players have played 100 or more Tests and 12 of them have already retired from the game.

Bangladesh will have its first cricketer reaching the 100-Test mark after 25 years of its debut in Test cricket. This is the second-fastest timeline for a country to produce a 100-Test player, behind Sri Lanka, who achieved the feat in 24 years when Sanath Jayasuriya reached the milestone in 2005.

## A perfect role model

MOHAMMAD ASHRAFUL

I was already a regular member of the Bangladesh team when Mushfiqur Rahim arrived on the scenes in 2005 in the England tour. He announced himself by scoring a hundred and a fifty in practice matches against County sides. He then debuted at Lord's as a specialist batter as Pilot bhai (Khaled Mashud) was still our wicketkeeper. But after the Test, he unfortunately twisted his ankle while coming down the stairs and had to return home.

From the very beginning, we all could see that he was a bright kid -- a talented cricketer who was also excellent in academics.

In 2007, he was going through a difficult phase and was dropped. He returned to domestic cricket, scored over 600 runs in DPL for BKSP and returned for the Sri Lanka tour, which was also my first tour as captain.

Pilot bhai and Mushfiqur were both in the Test squad. Pilot bhai played the first Test, which we lost heavily. After the match, he told me, "Ashraful, if you feel you should rest me and play Mushfiqur, do it." He knew Mushfiqur was the better batter at that stage. So,



Fajr, and then straight to training after performing namaz.

This consistency has shaped his career. His achievements, combined with his discipline, has made him the perfect role model for all future Bangladesh cricketers. I consider myself lucky to share the dressing room with him during his 99th and 100th Tests.

\*The writer is the specialised batting coach of the national team



#### 'MUSHFIQUR LEAVES NOTHING TO CHANCE'

When Mushfiqur Rahim debuted for Bangladesh back in 2005 at the age of 18, Dav Whatmore was the head coach of the Tigers. On the occasion of Mushfiqur's 100th Test, the 71-year-old former Australia batsman talked to The Daily Star's Samson Arefin Khan and shared his observations about his illustrious career.

**The Daily Star (DS):** Mushfiqur started playing for Bangladesh during your tenure. Can you share some insights of that time?

**Dav Whatmore (DW):** He [Mushfiqur] was only a very young boy. We took a chance and gave him his debut at Lord's, but he earned it. He got a 100 in a practice game before and he showed he was the in-form batter and certainly didn't get to play other than by merit.

\*Read the full interview on The Daily Star website.



## FIRST TO 100 TESTS BY COUNTRY



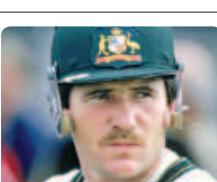
ENGLAND  
Colin Cowdrey  
(1968 v Australia)



INDIA  
Sunil Gavaskar  
(1984 v Pakistan)



WEST INDIES  
Clive Lloyd  
(1984 v Australia)



AUSTRALIA  
Allan Border  
(1988 v West Indies)



PAKISTAN  
Javed Miandad  
(1989 v India)



SOUTH AFRICA  
Gary Kirsten  
(2004 v New Zealand)



SRI LANKA  
Sanath Jayasuriya  
(2005 v Bangladesh)



NEW ZEALAND  
Stephen Fleming  
(2006 v South Africa)

## His legacy will inspire generations

CHANDIKA HATHURISINGHA



As Mushfiqur Rahim walks out to play his 100th Test, Bangladesh cricket celebrates not just a milestone, but a man whose impact on our game goes far beyond statistics. I have had the privilege of coaching Mushfiqur in two different periods -- first from 2014 to 2017, and again from 2023 to 2024 -- and what remained constant was his unwavering professionalism, commitment, and leadership.

Mushfiqur is one of the most meticulous cricketers I have ever worked with. His preparation is world-class -- intentional, disciplined, and consistent every single day. Whether we were playing at home in Mirpur or away in foreign conditions, Mushfiqur never allowed standards to drop. He arrives early, studies conditions, and makes sure every session has purpose. For younger players, observing him is an education in what it means to be a true professional.

Beyond his technical skill and mental

resilience, what stands out most is his character. Mushfiqur is one of the most trustworthy and genuine leaders I've had in any team I have coached around the world. He sets the cultural tone. He leads through action, not words. When he speaks, players listen -- not because of seniority, but because they know his intentions are always for the team.

During my two stints as the Bangladesh head coach, a significant portion of our success can be traced back to his influence. His willingness to put in the hard work, to take responsibility

in difficult moments, and to mentor younger players quietly behind the scenes made my job easier.

Reaching 100 Test matches is a monumental achievement for any cricketer, but for someone who has represented Bangladesh with such pride and humility, it feels particularly special. Mushfiqur has carried the hopes of a nation with grace, discipline, and unwavering dedication. His journey is not just a testament to talent -- it is a story of relentless hard work and a deep love for the game.

As he takes this historic step in his career, I congratulate him not only as his former coach, but also as someone who has immense respect for the professional and the person he is. Bangladesh cricket is richer because of him, and his legacy will inspire generations to come.

Congratulations, Mushfiqur. You deserve every bit of this moment.

\*The writer is a former Bangladesh head coach





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## CONTAINER TERMINALS CPA signs deals with foreign firms to run Laldia, Pangaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday signed two agreements to outsource the operations of Laldia Container Terminal and the Pangaon Inland Container Terminal to two foreign companies, a move it says will bring world class technology, efficiency, and global best practices to Bangladesh's port system.

In the morning, CPA signed a 30-year deal with Danish APM Terminals for the development and operation of Laldia terminal in the upper estuary of the Karnaphuli river. It also signed a 22-year concession agreement with Switzerland-based logistics firm Medlog SA to manage and operate the Pangaon terminal on the Buriganga in Keraniganj.

Under the Laldia agreement, APM Terminals will design, finance, build, and operate the new terminal, with a possible 15-year extension based on performance.

Speaking at the signing ceremony at a hotel in Dhaka, CPA Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman said the terminal is crucial for meeting rising cargo demand.

"We are seeing 11 percent annual growth, and by 2030, we must handle an additional 1.5 million TEUs. This terminal is arriving at a time when we urgently need both capacity and efficiency," he said.

The event was chaired by Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPP) CEO Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

**VERDICT AGAINST HASINA**  
UN welcomes  
accountability  
but regrets  
death sentence  
**Amnesty condemns,  
ICG critical**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations said yesterday that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's sentencing for crimes against humanity marked "an important moment for victims", but stressed that she should not



have been given the death penalty.

"We have been calling for perpetrators -- including individuals in positions of command and leadership -- to be held accountable in accordance with international standards," UN Human Rights Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement.

However, she stressed that the office had also "consistently advocated for all accountability proceedings -- especially on charges of international crimes -- to unquestionably meet international standards of due process and fair trial".

"This is particularly vital when, as was the case here, the trials have been conducted in absentia and led to a capital punishment sentence."

"We ... regret the imposition of the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Hundreds of lesser whistling ducks land and gather over a wetland near Rajshahi University yesterday. As winter begins to set in, large flocks of migratory ducks are arriving in the area, joining the resident populations across the region.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## COP30 climate talks enter final week

Delegates dig into toughest issues as UN's climate chief urges ministers to avoid any "stonewalling"

### AGENCIES

Government ministers from around the world were preparing for a final few fraught days of talks at the UN climate summit as they bid to secure a deal that demonstrates global resolve amid increasing assertiveness from developing nations.

The job will not be easy. Countries are now digging into some of the toughest issues -- many of which have been left off the formal agenda to ensure the talks keep moving even if one issue gets hung up.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is also expected to arrive on Wednesday to help rally consensus among parties at the summit in the Amazon city of Belem ahead of Friday's final scheduled session.

The UN's climate chief yesterday urged ministers to avoid any "stonewalling" and speed up negotiations, reports AFP. "There is a huge amount of work ahead for ministers and negotiators. I urge you to get to the hardest issues fast," UN climate chief Simon Stiell told the gathering. "I urge you to get to the hardest issues fast."

New dynamics in climate diplomacy have seen China, India and other developing nations flex more muscle this year, while the European Union is hobbled by weakening support back home and the once-dominant United States has skipped out altogether.

Asked if there was any one issue



Competing priorities  
make final COP30 week  
tough

Government ministers  
set to join negotiations

Brazil's President Lula  
will aim to help bridge  
gaps

dominating the talks, COP30 President Andre Correa Do Lago replied: "Everything, everything. It's very complicated."

Brazil's top goal for COP30 is to deliver an agreement that reaffirms the 2015 Paris Agreement, while acknowledging its shortcomings by laying out clear plans for future climate action, reports Reuters.

The summit's work is "dry, it's complicated, it's anguished, it's tiring -- and it's absolutely necessary," said

Britain's energy minister, Ed Miliband.

Over the last week negotiators had a chance to air their differences on three key issues: climate finance, unilateral trade measures, and planned emissions cuts that don't go nearly far enough.

The Paris treaty's central goal, to prevent warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, will be missed.

Current emissions trends have the world warming by at least 2.3 degrees Celsius, which Norway's climate minister said parties agreed would need to be addressed.

"It is a must-have to be able to talk about how we close the gap going forward," the minister, Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, told Reuters.

A bloc of developing countries is also seeking a payment schedule to ensure wealthy countries follow through on promises made at last year's COP29 to annually deliver \$300 billion in climate finance by 2035. The United States -- absent from COP30 -- has reneged on past commitments.

China's growing role in the UN climate talks follows decades of Beijing representing developing-country interests at the talks while growing its own green technology sector.

"It's not that China set out with a brilliant new strategy; it just happened," said Li Xing, a professor at the Guangdong Institute for International Strategies.



Palestinians wait to buy bread at a distribution point in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Astronomers detect planet-threatening star explosion

CNN ONLINE



For the first time, astronomers say they have spotted a giant explosion released by a star beyond our solar system.

The eruption was similar in some ways to those unleashed by our sun, such as the solar storms that graced the night skies with auroras last week on Earth, but at a much grander -- and ominous -- scale.

Rather than triggering colourful northern lights, this powerful explosion was more likely to have potentially devastating consequences for any nearby planet, according to new research.

The star, named StKM 1-1262, is a red dwarf star about 130 light years from Earth.

A coronal mass ejection, or a CME, was the likely cause of the explosive event. In our solar system, this phenomenon is a large cloud of ionized gas, called plasma, and magnetic fields that erupts from the sun's outer atmosphere.

When such outbursts are large enough to reach Earth, they can cause space weather, or major disturbances of our planet's magnetic field.

Astronomers have never been able to detect a coronal mass ejection releasing from another star -- until now. Researchers described the groundbreaking finding in a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

## Ex-UP chairman dies after falling ill in prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Jafar Howlader, 55, a former union parishad chairman and local Awami League leader, died at Patuakhali General Hospital yesterday after suddenly falling ill inside the Patuakhali District Jail, prison authorities said.

He was arrested from his home on November 11 during a special operation in a previous case over vandalism of the local BNP office.

Jafar was a former chairman of Boro Bighai union parishad and former general secretary of the union unit of the Awami League.

According to jail officials, Jafar was rushed and admitted to the hospital at 1:40pm after he became sick around 1:30pm yesterday.

Doctors performed an ECG, but he passed away during treatment at 2:18pm.

Dr Ziaur Rahman, assistant surgeon of the Civil Surgeon's Office associated with Patuakhali District Jail, said Jafar was suffering from cardiac complications. "He had to be rushed to the hospital after his condition became serious."

His niece, Ruma, said the family had no prior information about any health issues. "My uncle was healthy. We did not know he had fallen sick. We only learned about it after his death," she said.