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EC, govt going full steam ahead with polls prep

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

With the national election slated for February drawing near, the Election Commission and the state machinery are in full gear to complete preparations before the schedule is likely announced in early December.

Yesterday, the EC published the final voter list, confirmed the registration of two new political parties, and launched a mobile app to help expatriate Bangladeshis register as voters.

On the same day, the government rolled out a massive awareness campaign across all 64 districts and 300 upazilas, aiming to engage citizens at the grassroots and make the polls festive.

Meanwhile, reshuffles in top administrative positions are currently underway, with deputy commissioners across 50 districts already replaced. The transfer process for police superintendents also started on Monday.

These steps, officials say, are part of a broader effort to make the highly anticipated polls more inclusive and transparent.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday reaffirmed the interim government's commitment to holding a free, fair, and festive election in the first half of February.

During a meeting with the visiting Dutch Vice-Minister for International Cooperation, Pascale Grotenhuis, Yunus reiterated that the Awami League would not be able to participate in the election because its activities have been banned and its registration has been suspended by the Election Commission.

"It's a historic moment. The young people who filled the walls in Dhaka and elsewhere with graffiti and drawings during the July uprising will now come to vote," said the chief adviser.

At a press conference yesterday, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed announced that 12.76 crore registered voters are expected to exercise their franchise in the upcoming national election.

Of them, 6.48 crore are male, 6.28 crore are female, and 1,234 belong to the hijra community.

Voting is expected at 42,761 polling centres, with a total of 2,44,739 booths.

Meanwhile, the EC has granted registration to two political parties – the National Citizen Party (NCP) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist).

According to an EC official, despite overall preparations gathering pace, progress remains slow in two areas: holding talks with political parties and finalising the list of local observers.

The commission has so far engaged in dialogue with

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**TOTAL VOTERS
12,76,95,183**

**Male: 6,48,14,907
Female: 6,28,79,042
Hijra: 1,234**

App launched for expatriate voters

Registration from Nov 19 to Dec 23

EC provides registration to NCP and Basad (Marxist)

To sit with BNP, Jamaat, NCP today



**A VICTORY
22 YEARS IN THE MAKING**

Bangladesh forward Sheikh Morsalin wheels away in celebration after scoring an 11th-minute opener against India in their AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers fixture at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. The 20-year-old's seventh international goal sealed a memorable 1-0 victory for the hosts in front of a capacity crowd -- their first win against the neighbours in 22 years and a first win of the qualification campaign.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Only 44% make it to class 10 after primary

Shows recent BBS-UNICEF survey on 63,000 households across country

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Although 84 percent of children in Bangladesh complete primary school, less than half go on to finish secondary education, a government survey has revealed, highlighting the large number who drop out long before higher studies.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-2025, launched on Sunday, found that children from low-income households, mostly girls, are more likely to leave before completing secondary school.

At the lower secondary stage (classes six to eight), however, boys lag behind girls in completion.

The survey, conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, shows that 63 percent boys complete lower secondary, compared to 76 percent girls.

Conducted for over a year in nearly 63,000 households, it divides the secondary education into two levels, lower and upper (classes nine and ten).

According to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, over 81 lakh children study at

- Attendance falls sharply from primary to secondary
- Girls complete lower secondary at higher rates than boys
- Poor children, girls are the least likely to stay at upper secondary level
- Sylhet records the lowest completion and attendance nationwide
- Early marriage and income pressure drive most dropouts

18,968 general secondary schools across the country.

Education experts attribute socio-economic realities and structural weaknesses in education as key reasons behind students leaving school before completing secondary level.

Noted educationist Rashed K Choudhury said, "This is a worrying picture. Similar declining trends in completion rates have also been found in other independent studies."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Unions applaud, factory owners push back

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The union leaders welcomed the amended labour law, but factory owners rejected some of the clauses as their demands went unaddressed.

The amendment elaborated the definition of a worker, which will ensure the protection of jobs of many executives in the factories, said Labour Reform Commission Chief Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed.

Previously, under the narrower definition, managerial executives were not counted as workers, which allowed factory management to fire them without paying service benefits in many cases.

But in the amended law they are recognised as workers and their jobs are more protected now, said Ahmed, who also heads the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.

Moreover, the domestic workers have also been recognised in the amendment, whose gazette was published on November 17.

"This was long overdue."

The lowering of the minimum number of signatories needed to register a trade union to 20 is a positive side, as the previous requirement of 20 percent of workers' signatures was difficult to meet, he said.

However, small factories will face difficulties in forming the trade unions as their number of workers is low, he said.

Nazma Akter, president of the Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, also welcomed the majority of the amended clauses of the labour law, including recognition for domestic workers and the lowering of the threshold for union formation.

However, the five unions in a factory may be a challenge for maintaining the standards of the unions particularly in the small factories, she added.

Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation, praised the elaboration of the definition of the workers as many were not entitled to job protection due to not being considered workers of the factories

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

198 murders in 10 months 'tolerable' for Dhaka: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police recorded at least 198 murders in the capital over the past 10 months, a figure the force termed "within a tolerable range" given the city's size and socio-economic realities.

Taleb Rahman, deputy commissioner of DMP's media and public relations division, shared the data with The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

"On average, around 20 murder-related crimes occur each month. These include cases stemming from family disputes, previous enmity, establishing dominance, and even the recovery of bodies of unidentified newborns -- each of which leads to the filing of a murder case."

He added that detectives have solved most recent murder cases and brought those involved under the purview of the law.

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A teacher and his students at a class submerged in ankle-deep water at Madhabkati Bilpatiala Govt Primary School in Khulna's Dumuria yesterday. The school and the surrounding area have remained waterlogged for five months because the only drainage system, the Shoalmari river, has been blocked by siltation, causing thousands of people to suffer.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

JUBO DAL LEADER'S KILLING Suspects may have ties to underworld

Say cops; wife files case; one held

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TOUSIF KARIUM

A dispute with a gang linked to the underworld may have led to the killing of Jubo Dal leader Golam Kibria, police said.

Kibria was shot dead inside a shop in the capital's Pallabi area on Monday evening.

Investigators said they have got some names of people directly involved in the murder and are examining whether it was driven by political rivalry, underworld ties or tensions over blocking drug sales in the neighbourhood.

Locals suspect the murder was carried out by associates of listed criminal Mamun, who was involved in drug trading, extortion, and land grabbing across Pallabi.

They said Kibria was close to Mamun but after becoming influential following the July uprising, he began obstructing Mamun's drug operations.

Listed criminal Mamun, also known as "Dha Block Mamun", has long been linked to the underworld. His elder brother Zamil was once involved in similar illicit activities.

A few years ago, Zamil fled after a dispute over Tk 7 crore in extortion money, locals said. They added that Mamun and his younger brother Mashiur now control

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Golam Kibria

MY DHAKA

HAWKER'S HOWL

the unofficial soundtrack of Dhaka

JANNATUL BUSHRA

If Dhaka ever commissioned an audio documentary of itself, the soundtrack wouldn't bother with birdsong or anything that implies urban maturity. No, it would open with a long, nasal, soul-stabbing cry: "Murgiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!"

Yes, a sound so elastic and so shamelessly dramatic that it slinks through alleyways, somersaults around electric poles, and ricochets off your seventh-floor balcony like it's practising for an audition with a metal band that never got past your garage!

They say every city has its own music. New York gets the subway screech, Istanbul gets the call to prayer, Rome gets scooters humming like caffeinated mosquitoes. Dhaka? We get a man screaming "Murgiiiiiii!!!" (just chicken) as if the entire capital is one giant chicken clearance sale.

Walk through any neighbourhood of Dhaka -- Dhanmondi, Shantinagar, Mirpur, take your pick, and you'll see them on the streets with baskets, trolleys, or buckets full of who-knows-what. Their voices are so loud and powerful, scientists could probably run the national grid with them. But Dhaka, being Dhaka, prefers its load-shedding. And yes, I'm only half-joking.

There's an art to the hawk's howl. It takes patience and practice!

First comes the warm-up: a small cough, a throat clear, and then a declaration to the universe that

mattresses can, in fact, be fixed. Then the tempo rises, a melodic cry for old bottles, newspapers, and any other object that has ever existed in your home.

And who are the listeners of these soul-piercing cries?

Us, the half-awake, T-shirt-wearing Dhakaites who swear we're tired of the noise, but pause our Netflix episode to see if the daa-boti (large sharpened knife) b e c o m i n g a guy is passing our building today. Of course, we complain and write about sound pollution w h i l e eagerly leaning over the balcony to negotiate the price of a quick umbrella fixation. Because we are nothing if not contradictory!

And it's not just umbrellas. There are hawkers who claim to fix literally anything and everything. "Puraton TV, radio, electronic shomogri thik kora hoy!" they shout with the confidence of surgeons announcing walk-in open-heart procedures. But the moment you take your year-old, obese television, the one rotting in the corner like a forgotten family member -- they will examine it with the solemnity of a judge, shake their head, and declare, "Ei ta aar thik hobe na. Bechhe din." (Translation: We fix everything... except

the thing you actually need fixed.)

Then there's the famous murgi guy, strutting down the street with chickens hanging upside down. And watching those poor birds sway with each step can make even the most carnivorous Dhakaite feel a soft, guilty ache. For a fleeting second, you might even consider b e c o m i n g vegetarian. But then you will remember morog polau exists.

However, the city planners are forever suspicious of these roaming entrepreneurs. Hawkers are like Dhaka's stray cats, impossible to regulate, permanently resourceful, and appearing exactly where you don't expect them. The authorities often try to "organise" them, a word Dhaka interprets somewhat like "make it worse." So, they remain!

And God forbid your flat is anywhere near a kacha

bazar. Then you're doomed, not metaphorically, but acoustically. From dawn till dusk, your life becomes a live-action soundscape of men yelling "Jharuuuuuuu!" with the emotional intensity of someone offering life-saving medicine. They're just selling brooms. Regular, unremarkable, everyday brooms. But the way they scream it, you'd think civilisation itself depended on your purchase.

The closer you live to the bazar, the more chaotic the soundtrack. One guy is dragging a trolley full of ginger like he's hauling treasure; another is advertising coriander leaves as though they come with a free plot of land. There is constant shouting, constant movement, constant bargaining -- a relentless, unedited documentary of Dhaka life unfolding right beneath your balcony. It is maddening, yes. It may rattle the brain, of course! But it also anchors you. Because only Dhaka can turn such pure cacophony into something resembling comfort.

এই মুরগিহইহইহই...



ILLUSTRATION: JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

Ex-president Hamid's house attacked after ICT verdict against Hasina

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Former president Md Abdul Hamid's house in Kishoreganj's Mithamoin upazila was attacked and vandalised on Monday night, police said.

A group broke into the residence around 11:00pm, damaging furniture, doors, windows and several framed photos, Mithamoin Police Station Officer-in-Charge Alamgir Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday.

No casualties were reported, he said, adding that police and army personnel later visited the spot and security has since been tightened.

No arrests had been made at the time of filing the report last night.

According to local sources, a procession was brought out in Mithamoin Bazar after the International Crimes Tribunal handed down death sentences to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal. A faction of 20-30 individuals separated from the procession near Kamalpur village and broke into the former president's house before carrying out the vandalism.

Witness Kamrul Islam said the procession, reportedly joined by around 100 people and led by local BNP activists, began around 10:30pm, though he could not confirm who was involved in the subsequent attack.

Attempts to contact Upazila BNP President Md Jahidul Islam were unsuccessful, as his mobile phone was found switched off.

Police said legal procedures are underway and the situation in the area is currently under control.

NCP member, youth held for holding 'gun' against schoolboy's head

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police have arrested a National Citizen Party member and another youth in connection with holding a "pistol" against a schoolboy's head during an altercation in Rangpur's Park intersection on Monday.

Ragib Hasnain, 30, NCP Rangpur Metropolitan Coordination Committee member, and Rakibul Islam, alias Tushar, 28, were detained by locals and handed to police around 8:00pm.

Unions applaud EC, govt going full steam ahead

FROM PAGE 1

However, the threshold for union formation could have been calculated as a percentage of workers. For instance, the 20 percent threshold could have been lowered to 10 percent or 12 percent or 15 percent.

So, forming unions with 20 signatories may be challenging for workers in small industrial units, he added.

Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation, welcomed allowing an additional eight days for maternity leave. In the amended law, the maternity leave for workers has been increased to 120 days with pay from 112 days.

Bangladesh is not ready to adopt all kinds of standard labour law as the country needs further preparation, said Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director and chief executive officer of Premier Cement Mills.

The outsiders will be able to instigate the union leaders in factories because of lowering the workers' threshold to 20 workers from 20 percent, he said.

The implementation of the amended labour law will be difficult and is a deterrent for industries, said Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries.

New investors will be worried about investing because of some difficult clauses in the law, he added.

In a joint statement, the leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association expressed dissatisfaction as the decisions of the Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC), the highest platform for labour law amendment, were not incorporated.

The definition of a worker, the 20-worker threshold for forming unions and the provision of the provident fund were not agreed upon at the TCC.

"We are rejecting the amended labour law -- our demands are not addressed in the amendment," said BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan.

198 murders

FROM PAGE 1

"Considering Dhaka's population and socio-economic dynamics, the number of incidents is at a manageable level. We are successfully uncovering the motives behind most cases and arresting the perpetrators," the DC said.

Meanwhile, at least three people, including a listed criminal and a Jubo Dal leader, were shot dead in the capital over the last eight days.

Last night, Golam Kibria, member secretary of Jubo Dal's Pallabi thana unit, was shot dead in the Pallabi area.

Police said they are investigating the killing.

FROM PAGE 1

34 parties since November 13. It is scheduled to meet several more today, including the BNP, Jamaat, and NCP. By tomorrow, the EC expects to conclude talks with all 56 registered parties.

'POSTAL VOTE'

For the first time, the EC yesterday launched the "Postal Vote BD" app, marking a pioneering step to ensure the voting rights of Bangladeshi expatriates.

Through this IT-supported postal voting system, non-resident Bangladeshis in about 140 countries will be able to cast their ballots in the upcoming polls.

The registration process, divided into seven regions, will run from November 19 to December 23, with each region allotted five days.

Bangladeshis in East Asia, South America, and Africa must register between November 19 and 23; those in North America and Oceania between November 24 and 28; and in Europe from November 29 to December 3. Registration for the Middle East (Saudi Arabia) will take place from December 4 to 8, South and Southeast Asia from December 9 to 13, and the Middle East (excluding Saudi Arabia) from December 14 to 18.

After registration, voters will receive ballot papers bearing candidate symbols once nominations are finalised. These ballots, sent to expatriate voters, must be filled out

Only 44% make it to class 10 after primary

FROM PAGE 1

She said early marriage remains a major factor in girls dropping out, as many families, particularly outside Dhaka, prefer to marry off their daughters rather than keep them in school.

"Affordability is another reason. A significant number of low-income families still prioritise boys for contributing to household income over continuing education and thereby push them into income-generating work by withdrawing them from school.

"Rather than seeing the value in learning, they consider it more logical to let the boys engage in alternative ways of earning," said Rasheda, also the executive director of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

Another concern, she said, is the mundane learning process in post-primary schools. "The teaching learning process in our mainstream schools is not interesting enough to make the students stay in class. Since these schools are privately managed, there's a question over their quality."

Another concern, she said, is the mundane learning process in post-primary schools. "The teaching-learning process in our mainstream schools is not interesting enough to keep students in class."

Prof Siddiquir Rahman, another noted educationist, cited similar reasons, early marriage for girls and early entry into the workforce for boys.

He added that many families also find schooling for girls more expensive, as they often need to be accompanied. "While a male student can walk,

and returned to the returning officer within 16 to 28 days.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, while inaugurating the app at the EC headquarters, said, "Currently, 13 crore Bangladeshis are living abroad who were previously deprived of voting rights. This initiative ends their disenfranchisement and strengthens democracy."

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS

Following meetings of the advisory council committees on economic affairs and government purchase at the Secretariat yesterday, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed announced that a cultural affairs ministry proposal for a voter awareness campaign had been approved in principle.

According to officials concerned, the government will spend Tk 25 crore on publicity to create a festive atmosphere ahead of the election.

The plan includes producing TVCs, video documentaries and other digital content, and displaying them through LED activation caravans in all 64 districts and 300 upazilas of the country.

In addition to government efforts, the EC has chalked out an extensive awareness campaign to inform people about the voting system, the electoral code, and other guidelines.

ROADMAP, READINESS

The EC unveiled its electoral roadmap in August. As part of the preparation, the government has made amendments to the Representation of the People

a female student often requires a rickshaw."

About the implications, Prof Siddiquir, a former director of the Institute of Education and Research at Dhaka University, said the nation is being affected in two ways due to the early dropout.

"A large number of students are deprived of education. Those who drop out do not get better work opportunities, as there are no adequate policies or programmes for their vocational training."

STEADY DECLINE

The survey reveals a steady decline in school completion as students move from primary to lower secondary and then to upper secondary across all divisions.

While 83.7 percent children complete primary school, the rate falls to 69.3 percent at the lower secondary level and drops further to 43.9 percent at upper secondary.

"The current policy in Bangladesh that focuses on universal primary education, alongside the need to prioritise attendance in higher grades, is reflected in these data," the report said.

It added that only 21 percent children from poor families complete upper secondary schooling, 23 percentage points below the national average. In contrast, around 66 percent children from well-off households reach this stage.

The survey highlighted disparities between urban and rural areas: 49 percent students in urban areas complete upper secondary education

Order, 1972, in line with the EC's recommendations. The commission also made changes to the electoral code of conduct for the parties and candidates.

On September 4, the EC finalised the delimitation of 300 constituencies, redrawing the boundaries of 46 parliamentary seats in 16 different districts across the country. Disputes over the redrawing in some constituencies led to writ petitions being filed with the High Court. The commission is, however, hopeful that these petitions will be resolved within this month.

At the end of September, the EC launched a series of dialogues with stakeholders, including former election officials, observers, civil society representatives, university teachers, and journalists.

The commission has updated guidelines for journalists, observers, and polling station setup. Trainers are now being readied to guide election officials. Final selection and training will begin after the election schedule is declared.

The EC also met law enforcement and intelligence agencies on October 20 and top government officials on October 30.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, while meeting with German ambassador Rudiger Loltz yesterday, said law enforcers were fully prepared to perform election duties.

compared to 42 percent in rural areas.

The decline is more pronounced in some divisions. Sylhet records the lowest completion rates at both lower and upper secondary levels.

In Dhaka, the drop is also steep: while 81.6 percent of students finish primary school, only 42.7 percent complete class 10.

The attendance rates mirror this downward trajectory. Net attendance stands at 84.3 percent at primary level but drops to 59.6 percent at lower secondary and 50.5 at upper secondary.

"Children from the poorest households and boys are less likely to attend school than those from the wealthiest households and girls. These data may reflect economic imperatives," the study said.

Sylhet stands at the bottom also in terms of attendance, with just 44 percent of students staying through upper secondary, it added.

WAY FORWARD

To retain students, Rasheda K Choudhury suggested making the teaching-learning process more engaging. "School has to be interesting, otherwise the students won't feel encouraged to stay back and learn."

She stressed the need for improving the standard of education, saying public spending on education is continuously decreasing despite repeated calls from educationists.

"If we need quality education, we will require quality teachers who will make lessons interesting. And for that, more investment in education is a must."

Dhaka to seek Interpol help in getting Hasina, Kamal back

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday evening, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said Dhaka has not yet sent the letter. "The letter is being prepared. It may be sent today [yesterday]."

The ministry will not send the copy of the ICT verdict, but a note verbal to India.

After cases were filed against Hasina, Asaduzzaman, and others in connection with crimes against humanity, the National Central Bureau (NCB) of the Bangladesh Police had formally requested Interpol's help in issuing red notices against 12 people, including Hasina, who have been declared "absconding" and are living abroad.

Red notice is a global alert declared by Interpol to find a person and to provisionally arrest them pending extradition, surrender, or equivalent legal measures.

Now, as Hasina has been convicted, the prosecution at the ICT is modifying its earlier application and will soon submit a fresh request seeking Interpol notices based on the conviction warrants, ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told journalists on the ICT premises yesterday.

"The work on this process has already begun," he said.

After the ICT delivered judgment on Monday, the foreign ministry called upon India to immediately hand over convicted Hasina and Asaduzzaman.

In a statement, the ministry said, "Under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries, this is also an obligatory responsibility for India [to hand over her to Bangladesh]."

The interim government revoked the diplomatic passport of Hasina, putting her at risk of extradition. Her extradition falls within the legal framework of the extradition treaty signed between Bangladesh and India in 2013.

According to the treaty that was amended in 2016, "Extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character."

It also says that certain offences -- like murder -- "shall not be regarded as offences of a political character" for the purposes of the treaty.

However, one of the grounds for refusal of extradition is if the charges being pressed have not been "made in good faith, in the interest of justice".

A former Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, seeking anonymity, told this newspaper that regardless of the law, the decision of Hasina's extradition will ultimately be a "political call".

According to Prof Sreeratha

Dutta of international affairs at the OP Jindal Global University in India, extradition will neither be an easy nor a quick process.

"Bangladesh can request extradition, but I believe it will become a long drawn judicial process. Even if Bangladesh revokes her passport, that might have no implication for India. India will question the decision and its legitimacy," Prof Dutta earlier told The Daily Star.

"Since a government politically opposed to Sheikh Hasina is the one prosecuting her, it might be perceived that she is fleeing political persecution and a threat to life. We have a history of looking after our friends."

PROSECUTOR'S STATEMENT

ICT Prosecutor Tamim said if Hasina and Asaduzzaman do not file their appeals within 30 days of the verdict delivery, they will lose the opportunity to appeal as they have been convicted under a special law.

Tamim was replying to reporters' queries.

He, however, said the Appellate Division has the authority to allow it for the sake of "complete justice, if nothing regarding this is mentioned in the law. But if a timeframe is mentioned in any special law, once the time is up, no appeal for condonation will be accepted."

Responding to another query regarding Hasina's comment that the verdict is politically motivated, and she did not get the opportunity to defend herself, Tamim said, "We welcome her remarks, as now the lawful path is open."

"She must surrender within 30 days, file an appeal, and present all her arguments before the Appellate Division. That court hears both sides and ensures justice."

Tamim said, "Let there be no misunderstanding, we categorically reject the claim that the trial was politically driven. The tribunal's proceedings were transparent to a standard that can withstand scrutiny before any court in the world. The documents and evidence we submitted would survive any legal challenge, anywhere. The punishment delivered here would be delivered there as well..."

Supreme Court lawyer Azizur Rahman Dulu, however, said that under the jurisdiction of complete justice provided by article 104 of the constitution, the Appellate Division has the authority to allow the application even after 30 days.

Mentioning the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution, he added that the constitution is the supreme law, and it will prevail over any laws of the land that curtail fundamental rights.

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ICT CASE Witness recounts fatal shooting of Abu Sayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) student Shan E Rownok Basunia, while testifying before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday, recounted witnessing the fatal shooting of Abu Sayed during the quota reform protests on July 16, 2024.

Rownok appeared as the 19th prosecution witness before the three-member tribunal.

He described a tense standoff at Gate 1 of the university, where hundreds of students tried to enter the campus after learning that BCL activists had confined some students during the nationwide anti-discrimination movement.

It was then, he said, that police opened fire on the protesters.

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Workers wash winter vegetables in large drums after buying them from the wholesale market. With temperatures dipping in the capital, demand for winter vegetables has risen sharply. The photo was taken in South Jatrahari yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Country in state of instability

Says Fakhru at late BNP leader
Moudud Ahmed's book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said Bangladesh is going through a period of instability.

"At this moment, we truly needed people like Barrister Moudud Ahmed. We are living in a state of instability, and he was undoubtedly someone who could have guided us out of it," he said at a book publication ceremony.

Politicians, government officials, experts, lawyers and journalists attended the event at a city hotel for late BNP leader and eminent lawyer Moudud Ahmed's book "Demise of Democracy", organised by University Press Limited.

Speakers reflected on his political life and contributions as a writer.

They said Moudud's writings would serve as a valuable guide for young people seeking to understand the country's political history. Although his work often criticised his own party, they noted he consistently tried to present true history.

During the panel discussion, Fakhru said, "I feel sad that he could not live to see the fall of the fascist Hasina, which Moudud sincerely wanted to see."

He said young people involved in the recent mass uprising would find Moudud's books important. "There

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Must commit to climate-resilient energy future

CSOs urge parties, unveil
12-point manifesto for just,
green energy transition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the country moves toward the pivotal 2026 national elections, a coalition of prominent civil society organisations yesterday urged political parties to adopt bold, future-focused commitments to dismantle fossil fuel dependence, enhance national energy sovereignty and safeguard vulnerable communities through a just, equitable and climate-resilient energy transition.

The coalition released a 12-point Citizens' Manifesto at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, calling on parties to commit to a transparent and renewable energy-based power sector.

"Despite attaining almost 100 percent electricity coverage, decades of imprudent fossil fuel dependence, opaque contractual regimes and impractical master plans have precipitated severe financial haemorrhaging, intensified environmental degradation and heightened public health risks," said Monower Mostafa, adviser at Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network, while presenting the keynote paper.

He said national carbon emissions have doubled from 146.8 million tonnes in 2008 to 281.4 million tonnes now, while the country's air quality has deteriorated to among the world's most hazardous and placed Bangladesh at the bottom of major environmental performance indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- New energy policy ensuring climate resilience
- Full disclosure of PPAs and IAs under RTI
- Phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies
- End LNG dependence, reduce gas waste
- Clear roadmap for expanding renewable energy

Hasan Mehedi, member secretary of the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development, said private power producers extracted Tk 1,72,000 crore in capacity charges over the past 16 years, while Bangladesh Power Development Board recorded cumulative losses of Tk 2,53,000 crore. "The government had to inject Tk 2,36,000 crore in subsidies from public funds, which were disproportionately siphoned off into the coffers of fossil fuel-linked vested interests," he said.

The 12-point manifesto includes formulating a new national energy policy ensuring climate resilience, economic stability and long-term energy security; unveiling all Power Purchase Agreements and Implementation Agreements under the Right to Information Act; phasing out fossil fuel subsidies; ending LNG dependence and gas waste; and preparing a clear roadmap for renewable energy establishments.

The groups demanded a just energy transition that safeguards the rights of women, indigenous peoples, farmers, fishers, workers and marginalised communities, along with protection of agricultural land.

BWGED organised the event along with Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network, Ethical Trading Initiative Bangladesh, Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development, Manusher Jonno Foundation, ReGlobal and allied partners.

A solo run or alliance with a big fish?

NCP top brass at odds over decision;
grassroots want independent bid

SHAMIMA RITA

Differences have emerged within the National Citizen Party over whether it should contest the upcoming national polls independently or join an electoral alliance.

Party insiders said top leaders, in recent general meetings, have instructed senior, mid-level and district coordinators to stay prepared for all possible strategies as internal debates intensify.

According to party sources, a large section of leaders across all tiers, from senior to grassroots, favours contesting the polls alone.

However, a significant faction within the top leadership argues that forming an alliance, or at least a seat-sharing deal, is necessary to ensure the party's long-term stability and influence in the next government.

Over the past three weeks, discussions in party meetings and internal consultations have pushed Convenor Nahid Islam towards supporting an independent run,



Interviews with three frontline central leaders reflect a clear divide. While most believe contesting alone would strengthen the party's grassroots organisational base, others feel an alliance is crucial for securing parliamentary representation or a role in national leadership.

aligning with the majority view. Still, about half of the central leaders are leaning towards alliance options.

Interviews with three frontline central leaders reflect a clear divide. While most believe contesting alone would strengthen the party's grassroots organisational base, others feel an alliance is crucial for securing parliamentary representation or a role in national leadership.

A senior central leader, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star, "As a new party, contesting independently may seem 'romantic' or 'aesthetic', but it carries real risks for NCP's political future. To become a strong opposition, we need at least 20 percent public support, and we are still building the preparation and financial strength needed for that."

He said a seat-sharing alliance would better secure the party's long-term prospects. "While a solo run may solidify our grassroots

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



COURT CORNER

Ivy shown arrested in 5 more cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police have shown former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Salina Hayat Ivy arrested in five more cases. Court Police Inspector Kaium Khan said four were filed for murder and one for obstructing government work.

"Ivy is not named in any of these cases. None of the arrested accused gave any statement implicating her. She had already secured bail from the High Court. These sudden shown-arrest petitions are aimed solely at delaying her release," said Ivy's counsel Awlad Hossain.

Petition challenges merger of 5 shariah- based banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the government's decision to merge five troubled shariah-based commercial banks into a new state-run Islamic lender named Sammilito Islami Bank Limited.

Shahidul Islam, a general investor in the share market, submitted the petition through Barrister Sayed Mahsib Hossain. The banks are First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank.



An illegally set-up truck stand occupies a significant portion of the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway beside the Jatrahari Fish Market, disrupting the movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, Shibir declare panels for JnU polls

JNU CORRESPONDENT

The Islami
Chhatra
Shibir
and Jatiya
Chhatra
Shakti have

announced their panels for the upcoming Jagannath University Central Students' Union (Jnucsu) election.

The university unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir unveiled its panel, named "Adommo Jobian Oikya", at a press briefing in front of the Language Martyr Rafiq Bhawan yesterday.

The panel has nominated Md Riazul Islam, president of JnU Chhatra Shibir, for the post of vice president, and Abdul Alim Arif, secretary of JnU Chhatra Shibir, for the general secretary post.

Masud Rana, organiser of Up Bangladesh at JnU, has been nominated for the assistant general secretary post.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

MORE THAN JUST A GRAVEYARD

Chattogram war cemetery stands as a place of reflection, history

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The Commonwealth War Cemetery in Chattogram has emerged as one of the city's most visited public sites, drawing hundreds of people every day.

Established in 1945, the seven-acre cemetery on Badshah Miah Chowdhury Road honours soldiers and civilians who died during World War II, and is maintained with care by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Visitors are greeted by the Cross of Sacrifice at the centre, setting a solemn tone. Each of the 755 graves bears the name, nationality, age, and date of death of the deceased, often accompanied by a short epitaph.

The manicured lawns, flowerbeds, and quiet hillside surroundings give the cemetery a tranquil, almost park-like atmosphere.

For many families and students, the site has become a place to learn history beyond textbooks.

Kamal Uddin, visiting with his eight-year-old daughter, said reading the epitaphs made her curious about the past.

"The setting helps us better understand the stories of Commonwealth soldiers who fought in World War II," said Ishita Dastidar of Chittagong College.

During the war, Chattogram served as a crucial British military base due to its proximity to the Burma front. Afterwards, burial grounds across the region were consolidated into two main CWGC cemeteries, including this one.

Hillol Sattar, CWGC's country manager in Bangladesh, said the cemetery holds 731 Commonwealth and 24 non-Commonwealth burials, including 19 Japanese soldiers. A five-member team maintains the grounds daily.

The cemetery is open to visitors from 7:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Workers rally in Ctg against leasing out port terminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several hundred workers under the banner of Bandar Rokkha Parishad brought out a torch procession in Chattogram city yesterday evening, demanding that the government refrain from leasing out any existing terminals of Chattogram port, including the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), to foreign operators.

The procession started from the Halishahar PDB Office area at 6:30pm and ended at the Boropole intersection.

Leaders of Gono Samhati Andolon, Chattogram Bandar Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Merchant Sramik Dal and Dock Sramik Dal also joined the procession.

Speakers at the rally warned of tougher movements if the government does not refrain from leasing out NCT to UAE-based firm DP World.



Ex-DNCC councillor, held at Kashimpur jail, dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former ward-12 councillor of DNCC, an inmate of Kashimpur High Security Central Jail, died at DMCH yesterday. The deceased, Murad Hasan, 65, was also a local Awami League leader.

"The inmate was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state around 4:30pm. Doctors declared him dead shortly after arrival," said Inspector Md Farouk, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Abdullah Al Mamun, senior jail superintendent in Gazipur, said, "The prisoner had been feeling unwell since morning with acute respiratory problems. We took him to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital immediately. As his condition deteriorated, he was referred to DMCH."

Murad was arrested in April this year. He was accused in at least three cases, including one over a killing during the July uprising.

CENTURY-OLD SYLHET-AKHAURA RAIL TRACK A route worn down by decades of neglect

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The century-old Sylhet-Akhaura rail track, laid in 1898 during the British era to connect Assam with Chattogram, is now in a dilapidated state, posing serious risks for thousands of passengers and tourists.

Stretching through Kulaura and Sreemangal, the 127-year-old line remains a top choice for visitors to Lawachhara National Park, Madhabpur Lake, Hum Hum and Madhabkunda waterfalls, and the tea estates in Moulvibazar.

Locals said at least eight to ten bridges along the route have become risky. Nuts, bolts and clips are often stolen, leaving parts of the track unstable. During extreme summer heat, the missing fittings cause the line to bend, heightening the risk.

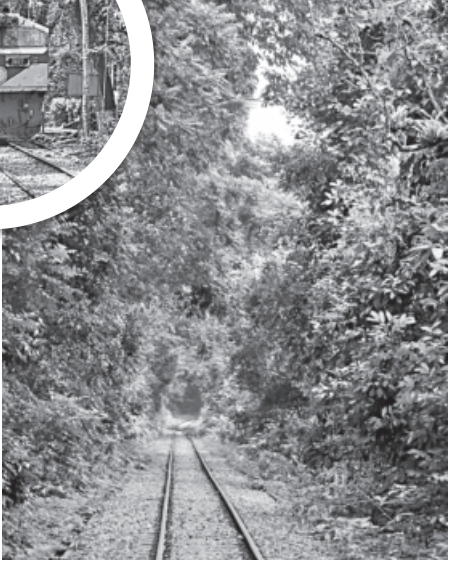
"Trains often have to slow down or stop on the Sylhet-Shayestaganj section, particularly inside Lawachhara forest," said Saju Marchiang, a resident of the area.

Riyad Ahmed, a visitor from Chattogram, said, "It felt unsafe throughout the journey by train on this route. If the old track was renovated, tourism here would grow further."

Juned Ahmed of Kulaura and Nazmul Islam of Kamalganj, both frequent commuters to Dhaka, echoed the concern.

Azizul Islam, chief coordinator of a train passengers' platform in Kulaura, said the Akhaura-Sylhet section has not seen any major development in the past 55 years.

No new trains have been launched on the Sylhet-Dhaka or Sylhet-Chattogram routes in more than a decade. The last addition, Kalni Express, was introduced in 2012, said Atiqur Rahman Akhai, general secretary of the Kulaura Traders' Welfare Association.



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A solo run or alliance

FROM PAGE 3

position, it may reduce our chances of gaining seats in the parliament. Reforms cannot be achieved solely from the streets; a party must be positioned at the policymaking level," he added.

But Nusrat Tabassum, a key leader of the July uprising and joint convenor of the NCP, firmly supports going alone.

She told The Daily Star, "NCP was born out of people's aspirations. The democratic state we promised can only be achieved through an independent electoral path. Contesting alone will prevent us from becoming a 'pocket organisation'."

Calling the path "bitter but true", she noted that the July uprising began with only six people. "Gradually, others joined, and we succeeded. That gives me confidence about contesting independently."

District-level leaders also expressed strong grassroots support for a solo run, though opinions vary on forming alliances.

Shawkat Ali, coordinator of NCP's Narayanganj district committee, said many activists joined the party after leaving major political parties.

"If we now join an alliance, activists may question whether they should have stayed in their former parties," he said.

"Grassroots members know the road ahead is tough, but they want the NCP to contest independently."

Advocate Monjila Jhuma, coordinator of the Khagrachari district committee, said not only grassroots leaders and activists but also the general public oppose an alliance with BNP or Jamaat or taking part under their banner.

She said people believe the NCP, as a party outside the mainstream political spectrum, has the potential to bring meaningful reforms.

"Although the journey may be long, the consensus is to continue independently rather than fall under the shadow of a major party," she added.

NCP Joint Convenor Sarwar Tushar told The Daily Star, "We are preparing for independent participation. Any future decision, whether alliance or seat-sharing, will be based on political interests and careful discussion."

"But regardless of the final approach, NCP will contest under its own electoral symbol," he said.

ISLAMIC RELIEF BANGLADESH

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TENDER NOTICE

Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB), an International Non-Government Organization (INGO) invites sealed offer from renowned audit firms for the following job.

Job Reference	Description
Tender # 19/2025	Auditing of IRB Consolidated Accounts (Jan-Dec 2025)

The RFQ with detail specifications and conditions will be available on IR Bangladesh website: <http://islamicrelief.org.bd/tender> at free of cost.

Only those who have relevant experience with INGO can apply with global affiliation documents and other necessary business documents mentioned in the RFQ. The deadline for submitting the offer is **11:50 AM on November 27, 2025**.

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Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
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Bangladesh Technical Education Board

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Ref. No. 57.17.0000.103.07.050.25-158 Date: 18-11-2025 A.D.


e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Notice Publication date and Time	Online Tender Closing date and Time
1176527	BTEB/GD/OTM/P2-2025	Supply of White Paper 23"× 36" and 26"× 40"	19-11-2025 10:00 A.M	11-12-2025 15:00 P.M

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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528).


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Banking clean-up is long overdue

Authorities must press ahead with the proposed changes to banking law

For years, our banking sector has been a case study in the perils of politically connected finance. Its image has been tainted by mounting bad loans, a culture of impunity for powerful defaulters, and the anomalous status of ailing state-owned banks. Against this backdrop, the 45 proposed amendments to the Bank Company Act represent the most significant attempt at financial reform in decades. The planned changes aim to establish unified oversight by the central bank for all lenders.

Among the proposals, abolishing the “specialised bank” status for state banks is long overdue. This classification has effectively placed some banks in a regulatory no-man’s-land, allowing them to operate with capital adequacy exemptions and make senior appointments without central bank approval. The result has been a disaster as state banks emerged as the primary repositories of non-performing loans, with their balance sheets crippled by politically connected borrowers. Meanwhile, the proposed ban on sitting MPs, cabinet members, and local government representatives serving as bank directors is a direct assault on the nexus of political and financial power that has dictated credit flows for decades. Similarly, the tightening of rules on family directors by narrowing the cap, broadening the definition of family, and imposing a “cooling-off” period for board members is a major step forward.

These reforms, if implemented, will dismantle the opaque corporate structures that have enabled rampant related-party lending. Reducing board sizes and mandating at least half of all directors to be independent professionals could also transform bank oversight. In a sector where boards have often been packed with relatives and political allies, this move towards professionalisation is vital. As Nazrul Huda, a former deputy governor of the central bank, rightly points out, smaller but expert boards are far more effective in governance.

Some of the more nuanced changes also reveal a pragmatic approach. Removing the controversial “wilful defaulter” category, while seemingly a step back, is a sensible streamlining. The label, introduced in 2023, created a subjective and corruptible distinction, adding bureaucratic hassle without improving recovery rates. Maintaining a single, clear defaulter list is a more straightforward and enforceable system.

Of course, a draft law is only the beginning. The true test lies in its adoption and implementation. We must be aware that the clause barring politicians from boards, in particular, will be a lightning rod for opposition. The government must hold its nerve. To graduate from least developed country status and attract the investment needed for its next phase of growth, Bangladesh requires a stable financial system, but banking malpractices have long concentrated risk, eroded depositor trust, and ultimately necessitated costly capital injections. The proposed amendments promise to align our banking sector more closely with global standards. Thus, the interim government, and the next elected one, must see them through without wavering going forward.

Ensure the rights of persons with disabilities

Address the gaps between law and reality

It is most unfortunate that across Bangladesh, persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, continue to face various forms of discrimination that deny them basic rights, dignity, and opportunities. Despite laws, international commitments, and years of advocacy, people with disabilities still struggle to access education, healthcare, employment, and public spaces. For girls and women with disabilities, these challenges are compounded by social stigma and institutional neglect.

The experience of Jyoti Hossain, as revealed in a report by this daily, illustrates how systemic barriers can derail even the most determined individuals. Hailing from Jhikargachha, Jashore, Jyoti has excelled academically despite being confined to a wheelchair since age four. After earning top grades in her SSC and HSC exams, she pursued her dream of studying physics at Government MM College. However, the unavailability of accessible public transport and a third-floor physics lab without a lift made her studies nearly impossible. After a year of struggle, her teachers advised her to abandon physics, saying the practical work would be too difficult for her. Jyoti’s experience is not unique; countless lives in Bangladesh are constrained by inaccessible campuses and discriminatory attitudes.

According to the latest population census by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), around 4.74 million people have some form of disability. Although Bangladesh has pledged to uphold their rights by enacting the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013, ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and formulating the National Action Plan on Disability, enforcement remains weak. Many educational institutions still lack ramps, lifts, accessible toilets, or adapted learning materials. Even when students with disabilities enrol, they rarely receive the support needed to thrive.

The question is, why do institutional mechanisms meant to safeguard their rights remain ineffective? While the disability rights committees, from local to national levels, are legally required to meet regularly, many reportedly are inactive and under-resourced. The National Monitoring Committee on UNCRPD implementation has also not been functioning since 2017. Although Bangladesh is obligated to report to the UN every four years, it has submitted only one report in nearly two decades. This is very frustrating.

We, therefore, urge the government to urgently enforce the laws and conventions to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. The disability rights committees must be revitalised, properly staffed, and held accountable. A dedicated disability budget is also essential to achieve real progress. Most importantly, disability inclusion must be mainstreamed across ministries—not just confined to the Ministry of Social Welfare—to ensure meaningful change. Overall, the state must do everything in its power to enable this vulnerable community to live their lives with dignity.

Citizens deserve clarity before a referendum vote

An analysis of the four points of the referendum and the implementation order



WINKERS AWEIGH
Tanim Ahmed
is digital editor at The Daily Star.

TANIM AHMED

With the three main political players gearing up for elections, it appears that Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has managed to placate all sides with the four-point referendum proposal. They had fallen apart in bitter disagreement over the July charter ever since its signing in October. The chief adviser decided to address the nation as the parties remained entrenched in conflicting stances even after a one-week deadline from the government.

He outlined the key provisions of the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order signed earlier on Thursday, which has so far elicited a mostly favourable response from the parties. They have largely welcomed the order. There has not been much talk about the referendum itself or the order, however, which some have pointed out to be beyond the remit of the current government. The government has also not made any attempts yet to explain to the people what these points mean or even what the July charter really is. This article will strive to illustrate some issues raised by the referendum and other relevant aspects of the order. Let us discuss the four points of the referendum one by one.

Point one says that an election-time caretaker government, an Election Commission, and other constitutional institutions (i.e. the Ombudsman, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the Public Service Commission) will be constituted in accordance with the procedures described in the July charter.

Except for the Election Commission, BNP had issued notes of dissent on appointments in each of the above. The party has been arguing that the formation of these institutions should be based on specific legislation and not be outlined in a manner that lacks accountability. The charter outlines several options to appoint the head of the caretaker government. While BNP agrees with the first two options, it had submitted a note of dissent when the third option is to be invoked. However, all those notes of dissent appear to have been brushed aside in the referendum.

The second point states that the next parliament will be bicameral. A 100-member upper house will be



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

formed on the basis of proportional representation of the votes received by political parties in the national election. It also states that any constitutional amendment will require a simple majority of the upper house.

Once again, BNP had registered its note of dissent both regarding proportional representation and the requirement of upper-house approval for constitutional amendments. The order again does not appear to heed BNP’s notes of dissent. The party had contended that the upper house should reflect the distribution of seats in the lower house and, further, that since upper-house members are not directly elected, they should not have the power to weigh in on constitutional amendments.

The third point obligates the winning parties in the next election to implement the 30 proposals of the July charter that enjoy consensus among all parties. These include increasing women’s representation in parliament, electing the deputy speaker and parliamentary committee chairpersons from the opposition, limiting the term of the prime

This acknowledges that parties may choose to implement other proposals as they see fit and according to the positions they submitted to the commission. This provision clearly recognises the notes of dissent of different parties, and thus BNP’s objections regarding the Anti-Corruption Commission, the energy regulatory commission, or the appointment of the central bank governor will come into play, since none of these are constitutional bodies.

The implementation order also envisions a Constitutional Reform Council that will be effective for 180 working days starting from the first sitting of the incoming parliament. Further, this council will double as a parliament and as a reform council to institute constitutional changes outlined in the July charter. The order states that constitutional reform proposals will require a simple majority of the council to be carried through.

Now, at first reading, it appears that the 180 days amount to six months or more since they are described as “working days”. However, there is still a distinction to be made as to whether

Also, the simple majority requirement does away with the two-thirds majority rule for changing the constitution, which in spirit contradicts the current constitution. This also creates the danger of the ruling party or coalition making other changes to the constitution, or changing parts that were not on the table to begin with. Further, this simple-majority rule would eliminate any requirement that amendments be bipartisan. The two-thirds rule at least assured broader support within parliament.

On the face of it, BNP appears to have softened its stance on most of its objections, as have Jamaat and NCP. Thankfully, it seems parties are willing to move away from their initial positions and gear up for elections.

However, the people still have a right to know, since they will be voting yes or no. The provisions of the charter aside, the points of the referendum itself require thorough clarification from the government so that citizens know exactly what they are voting for and its potential consequences. After all, it is the people whom the government must cater to, not just the political parties.

A historic verdict that carries weight even in absentia



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MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

There is a curious weight in witnessing a moment that feels like the culmination of years of waiting, even if the full consequence of that moment may never be realised. The verdict on Sheikh Hasina carries precisely that weight as a symbolic punctuation to a decade of fear, suffering, and quiet endurance. In a country where power so often felt untouchable, where law could be bent to protect those with influence and destroy those without, the decision to hold Hasina accountable is not merely judicial but also personal.

To speak of justice in abstract terms is simple. Scholars debate procedure, diplomats discuss optics, international media deliberate fairness, and foreign governments weigh consequences. But those frameworks rarely capture the intimate, almost physical relief that comes from seeing a powerful figure confronted with accountability. There is a long history of people waiting in court corridors that seemed endless, of families pressing photographs into the hands of reluctant officials, of citizens carrying memories of disappeared friends, neighbours, and colleagues, and of loved ones killed in protests. Justice has often been absent, delayed,

or warped to suit politics.

There is a reason why this verdict feels like a personal win. It is because we have had to live under the shadow of her choices and watch the erosion of the everyday sense of safety, the subtle conditioning of our minds, the quiet fear in public spaces, the erosion of civic confidence. Accountability, even if delayed, restores a sense of moral order. It confirms that cruelty leaves traces that the world cannot ignore indefinitely.

This is why the debates framed in diplomatic language feel insufficient. When discussions revolve around whether a death sentence complicates her extradition, whether India will cooperate, or how the United Nations will respond, they obscure the emotional reality for citizens who have spent years negotiating life under fear. For these citizens, this sentence is neither a matter of politics nor of optics; it is a matter of recognition. A recognition that public accountability is possible, even if partially. So, while the world debates the technicalities, the symbolism of the verdict cannot be overstated. For the families of the disappeared, the survivors of forced disappearances and institutionalised

cruelty, the families of the around 1,400 people killed in the uprising, and thousands more injured for life, its significance is immeasurable.

There is a certain inevitability in our emotional reaction. Those of us who carried the burden of witnessing injustice or suffered directly at its hands feel a sense of vindication. It is as if, at last, the moral ledger has been balanced, even if the numbers can never fully account for the enormity of our losses. Justice, in this sense, is an echo of recognition; an affirmation that what was endured matters, that those who once felt powerless are not entirely unheard. This is historic precisely because it exists in tension with what came before. For too long, the apparatus of the state allowed selective justice to define the rules. Decisions were guided by proximity to power, by allegiance, and by fear. Ordinary citizens—the witnesses, the silent sufferers—were forced to inhabit a parallel reality: a world in which laws existed, but rarely for them. The sentence against Hasina disrupts that parallel.

Of course, there is no guarantee that this moment will translate into lasting systemic change. The procedural aftermath, the international commentary, and the political manoeuvres that follow will test the depth of this symbolic victory. However, this moment affirms that ordinary citizens, who watched power move like a tidal wave over their lives, have a stake in the moral universe that the law is meant to inhabit. Hasina’s sentence does not erase any of their sufferings, but it places them in a

moral context where they are no longer invisible. That alone, in a country where invisibility has often been the default condition for those outside power, is transformative.

Perhaps the most profound aspect of this moment is the way it reframes the imagination of possibility. To see accountability reach a figure perceived for so long as untouchable opens a conceptual space. It allows us to imagine a society in which systems, though flawed, are not entirely devoid of redress. It allows a generation to measure possibility not by fear alone, but by the courage and persistence of those who upheld principle until the moment of recognition arrived. The debate over fairness and proportionality is not insignificant. Legal scholars, diplomats, and international observers will continue to dissect, question, and deliberate over the technical merits of the sentence. That discourse matters in its own domain. Yet for citizens who have experienced the consequences of unchecked authority, those considerations are secondary to the emotional and symbolic resonance of accountability.

History will judge the verdict in its own way, but for those who lived under the shadow of Hasina’s regime, the personal significance precedes history. In the end, the importance of the sentence rendered on Hasina is not confined to law or politics. It is a moment that will enter collective memory as proof that justice, even when deferred, can arrive—and when it does, it feels like a personal triumph for all who lived under its absence.

‘Owners’ fear of unions stems from their loss of control’

In the wake of the recent amendments to Bangladesh’s labour law, Kalpona Akter, president of Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation, spoke with Monorom Polok of The Daily Star about factory owners’ anxieties over the new unionisation rules, the inclusion of domestic and non-profit workers under legal protection, and other issues.

How do you respond to owners’ associations’ concern that allowing just 20 workers to form a union could disrupt production and create chaos in factories?

Before I offer my perspective, it is important to first clarify where responsibility lies. The factory owners themselves are entirely responsible for the situation they now call harmful to the industry. For all the things involved, there is no one else to blame—not the workers, not the labour leaders, not the government, not any international organisation.

About seven or eight years ago, a complaint was filed with the International Labour Organization (ILO) governing body under Article 26 against Bangladesh for violating Conventions 87 and 98—those concerning freedom of association and collective bargaining. It clearly showed, with evidence, that workers in Bangladesh were not free to form or join trade unions.

Drawing from my experiences, this is not something entirely new. Around three decades ago, when I used to work in a garment factory, I was expelled and blacklisted simply because I joined and facilitated the formation of a union. The situation has not changed even today, as owners treat it like a crime whenever workers try to form unions or even express interest in learning more about their rights. They harass workers inside and outside the factory premises, often dismiss them, and even physically assault them. Sometimes the workers are also forced to leave their communities.

The owners believed that since they had possessed political connections and power for the last 15 or 16 years, it would always remain the same for them. They regarded themselves as kings and the workers as merely subjects. Subsequently, even after the ILO complaint, they did not seem to consider it seriously.

The interim government has now removed this obstacle for two main reasons: firstly, the working class and trade unions have

been fighting for their rights for years now. Secondly, the government could not risk losing credibility in the international arena. The ILO had already been pushing for compliance, and both the European Union and the US trade channels, which have major business ties with Bangladesh, have been putting pressure in this regard. Thus, this change was inevitable and long overdue.

The owners’ fear that this change will disrupt work is a misplaced perception. At least a single union was bound to be formed. Earlier, the law allowed up to three unions in a factory. However, for years, the owners’ syndicate used their influence and did not allow even one union to form or exist in a functioning way. Now, there might be more than one, depending on the situation. In some factories, unions might form with seven percent of workers; in others, it can be 12 percent or 13 percent, and in some cases, unions can be formed with 20 percent of workers. Depending on the factory size, the magnitude of the unionisation will vary. On the workers’ front, this is a major achievement.

Earlier, there was some sort of arrangement with the labour ministry that if one union were registered, no second one would be approved. Garment owners took advantage of this loophole, and also formed what we call “yellow unions,” created by the management itself. They now claim that there are 1,400 unions in operation, but in reality, more than half are defunct. There are fewer than 50 factories with any active Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

So, this fear the owners express is less about disruption and more about losing control. Although they verbally acknowledge workers as an equal part of the system, they merely believe in it. If they did, they would have agreed to sit down for negotiations. Furthermore, owners take part in spreading misinformation as well, as seen in the Adamjee Jute Mills case. They claimed that the mill closed down because of labour unions, which is based on no truth. Adamjee was shut down



Kalpona Akter

mainly due to political interference and mismanagement, not unionisation.

If both owners and workers are willing to comprehend and respect the amended law, even five unions in one factory will not be an issue, as negotiations would go through a CBA process.

The amended law also brings domestic workers, seafarers, and non-profit employees under legal protection for the first time. What is your assessment of this inclusion?

It is truly historic. Just two days before the amendment, the ILO ratified three major conventions. I was a bit disappointed that Bangladesh had not ratified Convention 189 on domestic workers, but later, the amendment eased my disappointment.

For the first time, domestic workers,

seafarers, and non-profit workers—who have long been invisible—are now being recognised under the amended law. That is a remarkable step forward.

But we also need to talk about what this means in practice. For domestic workers, the biggest change will be in how employers treat them. Of course, we are yet to know about the extent of benefits that are to be included in the final gazette. But even with the amendments in place, there is a cultural barrier at play, as domestic workers are often disregarded as “workers” due to social stigma.

For example, in a household, a domestic worker might work from 12pm to 3pm, including lunchtime. But providing lunch to the worker is often at the mercy of the household owner or employer. If a domestic worker requests lunch, it is often considered unacceptable, although it might fall well within the worker’s rights.

However, domestic workers often have more negotiation power than, say, garment workers. Employers cannot just dictate terms. Domestic workers often set their own rates and even ask for a raise. That can be seen in a positive light. Nevertheless, domestic workers tend to face more serious issues than other workers, such as domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence. That is why legal protections for them are absolutely crucial. Moreover, most of our recommendations for the amendments were included in the final gazette, and it shows progress, even if small.

Bangladesh has often been praised for passing progressive laws, but implementation remains a challenge. How do you think this new amendment might be implemented?

Implementation is going to be the real test. On paper, it looks good, but without proper enforcement, it will be rendered meaningless.

If we look at our history, no government has ever truly stood on the side of the workers. They have always adhered to the interests of the businesses. The first responsibility of

the next government must be to break that pattern. In this case, the interim government has shown some commitment, and the political parties campaigning to assume power have also shown support. But we need to learn from our past and refrain from repeating the same pattern.

Additionally, we need proper infrastructure to make implementation feasible. For example, the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) has repeatedly complained about insufficient manpower and resources. If the state can recruit hundreds of police officials, why not more inspectors to protect workers’ rights? Bangladesh has over seven crore workers; therefore, protecting their rights should be a national priority. A large, well-resourced, and sustained institution must be built for this purpose.

The pilot project, the Employment Injury Insurance (EII) scheme, is also an important step in this process. If it can be actualised into a law and implemented properly, it could cover all workers nationwide. Whatever may be the case, we cannot leave things on paper. Implementation must start; there is no alternative to it.

We are living in a changing time, and I’m hopeful. People from all walks of life have become more politically aware, and the actions of the government do not easily go unchecked anymore. Therefore, there lies a strong scope for accountability, and the law must be implemented accordingly.

Finally, what message would you give to both workers and owners as this transition unfolds?

To the workers, I would suggest staying united, knowing their rights, and utilising the fresh avenue the amendments have offered. For the owners, they must accept the change and cooperate. They have long benefited from a system that silenced workers, but that time has come to an end. If both sides approach with mutual respect, this can be a turning point in Bangladesh’s labour history.

WORLD TOILET DAY

Removing barriers to women’s access to public toilets is long overdue



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PEYA JANNATUL

Access to clean public toilets is not only a basic human right, it also draws a distinction between a life of dignity versus one of humiliation. With the way most public toilets in this country are maintained, it is difficult for anyone to feel human using them. For women, who are disproportionately impacted by not only having to worry about hygiene but also their safety, this experience becomes almost trauma-inducing.

Dhaka, a city of 20 million residents and commuters, has only 198 public toilets combined under the two city corporations. Most of these facilities are unsafe, unclean and not gender-segregated. A 2025 WaterAid report found that 35 percent of women actively avoid using public toilets when outside their homes, and of those, 74 percent reduce their water intake to cope. These statistics should ring an alarm for the government. But the irony is that even government establishments lack adequate toilet facilities for women. According to a study conducted by Brac, of the 192 subordinate courts across 64 districts, only 24 percent have separate female toilets. If women are becoming victims of inaccessibility in a court of law—the very institution responsible for safeguarding their rights—who can ensure that their rights will be upheld in the streets, markets, or factories?

Even middle-class and upper-middle-class women are not spared from this systemic horror. So, one can only shudder at how disproportionately this burden falls on marginalised women, the invisible workforce that keeps cities functioning. The 2022 Joint Monitoring Programme for Water

Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene assessment shows only about 59.3 percent of people in Bangladesh have access to a “decent toilet of their own,” which means millions remain dependent on shared, inadequate, or non-existent facilities.

Garment workers endure excruciatingly long-hour shifts with too few toilets meant for thousands. Construction labourers spend full days on sites, often with no facilities. Street vendors cannot leave stalls; domestic workers are sometimes denied employer bathrooms; women commuters often travel for hours with no safe stops. Women in slums share overcrowded latrines, many without locks or lights; women with disabilities face physical barriers; transgender and hijra women risk harassment in gendered spaces. This is a testament to how infrastructure actively restricts half its population from full participation in public life.

As unpalatable as it sounds, there is a brutal social practice mostly ignored and angrily tolerated, popular in our part of the subcontinent: a significant section of men, often those involved in the informal sector, resort to urinating in the open, by drains, or on footpaths. That is filthy and wrong, but still an option. Even though it sounds harrowing, women do not even have that option without risking harassment or assault. The city’s sanitation failure becomes a gendered violence of omission.

The consequences of such dysfunctional machinery get translated into health crises. Women, compelled to remain dehydrated or suppress urination, suffer a cluster of health problems that are quietly becoming epidemic. Urinary tract

infections, kidney complications and chronic dehydration among young working women are common conditions now found among Dhaka’s female populace. A recent comprehensive hospital-toilet survey found low cleanliness and dangerously high user-to-toilet ratios in both government and private hospitals, undermining infection control inside healthcare facilities themselves.

We obviously overlook the psychosocial harm as well. The fear of harassment or assault when seeking a toilet, the traumatic aspect of it, is never accounted for in our data. Development statistics may celebrate “toilets built,” but they rarely capture how many women avoid them out of fear. For instance, public toilets in Farmgate, Sadarghat, Gulistan, New Market, Jatrabari and Kamalapur, some of the busiest junctions in the country, are routinely avoided by women due to being dark and unguarded.

As a lawyer and a woman who moves in public spaces, I find it deeply troubling that something as basic as a toilet still determines how freely women can participate in society. This is not simply a matter of infrastructure but of justice. Dignity is not a privilege reserved for the few; it is a right owed to every woman, whether she stands in a courtroom or sells vegetables at a street corner. And those of us with influence must stop treating sanitation as an embarrassing subject, because silence is what sustains suffering.

Admittedly, this issue cannot be changed overnight. However, if prioritised properly, it is solvable within an accepted timeframe. Facilities must be designed with women in mind, and social awareness must dismantle the taboo and the unsafe and unhygienic practices surrounding public sanitation. WaterAid and municipal partnerships have piloted modern public toilets used millions of times; Brac-supported social enterprises such as Bhumijo have converted dark, filthy blocks into clean, women-friendly spaces within weeks.

Bangladesh has even piloted star ratings for public toilets to incentivise quality. These are living proofs that the problem is not a technical impossibility but a priority failure.

If we are serious about dignity, gender equality and public health, the policy response must be immediate and non-cosmetic. First, public toilets must align with national women-friendly standards. To start with the very basics, ensure proper locks and lighting, running water and soap,

menstrual-waste disposal, ramps for mobility and female attendants. Workplaces like factories, markets, bus and rail stations, courts and hospitals must be legally required to provide safe, accessible toilets, with enforceable penalties for non-compliance. Instead of a one-off construction budget, funds should be allocated for continuous maintenance.

Success would reflect in the form of metrics that count usability for women, not just an increase in the

number of toilet facilities. How many toilets are open at night? How many have locks and water supply? How many are used by women safely and consistently?

On this World Toilet Day, let policymakers, industry leaders and city managers stop celebrating “coverage” on paper and start delivering usable dignity on the ground. The question is not whether we can fix this. The question is if and when we will finally decide to do so.



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Accelerating & Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project

Memo No: 57.03.9131.304.07.007.25-32

Date: 17/11/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for following procurement.

Tender ID No.	Package No	Package Description	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
1166891	ASSET-SPI-25-26-GD-01	Supply of Equipment for Mechanical Technology & Fan for Sylhet Polytechnic Institute	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00	08-Dec-2025 11:30:00
1167024	ASSET-SPI-25-26-GD-02	Supply of Equipment for Civil Technology	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00	08-Dec-2025 11:30:00
1169686	ASSET-SPI- 25-26-WD-01	Refurbishment Work of Academic Building, Principal Room, Conference Room, Lab, Placement Cell, Classroom	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00	08-Dec-2025 11:30:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal; and offline or hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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GD-2476

‘NOTHING BEATS A JET2 HOLIDAY’ How the algorithm reintroduces forgotten tracks

MAISHA TASNIM SRESHTHA

Every few weeks, yet another old song seems to find its way back into the spotlight. Once off the charts, they are suddenly everywhere again – resurfacing in TikTok videos and Instagram Reels as if they never left. These unexpected comebacks have now become the most fascinating patterns in today’s algorithm-led music culture. And now the question is whether listeners are drawn to the song itself, or to the catchy edit that’s keeping audiences hooked.

Jess Glynne’s *Hold My Hand*, though you’d probably recognise it as the “Nothing beats a Jet2 Holiday” song – learned this in a bizarre way. The cheerful pop anthem from 2015 had long since retired from the spotlight. And then, *Jet2*. A holiday commercial with enthusiastic sunshine shots collided with TikTok, and suddenly Glynne’s chorus was a spiritual call to arms for anyone fantasising about escaping their life. Within months, the resurrected song amassed billions of views. A decade-old track now clawed its way back into the charts after meme culture decided it deserved a second chance. Imagine, as an artist, watching your old work explode again, not because of your craft, but because someone slowed it down and paired it with clips of people packing for Bali.

What can be considered mind-blowing was realising what these reels can do. I stumbled onto a ridiculously catchy track, a rap blended into a melody so smooth you’d want to hear it one more time. It was all over my feed, with thousands of people doing duets to it. Only later did I realise it wasn’t one seamless song at all, but a mash-up of Nicki Minaj’s *Beez in the Trap* (2013) and 4 Non Blondes’ *What’s Up?* (1993). The sound has since been used in more than 695,000 TikTok videos, sending *Beez in the Trap* streaming up by over 460% and pulling *What’s Up?* back into a wave of renewed listens.

Kate Bush’s *Running Up That Hill* is another recipient of this viral fever.



VISUAL: MAISHA TASNIM SRESHTHA

The song sat quietly for years, ignored by mainstream charts. Then a *Stranger Things* fan edit slapped a dreamy, slowed-down version underneath a montage of fictional teenagers fighting demonic forces. The clip spread like wildfire. Suddenly, Ghost had their first-ever Billboard Hot 100 entry. Thanks not to touring, not to marketing, but to a TikTok aesthetic that made everything sound like it was engineered to live rent-free in your head.

And then there is the TikTok obsession with PinkPantheress’s song *Illegal*, the source of the now-ubiquitous line: “Ooh, is this illegal? Ooh, it feels illegal.” What started as a lyric now has mutated into a full-fledged TikTok language. People use it under Reels about dyeing their hair at 2 am, booking spontaneous trips, trying

on outfits that feel out-of-character, or listening to music that doesn’t match their “aesthetic.”

Lady Gaga’s *Bloody Mary* was comparatively obscure when stacked up with the singer’s long list of hits. TikTok took one lyric: “I’ll dance, dance, dance...” – sped it up, tossed it onto Wednesday Addams’ deranged school-dance routine, and unleashed a cultural avalanche. The original song, ignored for more than a decade, charted worldwide. The version people loved wasn’t even the one Gaga released; it was the edited, ghost-haunted TikTok cut.

What’s most noticeable about this trend is not just its reach, but how precise it becomes. These creators edit with frightening accuracy. Because TikTok doesn’t care about the full song, they know exactly which lyric will become a

meme and which beat drop is perfect for a shaky “POV: you’re having a breakdown in public” transition.

If there’s one thing this entire phenomenon reveals, it’s that the algorithm doesn’t recognise eras, genres, or artistic intent; it recognises utility. A song is valuable only if it can serve a mood, trend or micro-aesthetic. And Gen-Z, having spent most of their lives online, instinctively searches for sounds that help them express themselves in more dramatic ways. These revivals say less about the songs and more about the emotional outsourcing happening on social media where teenagers are borrowing feelings from older music because contemporary music doesn’t always give them the emotional validation they crave.



Tom Cruise honoured with honorary Oscar

Hollywood icon Tom Cruise has received the Academy Honorary Award – widely recognised as an honorary Oscar – at the 16th Governors Awards held Sunday, November 16, at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Hollywood, California, Variety reported.

The 63-year-old star, a four-time Oscar nominee, was honoured for his longstanding contributions to cinema. The award was presented by filmmaker Alejandro G. Iñárritu, who is currently collaborating with Cruise on an upcoming film slated for release in October 2026.

In his speech, Cruise said filmmaking has taken him around the world and deepened his sense of shared humanity. “That’s why cinema matters to me,” he said. “Filmmaking isn’t just what I do – it’s who I am.”

Tanjin Tisha’s character look from ‘Soldier’ unveiled



Tanjin Tisha’s look from the upcoming film *Soldier* has been unveiled shortly after Shakib Khan’s first poster. In the film, Tisha portrays a strong, fearless, and strategic character. The newly released poster shows her in a white top and grey pants, holding a camera with a determined expression, while floating chess pieces suggest a story driven not just by action but by intelligence and tactical planning.

Directed by Shakeeb

Fahad, the film is slated for a 2026 theatrical release. Set against a patriotic backdrop, *Soldier* also features Tariq Anam Khan, Tauquir Ahmed, and Jannatul Ferdous Oishee in prominent roles.

NEWS

Campaign posters flood the capital

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came to BNP hopefuls, though Jamaat-e-Islami candidates and several smaller parties, including Khelafat Majlish, Gano Sanghati Andolon, Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Adhikar Parishad, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Biplobi Workers Party, and the Communist Party of Bangladesh, are also visible across the city.

Posters were found in abundance during visits to Farmgate, Indira Road, Manik Mia Avenue, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Segunbagicha, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Motijheel, Gulistan, Kakrail, Moghbazar, Karwan Bazar, Uttara, Gulshan, and Mirpur.

Against this backdrop, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday issued a notice asking residents to remove illegal boards, posters, banners, billboards, and LED displays within seven days. Otherwise, eviction drives will begin, with fines or legal action against violators.

DNCC said many installations have

been set up illegally on walls and rooftops without approval.

The Graffiti Writing and Poster Sticking Control Act, 2012 prohibits posters outside designated spots, with fines up to Tk 10,000 or 30 days in jail. Failure to pay the fine can result in additional 15 days of imprisonment, and offenders must remove the posters at their own expense. Beneficiaries of illegal posters can face Tk 10,000–50,000 fines or similar jail terms.

However, violations remain rampant.

Officials of DNCC and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) admitted they are facing difficulties in controlling the surge of these illegal activities despite regular drives.

Adil Mohammad Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said enforcement is weak despite Bangladesh having a specific law, which many countries lack.

“In today’s digital age, the need for physical posters has almost

disappeared. Still, if they must be used, rules should be clear. Repeated violations without accountability only encourage impunity,” he said.

“Just having a law isn’t enough. Who will enforce it? Citizens must also be part of the solution,” he said.

He said political parties put up posters as no one questions them. The punishment is also minimal.

“We need stronger social accountability. Illegal posters should backfire as negative publicity,” he said.

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz said, “We are trying to remove the posters every day, but there’s no cooperation. We urge leaders to use digital platforms, but some even ask us not to remove posters. We will continue drives and take punitive action if needed.”

DSCC Chief Waste Management Officer Air Commodore Md Mahabubur Rahman Talukder added that stronger measures will be discussed with senior authorities soon.

Khalilur reaches Delhi

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asked whether his colleague would raise the extradition issue with India, reports UNB.

He said, if it necessary, Khalilur can certainly raise the [extradition] issue. However, the issue will be raised through official channel.

Asked whether Khalilur would hold any bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the regional forum, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Delhi said it was unlikely. Regional security, maritime domain, cyber security are some of the major issues to be discussed at the Colombo Security Conclave.

Bangladesh joined the forum as its fifth member last year. India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives formed the platform in 2020 to strengthen maritime cooperation among regional countries.

The chief adviser’s press wing said Khalilur’s participation in the conclave is a “continuation of the interim government’s efforts to foster mutually beneficial regional cooperation”.

Khalilur had earlier led the Bangladesh delegation to the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum in Kunming, China.

This will be the second visit by a

government adviser to India since the interim administration took charge. In February, Energy Adviser Muhammad Fauzul Kabir Khan went there to attend India Energy Week.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in April.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met twice – on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September last year and at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Oman in February.

Mushfiqur’s 100th Test today

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Test mark. Much like the cricket enthusiasts, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has left no stone unturned in preparing to celebrate the occasion.

Following the toss at 9:00 am, the BCB has planned a 10-minute programme dedicated to Bangladesh’s veteran batting maestro. The ceremony will feature several activities, including the presentation of special memorabilia to Mushfiqur by former Bangladesh

captains Habibul Bashar and Akram Khan, as well as current skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto.

A symbol of longevity and resilience, Mushfiqur, who made his Test debut in 2005 against England at Lord’s, is now in his 20th year of international cricket. He is also the country’s highest run-getter in the format, with 6,351 runs at an average of 38.02, including three double hundreds.

In the first Test against Ireland in Sylhet last week, the right-hander

scored 23 off 52 balls, striking three boundaries, and did not need to bat in the second innings thanks to Bangladesh’s innings victory. But given his years of dedication, grit, and desire, he will undoubtedly hope to mark his 100th Test with a century, or more, with a truly memorable knock. He already has a ton this year, a 163 against Sri Lanka in Galle, and will look to build further on his legacy as Bangladesh’s most experienced Test cricketer.

Arson attacks, crude bomb blasts persist

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branch’s manager.

Consequently, many important official documents and office furniture were burnt.

Upon receiving the information, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control, said Billal Mridha, station master of Mohammadpur Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Police personnel were sent to the scene immediately, said Abdur Rahman, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohammadpur Police Station. However, the extent of the damage is

yet to be determined.

An investigation will be carried out to assess the losses, he added.

Meanwhile in Bogura, police recovered three crude bomb-like objects in front of the Grameen Bank’s Mathurapur branch office in Dhunat Upazila.

Dhunaat Police Station OC Saidul Islam confirmed the recovery, adding that the objects had not been defused as of last evening.

In Dhaka, a crude bomb went off on the court premises yesterday.

A crude bomb was suddenly hurled targeting the office of the

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor around 4:15pm, which blasted soon, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi told The Daily Star.

No one was injured in the incident, he said.

Meanwhile, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recovered six crude bombs from a house in the Darus Salam area, DMP said in a press release.

The bomb disposal unit of the CTTC neutralised the crude bombs at the Golar Tek ground at around 2:25pm.

Hasina sentence violates fair trial standards

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both were prosecuted in absentia, not represented by counsel of their choosing, and sentenced to death, raising serious human rights concerns.

The Bangladeshi authorities committed serious human rights violations during the three weeks of protests in July and August 2024 that toppled the Hasina government.

While those responsible for abuses should be appropriately held to account, the prosecution failed to meet international fair trial standards, including for a full opportunity to present a defense and question the witnesses against them, and the right to be represented by counsel of one’s

choosing. Concerns over the fairness of the trial are exacerbated by the death sentences, the New York-based rights organisations said.

Trials in absentia fundamentally undermine the right to a fair trial as set out in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which is crucial to a legitimate legal process, the statement mentioned.

The rights organisation alleged the International Crimes Tribunal proceedings during Hasina’s rule repeatedly failed to meet international fair trial standards and imposed the death penalty. Human Rights Watch opposes the death penalty in all circumstances because of its inherent cruelty.

The HRW urged the government to respond to any demonstrations in accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. Awami League leaders should discourage violence by party supporters opposing the tribunal verdict, it said.

“Victims of grave rights violations committed under the Hasina government need justice and reparations through proceedings that are genuinely independent and fair,” Ganguly said. “Ensuring justice also means protecting the rights of the accused, including by abolishing the death penalty, which is inherently cruel and irreversible.”

Citizens, cultural groups

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practices, the statement pointed out that countries such as Japan, Finland, and Norway, along with Muslim-majority nations including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey, Qatar, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Indonesia, have made music, fine arts, and physical education mandatory in primary schools.

The platform demanded the immediate withdrawal of the November 2 scrapping order and reinstatement of the August 28 gazette, along with the mandatory inclusion of music, fine arts, and physical education in both primary and secondary curricula and the appointment of subject-specific teachers.

The statement was coordinated by Mahmud Selim, convener of the platform. Prominent citizens endorsing it include Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, artist Anwar Hossain, theatre personality Mamunur

Rashid, journalist Abed Khan, writer Selina Hossain, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Fauzia Moslem, lawyer ZI Khan Panna, AN Rasheda, Prof MM Akash, Niranjan Adhikari, journalist Sohrab Hassan, and rights activist Khushi Kabir.

Leaders of teacher associations such as Jahangir Hossain, Nure Alam Biplob, Md Abul Kashem, Mostafizur Rahman Shine, Muhammad Ilias Hossain, Tushar Chandan, and Shahinur Al-Amin were also among the 80 signatories.

Signatory organisations include Bangladesh Uidichi Shilpigoshthi, Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Sangeet Sangathan Samannay Parishad, Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Ganosangeet Samannay Parishad, Shilpakala Bidyalay Jote, Bangladesh Baul O Loko Shilpi Sangstha, Zahir Raihan Chalachitra Sangsad, Bulbul Lalitakala Academy, Central Khelaghar Asar, and Bangladesh Students’ Union, among others.

Brazil unveils

FROM PAGE 12

on pathways to help countries “progressively overcome their dependency on fossil fuels.”

A third option proposes no text at all. The draft also raises the possibility of assessing national climate pledges annually, instead of every five years, to assess global progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions more frequently. It also suggested financial assistance from wealthy countries to developing ones for adaptation to climate change should be tripled by 2030 or 2035 – a key demand from poorer nations.

Proposals to address concerns over trade were also included, as China leads a push in Belem against “unilateral” measures and the EU’s carbon price on imports in particular.

On this sensitive issue, four proposals were outlined in the draft, including the creation of a summit under the UN Secretary-General on climate trade disputes.

Matiur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK

Dr Matiur Rahman, the founder of the discipline of nephrology in Bangladesh, passed away in a private hospital in Dhaka on November 14. He was 90.

He was the founding head of Nephrology in IPGMR (now Bangladesh Medical University). He also helped establish Bangladesh Kidney Foundation, and set up the first kidney transplant in Bangladesh.

Born in Nazirpur village, part of Natore, he completed his MBBS from DMC and undertook his specialisation in nephrology in the UK.

A former president of Bangladesh Renal Association, Rahman also served as a long-term president of the Bangladesh chapter of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

He left behind his two daughters and two sons and their spouses, four grandchildren and a host of admirers and well-wishers.

His namaz-e-janaza was held Azad Mosque in Gulshan yesterday after zuhr prayers.



PHOTO: STAR

BORO, MAIZE CULTIVATION

Fertiliser shortage leaves farmers in Kishoreganj worried

TAFSILUL AZIZ, Kishoreganj

Farmers in Kishoreganj are grappling with an acute shortage of fertiliser ahead of the upcoming Boro and maize cultivation season, raising concerns that production targets may fall short this year.

Farid Mia, a farmer from Purba Shingpur village in Nikli upazila, said he planned to cultivate 12 acres of land this Boro season.

But when he went to purchase fertiliser from a local dealer of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries

Corporation (BCIC), he received only two bags, fewer than what he needed.

"The dealer told me that the district's fertiliser allocation has been cut in half. Now I don't know how I will manage to cultivate my land properly," he said.

Farmers across the district expressed similar frustrations, saying they are having to queue for hours only to get one or two bags.

Abul Hossain of Goradigha village said even after waiting all day, they could not buy enough fertiliser.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Kishoreganj, the district received 4,877 tonnes of urea against a demand of 10,164 tonnes, 215 tonnes of TSP against 2,677 tonnes, 4,391 tonnes of DAP against 7,655 tonnes, and 3,120 tonnes of MOP against a demand of 7,436 tonnes.

Dr Sadiqur Rahman, deputy director of the DAE and member secretary of the District Fertiliser-Seed Monitoring Committee, said, "The agriculture ministry is finalising the 'Integrated Policy on Fertiliser Dealer Appointment

and Distribution-2025,' expected by December. Once approved, it will bar appointing dealers outside their own upazilas, which should help address supply inconsistencies."

He said 30 BCIC dealers in the district currently operate outside their own upazilas.

This season, Boro cultivation has been targeted on 1,68,260 hectares with a production goal of 7.96 lakh tonnes of rice, while maize will be cultivated on 11,780 hectares, producing an estimated 1.2 lakh tonnes.

Jatiya Chhatra Shakti

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Meanwhile, Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, formerly Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad, also announced its 20-member panel, titled "Oikkoboddh Jobian", yesterday.

The panel was announced by the organisation's central president Zahid Hasan.

The panel has nominated Kishore Anjum Sammo, former joint secretary of BGCS central unit, for the VP post, while Md Faisal Murad, president of the JnU unit Chhatra Shakti, for the GS post.

Shahin Mia, member secretary of the JnU unit of Chhatra Shakti, will

contest for the AGS post from the panel.

A total of 312 students had collected nomination forms for the central and hall union elections, while 249 candidates — 211 for central and 38 for hall union — submitted their nominations on the last day of submission yesterday.

According to the schedule, the nomination forms will be scrutinised on November 19 and 20.

The final list of candidates, following objections, settlements, and dope tests — scheduled for November 27 and 30 — will be published on December 3. The election is scheduled for December 22.

Witness recounts

FROM PAGE 3

He said BCL leaders and activists, along with university officials and staff, hurled bricks at the students as police launched the attack.

According to Rownok, the students eventually forced the gate open, but the situation escalated when police inside the campus fired again, causing panic. He took cover near Biam Market just outside the gate.

From there, he said, he saw a student with his arms raised and chest exposed facing the police. "Suddenly, police fired several rounds. He collapsed on the road divider," Rownok told the tribunal.

Rownok and others rushed to help, but before they could reach the park corner, he himself was hit twice — once in the waist and once below the knee. He did not seek medical treatment for his injuries.

Rownok later learned the student was Abu Sayed, 25, an English Department student. Around 3:30pm, he came to know that Sayed had died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Thirty individuals, including former BRUR VC Prof Hasibur Rashid and former Rangpur Police commissioner Md Moniruzzaman, have been accused in the case.

Country in state

FROM PAGE 3

may be criticisms of Moudud as a politician, but there is little criticism of his historical writings."

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said the book documents the role of the ruling class from 2009 to 2019. He said Moudud wrote most of his books while in jail and completed his last work during the Covid period.

The book, he said, would be a useful resource for understanding Bangladesh's political history, adding that Moudud's writings contained objective information that could help rebuild democracy in the country.

In her introductory remarks, Moudud's wife, writer and activist Hasna Moudud, said the ideals he left behind would continue to inspire patriotism.

She said he did not believe in politics driven by conflict and revenge, and that his books would help guide the country toward a stronger democracy.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Moudud had the rare ability to view government

actions with neutrality.

He said had Moudud been alive, he would have written more on the judiciary and other key issues.

Senior advocate Sarwat Siraj Shukla, a former associate of Moudud, called the new book a fact-based document that would play a significant role in national politics.

Political analyst Zahed Ur Rahman, former ambassador Farooq Sobhan and UPL Managing Director Mahrukh Mohiuddin also spoke.

UPL published Demise of Democracy: Bangladesh on the Way to a Failed State 2009-2019. It received the manuscript in August 2020 and decided to publish it now following requests.

The book details human rights violations, enforced disappearances, killings and other key incidents that took place between 2009 and 2019.

Moudud, 81, passed away on March 17, 2021, while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

He previously served as prime minister, deputy prime minister, vice-president and minister.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর
ওয়াপদা ভবন (৫ম তলা), মতিঝিল, ঢাকা
www.bpdb.gov.bd

নম্বরঃ ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.০০৫.২৫-২৬৬

তারিখঃ ৩ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩২

১৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের অধীনে রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত 'সাহায্যকারী' পদে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর ১৯তম গ্রেডে (টাকাঃ ৮,৫০০-২০,৫৭০/-) নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগ ও অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকা তৈরির নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে <http://bpdb.teletalk.com.bd> এ অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

পদের নাম	পদসংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	
সাহায্যকারী	১৫৯৬	ক) এস.এস.সি./সমমান/সরকার অনুমোদিত কারিগরি ইনস্টিটিউট হতে এস.এস.সি. সমমানের কারিগরি ট্রেড কোর্স পাস। খ) কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ এর নিম্নে নয়।	
		জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ
		জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ

শর্তাবলিঃ

- বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডে নিয়োগের পর ২ (দুই) বছর সময়ের মধ্যে তারা নির্ধারিত প্রশিক্ষণ ও অন্যান্য কর্মসূচিতে অংশগ্রহণ করবেন। উক্ত প্রশিক্ষণ ও কর্মসূচিতে অর্জিত ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে প্রচলিত বিধি-বিধান অনুযায়ী তাদেরকে সাহায্যকারী এর শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে নিম্নমিত নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।
- বর্ণিত পদের জন্য বয়সসীমা ১৫-১২.২০২৫ তারিখে ১৮-৩২ বছর। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে এক্সিভেজিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/আধা-স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন গ্রহণপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য ডাকা হবে; উক্ত সময়ে আবেদনে উল্লিখিত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদির মূলকপি ও ০১ (এক) সেট সত্যায়িত কপি সাবমিট করতে হবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদ্যার সন্তান, মুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গ কোটার প্রার্থীদের সর্বশেষ নীতিমালার অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সার্টিফিকেট মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- নাগরিকত্বের প্রমাণক হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সাবমিট করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার এবং বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের বিদ্যমান সকল বিধি-বিধান ও পরবর্তীতে উক্ত বিধি-বিধান কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদি অসত্য বা ভ্রান্তিপূর্ণ প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যে কোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।
- লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।
- বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বা সম্পূর্ণ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া সংশোধন/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
- অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকা তৈরির ক্ষেত্রে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২৫.০৮.২০২৫ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১০.১১.০২০.২৪-২১৭ নম্বর পরিপত্রের নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলি ও শর্তাবলিঃ

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি <http://bpdb.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

i. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান স্তরুর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৪.১১.২০২৫ তারিখ, সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা।

ii. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৫.১২.২০২৫ তারিখ, বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা।

আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ অর্থাৎ ১৫.১২.২০২৫ তারিখ, বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে System হতে স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীরাই কেবল উক্ত সময়ের পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টা (অর্থাৎ ১৮.১২.২০২৫ তারিখ, বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) সময়ের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পূর্বে ও পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য 300 × প্রস্থ 80 pixel) ও রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য 300 × প্রস্থ 300 pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100 KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ 60 KB হতে হবে।

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি রঙিন প্রতিলিপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যেকোন প্রয়োজনের সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানঃ

Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনামতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। যদি Applicant's কপিতে কোনো তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/ঘোলা) বা ছবি/স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে পুনরায় আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পরে আর কোনো পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/পরিবর্তন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's কপিতে তার সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে তোলা রঙিন ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি PDF copy ডাউনলোডপূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যেকোন Teletalk Pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে

০২ (দুই)টি SMS প্রেরণ করে বর্ণিত পদের পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ মোট ৫৬/- (ছাশরা) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, "Online এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।"

প্রথম SMS: BPDB<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে।

Example: BPDB ABCDEF

Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. 56 will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type BPDB<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: BPDB<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: BPDB YES 12345678

Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for BPDB Application for post xxxxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxxxx).

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <http://bpdb.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট www.bpdb.gov.bd এবং <http://bpdb.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য www.bpdb.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

জ. SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্যসংবলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রঙিন প্রতিলিপি Print করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষা, উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

ঝ. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

i. User ওউ জানা থাকলে: BPDB<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.

Example: BPDB Help User ABCDEF & send to 16222.

ii. PIN Number জানা থাকলে: BPDB<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No. & Send to 16222.

Example: BPDB Help PIN 12345678 & send to 16222.

ঞ. Online এ আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে যে কোন টেলিটক মোবাইল থেকে ১২১ এ কল করে জানা যাবে। এছাড়াও, alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd এই ই-মেইলে অথবা টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল এর ফেসবুক পেজ <https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdTeletalk> এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail অথবা মেসেজ এর Subject এ Organization Name 'BPDB', Post Name..... Applicant's User ID Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।

ডিক্লারেশন: প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রের প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে অথবা নিয়োগের পরে যে কোন পর্যায়ে প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

* শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্ন করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

* কোন প্রকার তদবির বা যোগাযোগ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর
QR Code

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-২৮০(৩)/১৮/১১/২৫

GD-2482



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
এর টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ
এর QR Code

মোঃ শাহরিয়ার হোসেন মজুমদার
পরিচালক
কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর
বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা



LAW OPINION

New data laws in Bangladesh:
A CRITIQUE

SAJID HOSSAIN

Bangladesh has entered a new phase in its digital governance story with two Ordinances, namely, The *Personal Data Protection Ordinance 2025* (PDPO) and the *National Data Management Ordinance 2025* (NDMO). Their appearance, almost devoid of public discussion, invites reflection: are we witnessing the long delayed codification of digital rights, or the rise of a data-centric State?

Firstly, section 3 of the NDMO declares that its provisions shall take precedence over any other law, contract or instrument in matters relating to the collection, storage, processing, security and identification of persons of personal data, and the overall management and interoperability of national data. In one sweep, the NDMO asserts primacy across virtually the entire domain of data governance. Contrast this with Europe, where the *General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR) operates under the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which enshrines respect for private life and protection of personal data as fundamental rights. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has struck down legislation that intruded too far into those rights, notably in *Digital Rights Ireland* and *Tele2 Sverige AB*. In the European model, secondary legislation bends to rights; in ours, the NDMO begins with a supremacy clause.

Institutional design reinforces that contrast. Under section 8(2) of the NDMO, the National Data Management Authority is established as a statutory body attached to the Prime Minister's Office. Under section 23, it designs and operates the nation's data architecture, including digital interoperability systems and an identity layer linking core registers, and also enforces compliance and imposes administrative penalties under sections 42-45. Under the GDPR, by comparison, Member States must create independent supervisory authorities that act "with complete independence" in monitoring the law's application. In *Commission v Germany* (ECJ C-518/07) and *Commission v Hungary* (C-288/12), the CJEU held that such authorities must act with complete independence from any external influence, including direct or indirect influence of the State. Bangladesh's new Authority, however, sits within the executive branch. It is simultaneously an

architect, operator and enforcer, effectively acting as the referee and a player at once.

Perhaps the most ambitious feature lies in the identity layer mandated by section 23 of the NDMO and its Schedule. This unified system is designed to connect a citizen's National ID, passport, tax identification number and other key registers. The intended benefits are administrative efficiency and easier access to public services. Yet technical unification also brings constitutional risk. When every register speaks to every other, the State gains the capacity to reconstruct a person's entire life-trajectory – where one lives, travels, works, banks and interacts online.

Under GDPR Articles 5 and 25, personal data must be collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes and be limited to what is necessary. By contrast, the Ordinances contain no explicit, general-purpose duties of purpose-limitation and data-minimisation binding on State processing. What promises frictionless governance could, without constraint, evolve into frictionless surveillance.

Then there is also the question of how these far-reaching measures arrived. Both Ordinances were promulgated under Article 93(1) of the Constitution, authorising the President to issue ordinances when "circumstances exist which render immediate action necessary". Parliament stands dissolved; yet through this route, Bangladesh has now enacted the most comprehensive data-governance regime in its history. A potent query thereby arises: was there truly an extraordinary necessity justifying the use of that power for something this foundational?

A framework that will shape the country's digital constitution deserves the full sunlight of parliamentary debate. The GDPR took years of public consultation and legislative negotiation before it was argued into existence through committees, parliaments and courts – proposed in 2012, adopted in 2016, effective in 2018. Our twin Ordinances arrived in one November gazette by executive fiat. While Ordinances are constitutionally valid, they are simply not constitutionally deliberative. The difference matters when the legislation in question defines the relationship between citizen and State in the digital era.

Furthermore, the Authority's remit effectively makes the Bangladeshi State the most consequential data controller in practice.

Under the NDMO, it manages citizen data life cycles, coordinates integration across ministries and enforces compliance. Section 24(1) of the PDPO creates consent exemptions covering, *inter alia*, national security, crime control, taxation, public interest, and public-health emergencies. Though sections 24(2) and (4)–(6) limit pure blanket use, their sheer scope risks leaving much state data-processing subject to internal rather than independent oversight.

Hence, for instance, when a private bank mishandles data, the Authority may sanction it. But when a ministry misuses citizen data, will an Authority seated in the Prime Minister's Office do the same? The combination of broad statutory exemptions and executive-controlled enforcement produces a paradox: Big Tech may now face tighter rules, but Big State remains largely self-regulated. This is not to deny the potential gains of improved service delivery and data localisation. But these are infrastructural advantages, not rights guarantees. The Ordinances give citizens the right to access their data, but not always the right to refuse its use.

However, several correctives are still possible. The Authority's independence should be entrenched in statute, modelled on GDPR-style safeguards. Purpose-limitation and data-minimisation rules should bind state agencies as firmly as they bind private controllers, and the Ordinances should advance to Parliament as full Acts preceded by consultation with technologists, civil society and the legal community. A modern data-protection framework should operationalise privacy as a core civil right, not subordinate it to infrastructural convenience.

Bangladesh now stands at a crossroads. We can treat these Ordinances as the culmination of our digital governance journey, or as its beginning – a chance to craft, through public debate, a data regime that protects citizens not only from corporations but from the overreach of the State itself. The difference between a *GDPR moment* and a *data-state moment* lies not in the technology we adopt, but in the constitutional temperament with which we wield it.

The writer is an Advocate specialising in corporate, commercial and technology law.

BRIEF LAW REVIEW

The draft
Telecommunication
Ordinance 2025

ABRAR-BIN-SHOUKAT ALVI

For decades, Bangladesh's digital network has operated under the constant threat of arbitrary executive interferences. Access to the internet could be severed without notice or remedy whenever there emerged any political tension within the country.

Importantly, Bangladesh lacked any explicit statutory basis for such interferences. Orders were conveyed orally or through encrypted messages from the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) to operators, with no publication or review. The result was a legal vacuum, where fundamental rights under the Constitution, of being treated only in accordance with law and the right to free speech, expression could be suspended by administrative discretion alone.

Against that backdrop, the draft Bangladesh Telecommunication (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 presents quite a transformative development. It says that "no telecommunication connection, service or internet access shall be shut down, disrupted or restricted under any circumstances". This mandate, if materialised, will be in line with global jurisprudence on freedom of expression and information protected by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It will also stand in alignment with Bangladesh with the position of the UN Human Rights Council, which in 2022 reaffirmed that blanket internet shutdowns can never be justified.

However, a single prohibitory clause does



not take us far. From a governance perspective, the new ordinance should also introduce institutional safeguards to ensure that the promise of non-interference survives changes in political will. While the draft law has provisions for parliamentary and judicial oversight, there is still room for improvement. First, in line with the EU Digital Services Act 2022, the operators, independent of government regulators, should be made obligated to publish reports detailing any governmental request affecting network operators. This will potentially ensure transparency and accountability in governance and ensure their conformity with the right to information.

Furthermore, an independent digital rights commission to investigate violations, audit state use of digital powers, and provide remedies could also be established. Similar commissions exist under the African Union Model Law on Access to Information (2013). A digital compensation fund should also be formed to provide redress when governmental action or inaction causes any quantifiable loss to businesses. Finally, the draft Ordinance should be harmonised with the data protection laws in order to ensure that the right to connectivity complements the right to privacy under Article 43 of the Constitution.

Internationally, Bangladesh has often been cited by Access Now and Article 19 for its opaque handling of digital governance. With the new ordinance being passed and implemented, the country could potentially transform from a case study in digital authoritarianism into a regional model of digital democracy.

The writer is student of law at Bangladesh University of Professionals.

JUDGMENT REVIEW

Consultation with the Chief Justice in
appointing SC judges

ABUZAR GIFARI

Article 95(1) of the Constitution of Bangladesh mandated the President to consult the Chief Justice (CJ) when appointing Supreme Court (SC) judges. This requirement was removed by the 4th Amendment in 1975 but reinstated by the 15th Amendment in 2011. This issue was first examined in *Bangladesh v Idrisur Rahman*, reported in 29 BLD (AD) 79, also known as the *Ten Judges' case*. The Appellate Division (AD) ruled that consulting the CJ was a necessary "constitutional imperative or convention" for appointing SC judges, even when this requirement was omitted by the 4th Amendment. Evidence shows that all SC judges were appointed after consulting the CJ, except once in 1994, confirming that such consultation has crystallised into a customary practice. The Court also held that considering CJ's opinion with primacy is crucial for judicial independence, a principle enshrined in the rule of law.

As the 8th Amendment case held the rule of law as a basic structure of the constitution,

the Prime Minister or President cannot violate it. Under Article 48(3), the President must act on the Prime Minister's advice when appointing SC judges. Then, what would happen when the opinion of the CJ and PM comes into conflict? In this regard, the Court established a bifurcated consultation process: first, the CJ's opinion would have primacy for evaluating legal acumen and suitability of the judges concerned, and, secondly, the Prime Minister's opinion would have primacy for assessing antecedents. However, this process left ambiguity regarding situations where the CJ's recommendation was not accepted by the executive.

Recently, this finding was modified in *ABM Altaf Hossain and others v Bangladesh* (2023). The Appellate Division ruled that in case of conflict between the CJ's and the executive's opinions, neither would have primacy, and the appointment would not proceed. This departure from long-standing judicial convention relied on the Indian *SP Gupta Case* (1982), where the Indian Supreme Court held



that in case of conflict, neither opinion had primacy. However, this rule was later overruled in India by the *Advocates-on-Record Case* (1993), where the CJ's opinion was given primacy. Although the latter

case was also referred to in the *ABM Altaf Hossain* case, reliance was primarily put on the *SP Gupta* case. In my opinion, this can be seen as abusive selective borrowing of a constitutional idea, not justified by

contemporary comparative constitutional law theories.

The Court criticised the *Ten Judges'* case for rendering primacy to the executive through the bifurcated consultation process and aimed to uphold judicial independence. However, in doing so, the Court rather inadvertently strengthened the executive's power over the judiciary. For instance, if the CJ recommends a candidate and the Prime Minister rejects it, the candidate would not be appointed, effectively giving the Prime Minister dominant authority in judicial appointments.

Indeed, the Court did not provide strong legal reasoning for deviating from its precedent. It only cited the absence of "political motivation" in the present case and contrasted it with the *Ten Judges'* case. A well-substantiated justification was required for effecting such significant change in the constitutional jurisprudence.

The writer is Lecturer in the Department of Law and Land Administration, University of Rajshahi.

All eyes on Mushy, but Ireland hope to spoil party

SPORTS REPORTER

Ahead of Bangladesh's second and final Test against Ireland, beginning today in Mirpur, veteran Mushfiquur Rahim's landmark hundredth Test has taken centre stage, leaving everything else aside.

The veteran is the longest-serving international cricketer currently active and, as Bangladesh play their 156th Test on Wednesday, Mushfiquur reaching the landmark 100 Tests, becoming Bangladesh's first, would be a testament to how essential he has been in the Test circuit over a period of 20 years, holding the baton of Bangladesh's middle order in the toughest format.

A glowing Mushfiquur stepped out from the dressing room yesterday, shaking hands with members of the media before a photoshoot with journalists at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium turf. Some of the members of the media who lined up for a photo opportunity have seen

BCB will mark Mushfiquur's 100th Test match with a 10-minute program after the toss of the second Test, featuring several activities, including the presentation of a special Test cap, a commemorative cap casket, a special crest and an autographed jersey for the 38-year-old batter.

BCB announced on Tuesday that students and teachers from schools, colleges, universities and madrasas will receive free entry for the second Test.

Mushfiquur from the beginning, some are new, but Mushfiquur's durability has astounded all.

Bangladesh have played very little compared to the big sides in Test cricket, but Mushfiquur's longevity is even more pronounced because of this facet. To put into context, Ian Bell, who was playing just his second Test when Mushfiquur made his debut at Lord's, went on to retire after 118 Tests in 2015.

At yesterday's pre-match presser, Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons said on Mushfiquur: "I think first of all, we have to acknowledge his professionalism and his longevity and just his desire to play cricket for Bangladesh.

"Because to get 100 Test matches, Bangladesh doesn't play 15 a year, so it's taken him a period of time and we must appreciate that."

Mushfiquur's attention to detail has kept him ahead of the curve, outlasting the other four of the Big Five of Bangladesh cricket.

"At this level, you cannot be stagnant... you have to always try and get better," Simmons said, adding that Mushfiquur has "evolved many times".

Simmons said his simple advice to the veteran has been to enjoy the game. "You need to be enjoying what you're doing... once you're performing, you determine how long you want to play," he told Mushfiquur during the South Africa Test.

Simmons acknowledged that fitness, performance and the "desire to continue" are things Mushfiquur already has; now only he determines when he brings down the curtain. Bangladesh's Test side would certainly hope that time is still far away.

There is a feeling that the Mirpur Test may not proceed for the whole of five days, given Mirpur's spin conduciveness. Simmons said that the wicket appears to be looking good for batting for two to two-and-a-half days. Mushfiquur might be taking note, while Ireland middle-order batter Harry Tector joked there would be "certainly not any freebies".

"I don't think he needs any freebies. He's such a good player," Tector said.

For Ireland, there is an opportunity to spoil the party. "Hope so, yes," head coach Heinrich Malan said.

"We're preparing the same way that we always do... you've heard Harry speak about trying to level the series. We go into it with the same mindset."

MORSALIN ENDS Bangladesh's long wait



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh fans erupt as Sheikh Morsalin scores in the 11th minute to give the hosts the lead over India in a 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifier at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Morsalin ended Bangladesh's long wait for a victory against India with an 11th-minute strike, as the hosts secured their first win of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with a 1-0 triumph in front of a roaring capacity crowd at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh No. 7 scored his seventh international goal, expertly

threading the ball between the legs of a hesitant Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, following a superb square pass from Rakib Hossain on a quick counter-attack. The goal evoked memories of 22 years ago, when Bangladesh had last defeated India at the same ground, courtesy of a golden goal from Matiur Rahman Munna in a SAFF Championship semifinal.

Despite the early lead, there was plenty of time left on the clock, and with

Bangladesh's history of conceding late goals against India, the home side had little room to relax. Under the watchful eye of Hamza Choudhury, who was influential across the pitch, the home side defended their slim advantage with determination.

Hamza, who scored two breathtaking goals against Nepal last week, came close to doubling the lead just before half-time, sending a powerful left-footed volley

narrowly over the bar in the 43rd minute.

India pressed hard in the second half, but their lack of clinical finishing kept the Blue Tigers at bay.

Bangladesh also had to cope with injuries to defenders Tariq Kazi and Zayyan Ahmed, but the team's collective effort -- including defensive contributions from wide forwards Rakib and Faysal Ahmed Fahim -- helped secure a momentous victory.

'Can't make 180 million people happy anywhere else'

ANISUR RAHMAN

Sheikh Morsalin may have delivered the decisive strike against India last night, but it was Hamza Choudhury who anchored Bangladesh's resistance, marshalling the backline and helping end a 22-year winless run against their neighbours.

The Leicester City midfielder credited the team's collective mentality, noting how both he and Shami Shome had tried to raise the group's standards since joining the squad.

"I feel really really happy because we won. I just joined and Shami joined late. We just try and add a bit of quality, a bit of mentality. Today we showed we have that mentality," Hamza told reporters in the post-match presser after his side's penultimate fixture of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers.

He reflected on recent matches where Bangladesh dominated possession but faltered late -- leading to elimination before yesterday's match -- and contrasted that with last night's



display: "Today we showed the complete opposite... maybe not so good with the ball, but we showed we can be resilient."

Even without the captain's armband, Hamza was a vocal organiser at the back, guiding the team through India's pressure spells. Asked to place the achievement alongside his English FA Cup win with Leicester City, he replied that the significance was incomparable.

"There are 180 million people that we all make happy today... you can't really compete with that anywhere else. So, yeah, it's definitely right up there."

For Hamza, the fixture carried the weight of a final. "Twenty-three years people wait to qualify

for tournaments or win big games. This is our biggest game," he said.

He admitted the win against India fulfilled a personal ambition too. "You can have more than one dream," he said, adding that he remained confident Bangladesh would one day qualify for a major tournament.

Head coach Javier Cabrera shared the credit widely, choosing not to highlight individuals. Instead, he praised the collective effort from starters to late substitutes.

"It's been everyone... absolutely every single player performed well today," Cabrera said, adding that even for himself, recovering from earlier setbacks had not been easy.

BPL in limbo over missed bank guarantee

SPORTS REPORTER

Chaos seems to have become synonymous with the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), and the 12th edition is no exception.

Despite a five-day extension to secure mandatory bank guarantees from all five franchises, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) remains off track.

On November 13, the BPL governing council extended the deadline for submitting the BDT 10 crore guarantees to November 18 after several teams requested more time.

However, by the final day, only three franchises -- Dhaka Capitals, Rajshahi Warriors and Rangpur Riders -- had

submitted guarantees, with one reportedly depositing less than required.

Chattogram Royals and Sylhet Titans have yet to provide any guarantee.

BPL governing council secretary Iftekhar Rahman Mithu told The Daily Star yesterday that the board might need to extend the deadline again.

"If any franchise fails to provide the bank guarantee, their franchise fee of BDT 2 crore will be forfeited. But proceeding without the guarantee risks repeating past issues. Teams can also submit a Fixed Deposit lien, which we can break at any time," he said.

The players' auction is scheduled for November 23, but further delays in guarantees could postpone it.



Hosts Bangladesh clinched their second straight win in the Women's Kabaddi World Cup, defeating a relatively inexperienced Germany 57-27 at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. They had earlier started their campaign in style on Monday with a 42-22 victory over African champions Uganda.

PHOTO: BKF





Campaign posters flood the capital

DNCC orders their removal in 7 days

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Posters and flyers of nomination aspirants from political parties have become a nuisance in the capital ahead of the national polls expected in February, violating existing laws.

Campaign materials now cling to almost every surface – utility poles, footbridges, building walls, and metro rail pillars – while slogans and party symbols grow increasingly visible.

On June 19, the Election Commission banned posters during the official campaign period to make the election more environment-friendly and disciplined. The campaign period is expected to begin in the first week of next month with the announcement of the election schedule.

Officials and residents say aspirants are exploiting the window before the schedule to display the campaign materials. Most

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Despite the Election Commission banning posters for poll campaigns just a week ago, posters put up by political leaders were still seen across the capital yesterday, including these in the Farmgate area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Arson attacks, crude bomb blasts persist

Grameen Bank branch office torched in Magura

STAR REPORT

Arson and crude bomb attacks continued yesterday in some parts of the country, including an arson incident at a Grameen Bank office in Magura.

The attacks came a day after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her former home minister to death.

The Awami League, whose political activities are currently banned, announced lockdown and shutdown programmes recently.

At least 50 arson attacks – mostly targeting buses – and dozens of crude bomb explosions have been recorded nationwide over the past week.

In Magura, criminals set fire to the Grameen Bank office in Mohammapur upazila early yesterday.

Several branches of the bank, an institution linked to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, including its headquarters in Dhaka, were targeted recently.

The incident occurred around 3:30am at the branch located beside Aminur Rahman Degree College in the upazila.

Around 3:30am, miscreants poured petrol through the office window and set it on fire, said Sohana Sultana, the

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COP30 CLIMATE TALKS Brazil unveils first draft deal

Text leaves open a wide range of possibilities on flashpoint issues

AFP, Belém

COP30 hosts Brazil yesterday produced a first draft of an agreement between nations at the UN climate talks after negotiations on the sticking points stretched late into the night.

The draft includes a sweep of options on the most difficult issues, reflecting the gulf between the nearly 200 nations in Belém and the work still ahead to refine a final compromise.

The nine-page “Global Mutirao” document – a reference to an Indigenous concept of uniting toward a common goal – came after Brazil on Monday urged delegates to work day and night to produce an agreement by midweek.

The text leaves open a wide range of possibilities on the flashpoint issues in Belém – trade measures, finance for poorer nations, and the global inadequacy of carbon-cutting goals.

But the quick turnaround of a draft on these thorny points suggested the COP30 presidency was confident it could soon have an outcome, observers said.

“It represents a steady progression from the previous iteration and is likely one of the earliest releases of such a clean text in recent COP history,” said Li Shuo, a climate analyst at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

The draft reflects the stark division between a coalition wanting a “roadmap” on a fossil fuel phaseout, and a bloc led by oil-producing countries opposing any such effort.

It proposes an optional “workshop” to discuss “low carbon solutions,” or a high-level ministerial roundtable

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Mushfiqur’s 100th Test today



STAR REPORT

After several days of build-up, the moment has finally arrived as Bangladesh veteran Mushfiqur Rahim gears up to take the field for his 100th Test in the second match of the two-match series against Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur today.

The first day’s play will begin at 9:30 am (Bangladesh time).

Almost all the buzz surrounding the series has centred on Mushfiqur’s milestone, with the 38-year-old set to become the first Bangladeshi to reach the prestigious 100-

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Trump’s plan for Gaza backed by UNSC

Hamas rejects resolution, saying it imposes int’l guardianship mechanism

AGENCIES

The UN Security Council on Monday voted to adopt a US-drafted resolution endorsing President Donald Trump’s plan to end the war in Gaza and authorising an international stabilisation force for the Palestinian enclave.

Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas agreed last month to the first phase of Trump’s 20-point plan for Gaza – a ceasefire in their two-year war and a hostage-release deal – but the UN resolution is seen as vital to legitimising a transitional governance body and reassuring countries that are considering sending troops to Gaza.

The text of the resolution says member states can take part in the Trump-chaired Board of Peace envisioned as a transitional authority that would oversee reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza. It also authorises the international stabilisation force, which would ensure a process of demilitarising Gaza, including by decommissioning weapons and destroying military infrastructure.

Hamas, in a statement, reiterated that it will not disarm and argued that its fight against Israel is legitimate resistance, potentially pitting the group against the international force authorised by the resolution, reports Reuters.

“The resolution imposes an international guardianship mechanism on the Gaza Strip, which our people and their factions reject,” Hamas said in its statement, issued after the adoption of the resolution.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Varsen

- UN vote is ‘first step towards peace’: Palestinian FM
- Israel says US plan for Gaza to deliver ‘peace and prosperity’
- Trump celebrates vote as “a moment of true Historic proportion”
- Russia, China abstain, complain UN lacks role in Gaza plan

Aghabekian Shahin said yesterday the UN Security Council’s adoption of the resolution was a necessary first step on a long road toward peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office hailed the US-drafted plan, saying it would lead to “peace and prosperity”, reports AFP.

The European Union hailed the vote in favour of US President Donald Trump’s Gaza peace plan as “an important step”. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the passing of the resolution an important step in the consolidation of the ceasefire, in a statement sent to reporters.

MUSIC, PE TEACHERS Citizens, cultural groups slam hire plan cancellation

Demand Aug 28 gazette reinstatement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 80 eminent citizens and 18 cultural organisations have strongly condemned the interim government’s decision to scrap the recruitment plan for music and physical education teachers in primary schools, terming the move “regressive”.

In a joint statement issued under the banner of Jatiya Shikkha O Sangskriti Rakkha Andolon (National Movement for Protection of Education and Culture), the signatories alleged that the decision was taken following demands from a group seeking the appointment of religion teachers instead of music teachers, despite religion teachers already being deployed in schools.

The platform stressed that primary education is the foundation of a child’s ethical, cultural, and human development, noting that music fosters patriotism and aesthetics, while physical education teaches discipline and teamwork.

It added, “In the digital age, when children are becoming physically and mentally constricted due to screen addiction, music and physical exercise can be the primary tools for developing their creativity and focus.”

Highlighting international

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Hasina sentence violates fair trial standards: HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has alleged that the death penalty against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina followed a process that “failed to meet international fair trial standards”.

“There is enduring anger and anguish in Bangladesh over Hasina’s repressive rule, but all criminal proceedings need to meet international fair trial standards,” said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

“Those responsible for horrific abuses under the Hasina administration should be held to account after impartial investigations and credible trials.”

The HRW came up with the statement after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 of Bangladesh on Monday sentenced Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death for crimes against humanity during the violent suppression of student-led protests in 2024, Human Rights Watch said today.

The HRW statement said the

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Smoke rises from brick kilns in the Bypass Horiyan area of Rajshahi’s Paba. With the rainy season over, brick kilns across the country are back in operation, causing pollution and often contributing to topsoil loss.

PHOTO: AZHAR UDDIN

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Khalilur reaches Delhi for regional security conclave

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman reached New Delhi yesterday, a day earlier than scheduled, to attend a regional security meet at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval.

He will lead the Bangladeshi delegation at the two-day Colombo Security Conclave starting today.

His visit comes as Dhaka-Delhi relations remain strained, with Bangladesh calling upon India to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal after the International Crimes Tribunal handed them death sentences for crimes against humanity committed during last year’s uprising.

They have been living in India since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year. India has not responded to Bangladesh’s earlier call for Hasina’s extradition.

“I do not want to interfere with the agenda that he [Khalil] has,” Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said when