



"His majesty would like me to do something very powerful having to do with Sudan."

Trump vows to end Sudan war at the request of Saudi Arabia's crown prince

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Hasina first lost  
in the court of  
the people

P12



NOTE TO READERS: The Daily Star begins a five-part series tomorrow, offering an in-depth look at the lives of those on the front lines of climate change in Bangladesh's southwest.



'We want to  
play without  
fear'

P15

## Caretaker govt system revived

Apex court overturns 2011 judgment that abolished it; system will not be applicable to Feb polls, say lawyers

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The non-party caretaker government system has returned to Bangladesh's constitution, but apparently not for the national polls slated for early February.

In a landmark judgment yesterday, the Supreme Court unanimously revived the caretaker system, ruling that it will apply prospectively.

The upcoming election will therefore be held under the current interim government, lawyers involved in the proceedings said.

A seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Syed Reafat Ahmed, delivered the verdict on two appeals and four review petitions against its 2011 ruling that had annulled the 13th amendment to the constitution.

With this, the court overturned its May 2011 judgment that had abolished the caretaker system.

"This court is satisfied that the judgment under review is tainted by several cited errors apparent on the face of the record. It follows that the judgment under review is hereby set aside in its entirety," the court said in its short order.

The ruling activates the constitutional provisions on the non-party caretaker government (NPCG) introduced through section 3 of the 13th Amendment Act, 1996.

The court clarified, "Such revival ensures automatic restoration of Chapter II A containing NPCG provisions, but its operation is subject to the enforcement of the revived Articles 58B(1) and 58C(2) of the Constitution."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### RISE, FALL, AND REVIVAL

#### MID-1980S

First discussed during the anti-Ershad movement

#### 1991

Introduced as an interim govt

#### 1996

Added to the constitution through the 13th amendment after prolonged AL protests

#### 2006

Crisis erupts over caretaker leadership

#### 2011

AL govt abolishes the system through the 15th amendment

#### DEC 2024

High Court annuls parts of the 15th amendment, enabling the system's return

### POLLS

#### 1991, JUNE 1996, 2001, 2008

Polls under caretakers widely regarded as free, fair

#### 2014, 2018, 2024

Polls without caretaker considered controversial

## SC secretariat, a step closer to reality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The advisory council yesterday granted final approval to the draft Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025, marking another step toward separating the judiciary from the executive branch of the state.

The ordinance aims to hand all authority over the transfer, promotion, posting, and disciplinary matters of lower court judges to the Supreme Court -- powers that currently rest with the government.

However, the interim government has decided that the ordinance will be implemented only after the Supreme Court Secretariat is fully established in terms of infrastructure.

But matters related to budget and financial management will come into effect along with the publication of the ordinance's gazette notification.

After the advisory council meeting, Law Affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul briefed reporters at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital.

The law adviser said that the control, discipline, and leave-related matters of judges who are engaged solely in judicial functions will be transferred to the Supreme Court Secretariat.

"However, judicial officers who serve in various state institutions -- such as the law ministry, the Election Commission, and the Anti-Corruption Commission -- in administrative roles will remain under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

includes provisions for punishments ranging from seven years' rigorous imprisonment to life imprisonment or even the death penalty, along with a Tk 5 lakh fine, for members of such gangs, each of whom would be held equally responsible for the crime.

For those individually involved in human trafficking, it prescribes penalties ranging from a minimum five years' rigorous imprisonment to life imprisonment, in addition to a Tk 50,000 fine.

A woman returns home with her young grandson on a raft in the waterlogged Bilpatala village in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. Roads, houses, fish enclosures, and farmland in Bilpatala and the surrounding areas have been submerged for nearly five months as the heavily silted Shoilmar river cannot drain the water, causing thousands to suffer. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

The ordinance, set to replace the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, defines human trafficking as the abduction, sale or purchase, confinement, concealment, transfer or harbouring of a person for labour, sexual or other forms of exploitation.

or environmental vulnerabilities, or in exchange for money or goods.

The ordinance outlines human trafficking offences and penalties across nine chapters.

For instance, forcing a person to work or provide services against their will or holding someone in debt bondage will be considered trafficking.

The punishment ranges from five to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment, along with a Tk 50,000 fine.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Matiul Islam, an icon in finance, is no more

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Trailblazing public servant M Matiul Islam, revered as the "doyen of the financial sector", passed away yesterday. He was 95.

He is survived by his daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

His name is Janaza will be held today after Jummah prayers at Azad Mosque in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Widely regarded as one of the architects of Bangladesh's economic foundation, he leaves behind a legacy of vision and institution-building.

Born on January 24, 1930, in Barishal, Matiul graduated with first class in commerce from Dhaka University and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## How next caretaker govts will be formed

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The caretaker government system has again prompted political discussion, this time over the process of its formation, after the Supreme Court yesterday reinstated the provisions for election-time administration.

Born out of the anti-autocracy movement of the 1980s, struck down in 2011 amid protests, and revived after last year's mass uprising, the system's trajectory mirrors Bangladesh's long struggle for credible national polls.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagarik (Sujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said, "With the abolition of the caretaker government system, the election process was sent into exile, resulting in three successive controversial national elections."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Bangladesh stalwart Mushfiqur Rahim celebrates his century in his 100th Test as teammate Litton Das rushes over to congratulate him, while an Ireland fielder offers sporting applause on the second day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Mushfiqur's 106 and Litton's 128 powered the hosts to 476 before the bowlers reduced Ireland to 98-5 by stumps.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## We Mourn



Md. Matiul Islam, FCA  
(1930-2025)

We are profoundly grieved by the demise of our Founder and Former Chairman, Md. Matiul Islam, FCA. (Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). His visionary guidance, unwavering integrity and lifelong devotion will remain an enduring source of inspiration.

May his departed soul attain eternal serenity. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and cherished ones during this time of sorrow.





# Fridays feel like a celebration in Dhaka

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

When you are an adult and have to work every day, you get excited at the very possibility of a day off. Friday brings that blissful feeling that most people wait eagerly for, and it feels much stronger in Dhaka.

## Friday feeling before Friday

The impending Friday vibe starts brewing from the afternoon of Thursday. By the time the offices close and people step out of work, you can tell Friday is coming from the look of the traffic.

A large number of people go out of Dhaka for the weekend. And it is evident by the overwhelming traffic on Thursday afternoon. People go to their office with a carry-on bag or a small backpack that they eagerly eye the whole day before finally leaving Dhaka at the end of their shift. Thursday has this suppressed festive feeling that can be seen on people's faces.

Even if people do not go outside of Dhaka for the weekend, the wait for

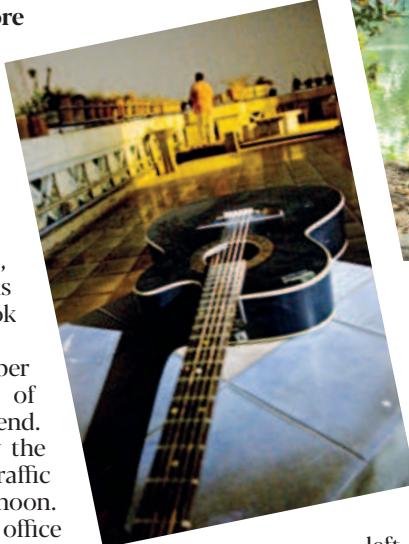


PHOTO: STAR

Friday is cherished fondly all the same. I have heard younger people discuss their morning motivations — "I count my days by how many days

left till Friday," one of them said, and it felt very real. Another said that the knowledge that 'Friday is tomorrow' is more relaxing than Friday itself.

**The start of Friday**  
You can tell it's Friday by how slow the morning starts. Most shops do not open till 9:30 or 10 AM. Except the wet

market, which starts early but doesn't quite pick up that buzz till later. Even the tea stalls that open at dawn do not open early on Fridays. Everyone wants to get an extra hour of sleep on Friday mornings, something that is missed so dearly yet remains elusive the rest of the week.

By 10 AM, it starts feeling like Friday because of the overwhelming crowd at the markets. People have their chores saved up and Friday is the day to take care of them. The noise and excitement at the butcher's shop, along with the pushing and shoving at the fish stalls are trademark Friday traits.

Then comes the excited rush of

trying to finish your chores before the call for prayer at the mosque. The festive feeling of Friday is, in many ways, defined by the prayer.

## Friday immersion

After the prayer, Friday becomes a little bit drowsy and recovers with a nap. By the time the sun begins to go down, Friday starts to put on its festive face. Street vendors begin setting up their lights and food carts, traffic begins to slow due to the increase in crowd, and the hangout places slowly start filling up.

People go to parks and other points of interests with their friends and family. Many go shopping. Many are happy sitting at the local tong with a cup of tea and their friends.

"I come here only on Fridays, all the way from Aftabnagar. The only purpose is to meet up with my friends and attend the weekly adda because otherwise it's tedious," said one Shihabur Rahman. "The rest of my friends reside around Mirpur, so I don't mind the little commute," he explained, stating how often he comes to Mirpur and sits by "Love Road" for their weekly hangouts.

These Friday activities are a little bit different for everyone. But the essence is more or less the same. It's either the saved-up chores, or hangouts, or just pamper themselves. Whatever it is, Fridays are festive all over the country, but in Dhaka, you can really feel the weekend vibe.

## SUV falls from Ctg expressway, kills cyclist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was killed yesterday after an SUV plunged off the Shaheed Wasim Akram Elevated Expressway and landed on him in Chattogram's Nimtala-Bishwa Road area.

The deceased was identified as Md Shafiq, an outsourced employee of the Chittagong Port Authority, according to Sub-inspector Asaduzzaman Rana of Bandar Police Station.

The accident occurred in front of Bandar Police Station around 4:30pm.



Assistant Commissioner (Port) Mahmudul Hasan of Chattogram Metropolitan Police said, "The SUV was heading towards Lalkhan Bazar carrying three men and a woman from Patenga. It fell off the elevated expressway at Nimtala point and landed on Shafiq, who was riding a bicycle at the time. He was declared dead after being taken to a nearby hospital."

He added that the spot where the vehicle went off the road has a bend and preliminary assumptions suggest the vehicle was being driven recklessly.

Locals and Fire Service personnel rescued the passengers, who were in critical condition, and took them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, he said.

## Ukraine receives 1,000 bodies from Russia

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday it had received from Russia the remains of 1,000 people that Moscow said were killed Ukrainian soldiers, in the latest repatriation between the two sides.

The exchange of prisoners of war and the remains of dead soldiers is one of the few remaining areas of cooperation between Kyiv and Moscow, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

## Caretaker govt system revived

FROM PAGE 1

Article 58B(1), inserted in 1996 and scrapped in 2011, states that once parliament is dissolved, whether at the end of its term or earlier, a non-party caretaker government shall assume charge.

Article 58C (2) requires the chief adviser and advisers of the caretaker government to be appointed within 15 days of that dissolution.

Reading out the judgment, Chief Justice Reafat Ahmed reiterated that the restored NPCG can "operate only prospectively".

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman said the ruling's prospective effect means it will take hold after the dissolution of the next parliament. The full judgment may further elaborate on its role in supporting democracy, he added.

Lawyer Ruhul Quddus Kazal, who had moved review petitions on behalf of the BNP; Jamaat's review councillor Shishir Monir; and Sharif Bhuiyan, who represented Sushashoner Jonno Nagar (Sujan) Secretary Badil Alam Majumdar, also noted that the revived system will not apply to the upcoming 13th national election. Its use begins with the 14th parliamentary polls.

### HISTORIC

"It feels like Eid," said senior lawyer Zainul Abedin, who had also represented the BNP. "Not only the BNP, but the whole nation is elated."

Shishir Monir hoped the ruling would usher in a democratic order "where free and fair elections will be the guiding principle".

Sharif Bhuiyan said the 2011 verdict had caused a "loss of public trust and reputation" for the Supreme Court, especially the Appellate Division. The new ruling, he added, completely rectifies that. "It is a truly historic day for Bangladesh."

Badil Alam Majumdar said the acceptance of the review petitions "opens the path toward free and fair elections". He urged all political actors to act responsibly so that "the way forward to fair elections will be

### REVIEW

1999

SC lawyer, others file writ petition against the 13th amendment

2004

HC bench upholds the amendment, declaring it constitutional

2005

Petitioners appeal to the Appellate Division

2011

SC full bench (4:3) strikes down the 13th amendment

Aug, OCT 2024

BNP, Jamaat, 4 citizens file review petitions

Aug 27, 2025

SC allows BNP, four citizens to appeal

In 1996, the then BNP government formally embedded the system in the constitution, amid prolonged street agitation by the then opposition Awami League and its allies.

The arrangement gave a non-partisan administration 90 days to oversee general elections, with the immediate past chief justice the first choice as its chief adviser.

The Awami League government

broadened once again".

The idea of a non-party interim authority first gained momentum during the anti-autocracy movement against HM Ershad's regime.

### PATH TO REVIEW

The journey began in 1998 when SC lawyer M Salimullah (now deceased) and others filed a writ petition challenging the 13th amendment.

After hearings, the High Court in August 2004 upheld the amendment as valid, but allowed the petitioners to appeal directly to the Appellate Division.

They appealed in 2005, and on May 10, 2011, a seven-judge bench led by then Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque struck down the amendment by majority view.

Weeks later, on June 30, 2011, parliament passed the 15th Amendment, abolishing the caretaker system entirely.

In the wake of the student-led uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5, 2024, a series of review petitions challenging the 2011 ruling were filed.

The BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, four citizens including Badil Alam Majumdar, freedom fighter Mofazzal Islam of Naogaon, and two rights organisations — the Centre for Law, Governance and Policy and the Human Rights Support Society — submitted the petitions.

The first was filed by the citizens on August 27 last year. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Jamaat Secretary General Miah Golam Parwar followed with separate petitions on October 16 and 23.

Freedom fighter Mofazzal Islam also filed his own petition, arguing that the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections proved that free and fair polls are impossible under partisan governments.

The first was filed by the citizens on August 27 last year. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Jamaat Secretary General Miah Golam Parwar followed with separate petitions on October 16 and 23.

Each of the ruling party and the main opposition would pick one candidate from the other's list, and both would jointly choose one from the second largest party's list.

At this stage, four of the panel's five votes would be enough to select a chief adviser from the shortlist.

## How next caretaker govts will be formed

FROM PAGE 1

The latest verdict, he added, opens the path to a free and fair electoral process.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Lawyer Shishir Monir explained that under the 13th amendment, the most recently retired chief justice traditionally heads the caretaker government.

But the July charter, now awaiting a referendum, also contains provisions on the formation of the caretaker administration.

"If it is approved in the referendum and later adopted by the Constitutional Reform Council in the new parliament, the formation of the caretaker government could undergo fundamental changes," he said.

He noted that the option of appointing the immediate past chief justice as chief adviser would "remain an option, not the first", and would not create legal complications.

Under the July charter proposal, a five-member panel — the prime minister, the leader of the opposition, the Speaker, the deputy speaker (from the opposition), and a representative of the second-largest opposition party — would select the chief adviser from a pool of nominees.

Parties represented in parliament, registered parties, and independents would each propose a name.

The panel would then review the list and choose one qualified citizen.

If this option fails, the ruling party and main opposition would each submit five names, while the second-largest opposition party would submit two.

Each of the ruling party and the main opposition would pick one candidate from the other's list, and both would jointly choose one from the second largest party's list.

But over the years, the system became a flashpoint for political conflict.

In 1996, after sustained street protests led by the then opposition

Should this second route fail, two judges — one from the Appellate Division and one from the High Court Division — would join the panel, expanding it to seven members.

The enlarged panel would then vote on the shortlist.

The BNP and several other parties have filed dissenting notes to this proposal; they opposed the inclusion of judges and the voting mechanism.

Asked whether differences between the July charter's proposal and the court-adopted caretaker system might create legal complications, senior lawyer Sharif Bhuiyan drew a clear boundary, saying the roles of the judiciary and legislature are distinct.

He explained, "Making laws is not a court's function. If a law has been annulled and that annulment is found to be wrong, the court can restore it. That's what the court has done today."

"The court's revival of the caretaker government does not mean that parliament cannot change it according to the July charter if it wishes. Parliament can certainly do that. But if parliament does not act, then whatever the court has restored will remain in effect."

"So, we can view this issue as having two tracks of reform — one through the court, and another through discussions in parliament. We are keeping both tracks alive so that we can reach the best possible outcome."

### WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE

The concept of a non-partisan caretaker authority first emerged during the mid-1980s agitation against HM Ershad. Following Ershad's fall in 1990, a rare political consensus ushered in the mechanism as a safeguard against incumbent influence.

But over the years, the system became a flashpoint for political conflict.

In 1996, after sustained street protests led by the then opposition

## SC secretariat, a step closer to reality

FROM PAGE 1

the government's control."

Once this ordinance is fully implemented, the law ministry, and by extension, the government, will no longer have any control over lower court judges.

"But this ordinance is not becoming effective right away. The secretariat has to be established first and made functional. Once the secretariat is fully operational, the government — after consultations with the Supreme Court — will transfer the responsibilities of supervision, control, and discipline of subordinate court judges to the Supreme Court."

The law adviser did not specify exactly how long it might take for the ordinance to be enacted. "It will come into effect within a few months."

Once this ordinance is implemented, the financial independence of the judiciary will also be ensured. The chief justice will be able to approve project proposals worth up to Tk 50 crore. For proposals exceeding that

amount, approval must be obtained from ECNEC through the Planning Commission.

At the same time, all expenses of the judiciary will be charged to the Consolidated Fund, which is a protected state reserve used to cover the expenses of key officials and offices such as the president's office, the Election Commission, and the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In addition, no prior approval from the government will be required for reappropriating funds allocated for the judiciary.

Asked if deputing lower court judges to the law ministry or executive branch breaches judicial separation, the law adviser said various institutions need officers with judicial experience, and such judges do not perform judicial functions.

Yesterday's advisory council meeting also approved in principle the draft "Human Trafficking and

Migrant Smuggling Prevention and Suppression Ordinance, 2025".

The "Telecommunications (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025" and the "Import Policy, 2025" were discussed at the meeting but did not receive approval.

The drafts of both documents have been sent back to the respective ministry for further review.

On the other hand, the draft "Land Use and Agricultural Land Protection Ordinance, 2025" received final approval.

The draft ordinance discourages the use of agricultural land — where two, three, or four crops are produced — for non-agricultural purposes.

It also puts emphasis on protecting land in environmentally sensitive areas such as water bodies, wetlands, hills, forests, the sea, and coastal regions.

In addition, converting agricultural land to non-agricultural use without approval has been defined as an offence under the draft.





Whatever our politics, religion, ethnicity, or gender, one truth must unite us as Bangladeshis: A Bangladesh where women are safe, supported, and empowered is an unstoppable Bangladesh. Let us work together to make that future a reality, for our daughters, and for the generations yet to come.

TARIQUE RAHMAN  
BNP Acting Chairman



A man cycles to work on a crisp winter morning, as golden rays break through the mist, illuminating the dewdrops on the grass. The trees shimmer in the soft glow, and the peaceful chirping of birds fills the air, creating a serene start to the day. The photo was taken in Bill Pabla area in Khulna city recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Bhutan PM arrives Saturday for 3-day state visit

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will roll out the red carpet on Saturday to welcome Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, who arrives on a three-day state visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations through enhanced connectivity, trade and investment.

He is scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the morning, a senior official told UNB.

During the visit, he will attend several engagements, including talks with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The visit comes at the invitation of the chief adviser.

According to the Bhutanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the prime

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

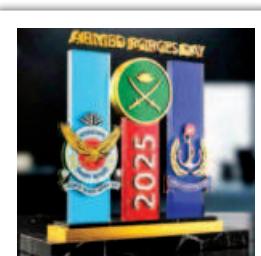
## Armed Forces Day today

UNB, Dhaka

Armed Forces Day will be observed across the country today.

On this day in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising the army, navy and air force came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces.

Since independence, the day has been observed every year as Armed Forces Day.



The programmes will begin with special prayers at mosques in all cantonments, naval outposts and establishments and air force outposts.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will place wreaths at Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War.

The chiefs of the three services will also place wreaths there.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Trafficking victims to get more protection in court

Law ministry introduces new 'Bench Book' with guidance for judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

prevent many victims from reporting, the book said.

Limited identification at the investigation stage, it states, has long contributed to low victim participation in trials and uneven enforcement of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012.

The Bench Book outlines prevalent forms of exploitation,



**Prepared under the guidance of the Law and Justice Division, the Bench Book is intended as a comprehensive reference for judges handling trafficking cases.**

including sexual exploitation, labour trafficking, forced marriage and organ removal.

Emphasising trauma-informed, victim-centred adjudication, the document notes that trauma can affect memory and lead to fragmented or inconsistent testimonies.

Such

inconsistencies are common and should not be treated as signs of unreliability. Without proper understanding, victims risk secondary victimisation within the justice system.

To address this, the Bench Book details courtroom protection measures allowed under national law, including in-camera hearings, separate waiting areas, screens and pre-recorded or video testimony.

Speaking at the launch event at a city hotel, Michal Krejza, head of cooperation at the EU Delegation to Bangladesh, said, "The Bench Book will help deliver fair, consistent and victim-centred judicial decisions across Bangladesh, strengthening the rule of law."

Sujin Kong, deputy country director of KOICA Bangladesh, said the publication would help ensure survivors receive proper dignity and protection.

Speaking as chief guest, Liaquat Ali Molla, secretary of the Law and Justice Division, said the Bench Book aims to build the capacity of judges and ensure trauma-informed proceedings aligned with national laws and international standards.

IOM's Officer-in-Charge Catherine Northing and UNODC representative Jee Aei Lee also spoke.

Ordinance on referendum in a few days  
Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said work is under way on an ordinance to provide a legal basis for the referendum, although the dates for the election and referendum, which are to be held on the same day, have not yet been set.

An ordinance must be enacted before a referendum can be held, and it will be ready within three to four working days, he said at a press briefing after a meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The government has decided to hold a referendum on the day of the upcoming 13th national parliamentary election to seek public opinion on constitutional reform proposals in the July charter.

Meanwhile, the government is preparing measures to bring back ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, both sentenced to death for crimes against humanity and currently in India.

Bangladesh plans to send a letter to the Indian government requesting their extradition. The government is considering approaching the International Criminal Court.

Asif Nazrul said since the accused have been convicted and sentenced to death, India has an additional responsibility under the extradition agreement to return them.

**NATIONAL ELECTION**  
PHQ seeks list of officials with 'clean image' for OC posts

TOUSIF KAIUM

The Police Headquarters has instructed all units to submit the names of inspectors who may be appointed as officers-in-charge across the country ahead of the national election expected in February 2026.

The directive, issued early this month, stresses the need to deploy competent, impartial and professionally credible police station chiefs to ensure a fair and peaceful election.

PHQ has not yet clarified how the final list will be prepared.

The order comes as scrutiny of inspectors' political backgrounds and their roles in the past three national elections is already under way.



**There are 530 police stations under eight ranges, 110 under eight metropolitan police units, and 24 railway police stations. OCs play a key role in maintaining law and order during elections.**

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the November 16 directive issued by the Personnel Management-2 wing, addressed to the chiefs of CID and SB, and the DMP commissioner.

"We are now collecting a list of competent inspectors from the field... After receiving the list, specific criteria will be determined, and a final list will then be prepared for appointments as OC," said AKM Awlad Hossain, additional inspector general (admin) at PHQ.

Sources said priority will be given to inspectors not involved in any controversy during the July uprising or the elections of 2014, 2018 and 2024. Those with clean service records, strong investigative backgrounds, experience in public

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

## Known for viral salute, Sujon buys NCP nomination form

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Sujon, a rickshaw-puller from Dhaka's Kamrangirchar who gained attention for his iconic salute during last year's July uprising, purchased a nomination form from the National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday to contest the upcoming national election.

He collected the form for the Dhaka-8 constituency.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary and Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara handed over the form to him around 6:30pm at the party's central office in Bangla Motor.

Originally from Munshiganj, Sujon has lived in Kamrangirchar since childhood.

Speaking to The Daily Star, he said, "I have no political backing; I am an ordinary person. If I win, I will work for the people."

Explaining why he chose Dhaka-8, Sujon said he spent the



entirety of the July uprising in Dhaka University and Shahbagh areas, standing in solidarity with the protesters. "The students here -- my brothers and sisters -- will vote for me and help me secure victory," he added.

NCP had sold around 1,400 nomination forms by 6:00pm yesterday. The sale closed at midnight.

Party sources said those who collected nomination forms will

be interviewed on November 22 and 23. NCP aims to complete all election preparations by December 15.

Among other party figures, Nahid Islam has collected a nomination form for Dhaka-11; Akhter Hossen for Rangpur-4; Patwary for Dhaka-18; Tasnim Jara for Dhaka-9; Samantha Sharmin for Bholai-1; Sarjis Alam for Panchagarh-1; and Hasnat Abdullah for Cumilla-4.

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## 'Water too dirty, smelly'

Residents accuse Chandpur municipality of supplying foul, contaminated water

ALAM PALASH, Chandpur

Chandpur town dwellers have long been enduring foul-smelling and adulterated water supplied by the municipality.

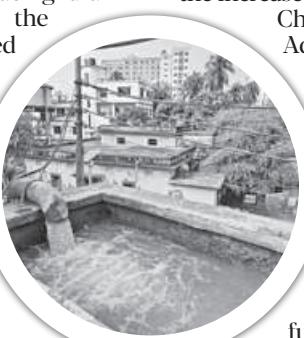
A visit to the surface-water treatment plant in the New Market area showed that water is pumped directly from the nearby Dakatia river into the facility. Drain water from municipal drains also mixes with the river before entering the plant.

After minimal filtration using alum and bleaching powder, the contaminated water is supplied to thousands of households.

Pump operator Mintu Bepari said, "We treat the water with alum and bleaching before supplying it. There is no major issue in that part. However, households with reserve tanks may face dirt accumulation, which worsens water quality."

Resident Jahanara Jerin said people have been drinking polluted water for a long time without any action from the authorities. "We don't get a proper water supply, yet the bills keep increasing. This feels like harassment," she said.

Nasima Akhter, a homemaker from Taltola, said, "We often have to use alum at home to filter impurities before drinking water."



Chandpur Municipal Administrator Md Golam Zakaria said the municipality has four water treatment plants.

"Three of these functioning surface-water plants are located in New Market and Old Market areas, while one underground plant in Biponibag is currently non-functional," he said.

He acknowledged complaints regarding the New Market plant, where dirty drain water has reportedly been mixing with the supply line. "We have assigned engineers and will attempt to fix the issue within 15 days," he said.

Established on October 1, 1896, across 26.82 square kilometres along the Dakatia river, Chandpur municipality is one of the oldest in the region.

## 4 more die of dengue, 745 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died while 745 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the reported deaths, two were from Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas and one each from Chattogram and Mymensingh divisions.

With the newly reported deaths and cases, this year's death toll rose to 353 and total cases to 88,457.

Currently, 2,838 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

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

Public health expert Mushtuq Hussain also stressed that early detection and decentralised healthcare are key to reducing dengue deaths.

## 'He left home for a better life'

Gopalganj youth dies in Mediterranean boat capsize

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A man from Nanikhir union in Gopalganj has died after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean while travelling to Italy from Libya illegally. The deceased is Enamul Sheikh, 27, said Abul Sheikh Dholha, a survivor who was aboard the vessel during the accident.

Families said six more youths from the same union remain missing after the boat capsized. They are Anis

Sheikh, Ibrahim Sheikh, Habibullah Molla Sohel, Ahsiq Mina, Dulal Mina, and Niyaz Mina.

In October, eight youths from Nanikhir union travelled to Libya through local brokers, paying around Tk 21-22 lakh each. They later attempted to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy. also the first cousin of the victim, informed the family via video call that Enamul had died.

"Enamul's body was recovered by the Libyan Coast Guard. The Coast Guard vessel ran over the middle of our boat. Those who were in the middle died instantly. Those with life jackets floated; those without sank. At the last moment, when a rescuer's flashlight hit my face, they pulled me out," said Abul.

Yakub Ali, said, "Last Friday I spoke to my son on a video call. On Sunday I learned he had died and that his body was in a Libyan hospital. He left home one and a half months ago for a better life."

Mukundpur UNO (acting) Mohammad Golam Mostafa, said, "After receiving information that several youths from Nanikhir union were victims of an accident on their way to Italy, we tried to gather details through local representatives. However, none of the affected families have contacted us yet. A letter has been sent to the Gopalganj deputy commissioner's office to take necessary action."



Enamul Sheikh

'A lifelong fighter for women's rights and dignity'

Speakers honour Sufia Kamal's legacy on her 26th death anniversary



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent poet Sufia Kamal played a pioneering role in building a non-communal and discrimination-free society by overcoming countless challenges in establishing women's rights, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The event was jointly organised by Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) and Sanjher Maya Trust on the latter's premises in the city's Dhamondi, marking the 26th death anniversary of the founding president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Sultana Kamal, founder of MSF and daughter of the poet, said Sufia Kamal reflected deeply on society, worked for social movements, and devoted herself to creating a culture of collective participation.

"Her principle was to build life through one's own merit, maintaining moral strength in personal, familial, social and state spheres, and never bowing to greed," said Sultana Kamal, also president of Sanjher Maya Trust.

"She valued people, and the depth of her love for people was unparalleled. Her compassion set her apart from everyone else. Her vision was to build a meaningful, humane society through collective strength," she added.

Fauzia Moslem, president of Mahila Parishad, attended the event as the keynote speaker, while MSF's Chief Executive Md Saidur Rahman welcomed the guests.

The event was conducted by Zinat Ara Haque, executive member of Sanjher Maya Trust, said a press release.

Among others, Khushi Kabir, chairperson of Association for Land Reform and Development and coordinator of Nijera Kori, and Aroma Dutta, executive director of PRIP Trust, shared memories of the poet.

The poet's poems were recited by Ashraful Alam.



Without any safety gear on, two workers paint the outer railing of the Dapdapia Bridge over the Kirtankhola river in Barishal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## DoE team attacked during drive against illegal kilns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A team of Department of Environment officials and law enforcers came under attack yesterday while conducting an operation against illegal brick kilns in the hilly areas of Paglir Aga, Yangcha and Chakaria under Faftong union in Lama upazila, Bandarban.

The attack took place around 1:00pm in the Pahartali area along the Chakaria-Manikpur road.

Md Nuruddin, inspector of the DoE, said the team was carrying out regular drives against illegal brick kilns when they were suddenly attacked.

"Seven BGB and police members were injured, and six of our vehicles, including those of the executive magistrate, police, BGB and the DoE, were vandalised," he said.

The special drive was led by Executive Magistrate Rezuan Ul Islam from the DoE's central office and included Major Hafiz, deputy commander of Alikadam Army Zone; Rubayet Ahmed, Lama Assistant Commissioner (Land); Tofazzal Hossain, OC of Lama Police Station; along with personnel from the army, police, BGB, fire service, and DoE.

Rubayet Ahmed said such drives will continue in line with the High Court's directives.

## Employment Notice



Are you a dynamic, results-driven professional with a passion for excellence and a desire to take on new challenges? If so, then the following position is for you:

## Head of Customer Experience & Logistics

As the Head of Customer Experience & Logistics, the individual would be responsible for delivering world-class service to the customers and cost-efficient supply chain solutions for the company. This strategic role demands expertise in integrating supply chain, planning, and key processes like O2C, AR, and MDM to drive superior performance.

- Strategic Transformation** - Oversee the transformation across Supply Chain operations with greater focus on integrating digitization within the current ecosystem.
- Deliver Best-in-Class Logistics** - Optimize cost-to-serve, manage service providers, and implement multi-year capacity plans to support growth and peak demands.
- Drive Customer Experience** - Champion a customer-first mindset, manage order processing, and ensure accurate master data for seamless operations.
- Execute Optimization & Digital Initiatives** - Lead logistics transformation projects, accelerate automation, and enable data-driven decision-making.
- Manage Distribution & Planning** - Oversee distribution requirement planning and customer order cycles to enhance efficiency and service levels.
- Monitor Performance & Quality** - Track logistics KPIs, minimize damages and shortages, and ensure flawless execution of promotions and pricing changes.

### The ideal candidate should have:

- Education** - Degree in Logistics, Supply Chain, Engineering, or related field.
- Experience** - 15+ years in supply chain operations with proven leadership of large teams.
- Project & Change Management** - Strong track record in complex projects and digital transformation.
- Technical Expertise** - Knowledge of SAP, WMS, and transportation market dynamics.
- Customer Focus** - Experience in managing customer relationships and driving service excellence.

The job offers a competitive remuneration and benefit package. The position is intended to be filled up at the earliest.

If you think you are the right fit for this role, then please forward your resume mentioning the position in subject of the email to [humanresources.ulb@unilever.com](mailto:humanresources.ulb@unilever.com) or send your resume to **Talent Partner, Unilever Bangladesh Limited**, Shanta Forum, 11th Floor, 187-188/B, Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sarak, Dhaka-1208 by 24th November 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

## Request for Quotation: Software Solutions for Payroll, Recruitment and Procurement

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 191 Branches, 107 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking potential vendor(s) for **Software Solutions to support Payroll, Recruitment and Procurement**.

Item Categories	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time	Technical Submission Date & Time
Payroll Software	27/11/2025; 11 AM	07/12/2025; 6 PM
Recruitment Software	30/11/2025; 11 AM	14/12/2025; 6 PM
Procurement Software	27/11/2025; 12 PM	14/12/2025; 6 PM

All pre-bid meetings will be conducted via Zoom. The meeting link will be provided in the Instruction to Bidder (ITB) section of the respective RFQ.

A Technical Request for Quotation (RFQ) is hereby issued for this purpose. The RFQ, along with details of the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website: <https://bracbank.com/en/page/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their technical offers as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) outlined in the bidding process.



গৃহীত অধিকার

# NEWS

## Four burnt in Gazipur gas cylinder blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people were injured in a fire caused by a gas cylinder explosion at a workshop in Kaliakair, Gazipur, on Wednesday night.

The injured persons have been identified as the workshop owner, Motaleb Hossain, 40, workers Ali Hossain, 28, Shamim Hossain, 25, and Shafiqur Rahman, 35.

Three of the injured were rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while one received initial treatment at a local hospital.

Kaliakair Fire Service Station Officer Iftekhar Raihan said locals managed to bring the fire under control before the firefighting units arrived.

## Bhutan PM

FROM PAGE 3  
minister will call on the president and the chief adviser, senior government officials and members of the business community.

He will also interact with the Bhutanese community residing in Bangladesh.

The Bhutanese Foreign Ministry said the visit is expected to further consolidate the longstanding ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and create new avenues for partnership and collaboration.

Tobgay is expected to depart Dhaka on Monday.

## Armed Forces

FROM PAGE 3  
The chief adviser will host a reception and meet the family members of the Bir Shresthas and other gallantry award-winning freedom fighters at the Army Multipurpose Complex.

He will distribute peace awards to armed forces personnel.

Programmes have also been arranged at all army garrisons, naval ships and establishments and air force bases throughout the country.

PRAYER TIMING	
NOVEMBER 21	
Fazr Juma	Asr
AZAN 5-05	12-30 3-45
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15 4-00
5-21	7-00
5-24	7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

A scene from "Sultana Swopno", a Bangla adaptation of Begum Rokeya's iconic short story "Sultana's Dream", which imagines "Ladyland", a utopian society built on gender equality. IUB Theatre staged the play, its 24th production, at the Independent University, Bangladesh auditorium on Wednesday. The adaptation and direction were by Shopnil Sohel.



A farmer harvests ripe Aman paddy and carries it home from his field. With the Bangla month of Agrahayan beginning, farmers are cutting and preparing Aman paddy for threshing. It will later be winnowed and dried before going to market. The photo was taken yesterday in Barta village of Uzirpur upazila in Barishal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## E-waste mismanagement puts Khulna at risk

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Khulna city's poor handling of electronic waste has become a serious threat to public health and the environment.

E-waste, unlike organic waste, does not decompose naturally and often contains hazardous substances that can harm both ecosystems and human health. The city generates around five tonnes of such waste every day, from discarded televisions, refrigerators, computers, laptops, washing machines, microwave ovens, electric toys, CD and DVD players, air conditioners, cameras, mobile phones and CFL lights.

Yet Khulna City Corporation has no full-fledged e-waste management system and has long struggled to cope with this mounting challenge.

Expired batteries from around 25,000 battery-run rickshaws and 45,000 battery-run easy-bikes add to the burden by producing more toxic waste.

KCC data show the city produces 1,200 to 1,400 tonnes



of waste daily. Of this, 800 to 950 tonnes are collected and dumped at designated sites, while the remaining 400 to 500 tonnes are left unmanaged, often clogging drains and canals or piling up in open spaces.

Among this daily waste, about five tonnes are e-waste.

Some of it ends up at dumping sites where hazardous components can leach into the environment. E-waste was also found scattered in the open

scrap markets in Noyabati Sheikhpura, Bastuhar, Gallamary and Rupsha.

"I burn wires to take out the copper, and throw out the rest. In doing so over the years, I've developed rashes in my hands," he said.

Dr SM Farid Uz Zaman, former assistant professor at the Psychiatry Department of Khulna Medical College Hospital, said e-waste contains toxic substances including lead, cadmium and mercury.

"Lead exposure can severely impact the nervous systems of newborns and children, while mercury can damage the brain and reduce cognitive functions. The health risks are exacerbated for those handling e-waste without proper protective gear," he said.

Sadhan Chandra Swarnokar, assistant professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences of Khulna University, said toxic materials from e-waste can enter the environment through various channels, harming soil and water quality and threatening flora and fauna.

Contacted, Kohinur Jahan, executive magistrate and chief conservancy officer of KCC, said a Tk 52.70 crore project is under way under the Local Government Engineering Department.

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2025  
AGRAHAYAN 6, 1432 BS  
The Daily Star 5

## JOWARI IN COX'S BAZAR 5 years on, bridge still unfinished

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

An unfinished bridge over the nine-kilometre Jowari Canal has left nearly 50,000 residents of Varuakhalii union in Cox's Bazar Sadar struggling to cross the area for almost five years.

Their only alternative is a 36 kilometre detour through Ramu, which takes around two hours and requires two to three vehicle changes.

"Many residents often fall victim to robberies at Ramu's Rashidnagar point at night," said Fazlul Haque, ward 9 member of Varuakhalii union.

According to the Local Government Engineering Department, the 392-metre Varuakhalii-Khurushkul bridge got Ecnec approval in 2017 and construction began in 2020.

After two rounds of tender invitations, Toma Construction and MA Zaher Ltd (JV) secured the contract.



LGED signed an agreement with the contractors on January 12, 2020, to build the bridge at a cost of Tk 36.28 crore. Construction was scheduled to be completed in January 2023.

Md Saiduzzaman Sadek, executive engineer of LGED in Cox's Bazar, said the contractor -- former Cumilla 5 MP MA Zaher -- has been untraceable since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024.

He said land acquisition is also pending, further slowing progress. He said eight spans on both ends of the bridge have been added, but the span work in the middle has yet to begin.

"The contractor has four to five labourers stationed, preventing LGED from legally cancelling the contract," he added.

## PHQ seeks list

FROM PAGE 3

management, good ACRs and no political affiliation are also being considered.

CID chief Md Sibgat Ullah said they had been asked to send names of highly skilled inspectors.

"The inspectors who demonstrate professionalism, have a strong job history,

are capable in public management, and aspire to get the posts are being selected for the list," he said.

In July, PHQ issued another directive requiring scrutiny from inspector to DIG level, examining whether officers had political alignment and reviewing their roles in the last three national elections.

Meanwhile, about 15,000 officers, mostly constables, have been recruited, raising the total number of personnel to 1.93 lakh. Around 146,000 members were deployed in the 2024 election and 140,000 in the 2018 polls.

metropolitan police units, and 24 railway police stations. PCs play a key role in maintaining law and order during elections.

Restoring public confidence remains a major challenge for the police, whose morale was affected by the mass uprising that toppled the Awami League government.

The force also faces longstanding allegations of partisan roles and ballot stuffing in the past three parliamentary elections. Over 200 officers who held commanding positions in those polls have been made OSD or sent into forced retirement over the past year, according to the home ministry database.

Meanwhile, about 15,000 officers, mostly constables, have been recruited, raising the total number of personnel to 1.93 lakh. Around 146,000 members were deployed in the 2024 election and 140,000 in the 2018 polls.



A scene from "Sultana Swopno", a Bangla adaptation of Begum Rokeya's iconic short story "Sultana's Dream", which imagines "Ladyland", a utopian society built on gender equality. IUB Theatre staged the play, its 24th production, at the Independent University, Bangladesh auditorium on Wednesday. The adaptation and direction were by Shopnil Sohel.

Engineering Office University of Chittagong Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh Phone: PABX-02334460788 (extn-4231) E-mail: ce.engroff@cu.ac.bd		
Ref No: e-GP-36/CUCE-40/2025-26	Date: 20.11.2025	
<b>e-Tender Notice</b>		
<p>This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted on the National e-GP Portal System (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>) and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tenders, please register on the e-GP system portal. E-Tender has been invited on E-GP system portal by Office of Chief Engineer, University of Chittagong, Chittagong for procurement of following.</p>		
SL. No.	e-Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description
01	ID- 1162789, CE-e-GP(OTM)-150/CUCE-2713/ OBR-NRB/2025-26	150/CUCE-2713/ OBR-NRB/2025-26 Construction Works for 03 (Three) Storied Transport Complex at University of Chittagong.
02	ID- 1162791, CE-e-GP(OTM)-152/CUCE-2717/ OBR-RM/2025-26	152/CUCE-2717/ OBR-RM/2025-26 Construction Works for 03 (Three) Storied Teachers Association and Lounge Building at University of Chittagong.
03	ID- 1179660, CE-e-GP(OTM)-158/CUCE-2718/ OBR-RM/2025-26	158/CUCE-2718/ OBR-RM/2025-26 Renovation and Beautification works for old Arts & Humanities Faculty Building and Library Road frontage at the University of Chittagong.

e-Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP system portal for purpose. The fees for downloading e-tender documents from the National e-GP system portal should be deposited online through any registered bank. The e-tenders will be accepted on the e-GP system portal within the specified date and time. Accepted tenders will be opened as per the date and time displayed online.

More information and guidance is available at the National e-GP Portal System and the e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Engr. Abdul Ahad  
Chief Engineer (I/C)  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong, Bangladesh.

20.11.2025

Trump signs bill to release Epstein files

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday ordering the Justice Department to release documents from its long-running investigation into sex offender Jeffrey Epstein — files eagerly sought by both his political opponents and members of his own base who have pressed for greater transparency in the case.

The material could shed more light on the activities of Epstein, who socialized with Trump and other notable figures before his 2008 conviction on charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution.

The scandal has been a thorn in Trump's side for months, partly because he amplified conspiracy theories about Epstein to his own supporters.

Many Trump voters believe his administration covered up Epstein's ties to powerful figures and obscured details surrounding his death, which was ruled a suicide, in a Manhattan jail in 2019.

## Draft law seeks death penalty for trafficking

FROM PAGE 1  
The draft also includes punishment for kidnapping, theft and detention with the intent of trafficking.

Kidnapping or holding a person captive for exploitation, including sexual exploitation, carries a sentence of five to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment with a minimum fine of Tk 20,000.

It is even stricter for the theft of a newborn from any healthcare centre or parental custody with trafficking intent, which is punishable by a minimum of five years up to life imprisonment, in addition to a Tk 50,000 fine.

The ordinance stipulates penalties for facilitating sexual exploitation. Using force, fraud or enticement to import, internally transfer, send abroad, buy or sell any female for sex work or other forms of sexual exploitation carries a sentence of three to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a minimum fine of Tk 50,000.

It also penalises operating a brothel or facilitating its use, with three to five years of rigorous imprisonment and a Tk 20,000 fine.

### SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

The draft ordinance brings smuggling of migrants (SOM) under its scope for the first time. It defines migrant smuggling through two scenarios involving the intentional procurement of illegal entry for direct or indirect

gain.

The first involves the illegal entry of a foreign national into Bangladesh or another country where they are not a citizen or permanent resident. The second involves the illegal entry of a Bangladeshi citizen into a country where they are not a citizen or permanent resident.

For the offence of migrant smuggling, intentional or attempted, the draft ordinance sets penalties of three to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment, along with a mandatory minimum fine of Tk 1 lakh.

Harsher punishments apply if the act endangers the life or safety of the smuggled migrant or if the offence is committed by an organised criminal group.

If the crime results in the victim's death, grievous injury, a life-threatening disease or cruel or inhuman treatment, the punishment is a minimum of five years' imprisonment up to life, in addition to a Tk 1 lakh fine.

If an organised group commits the crime, each member would receive the same punishment, the

ordinance says.

Welcoming the new ordinance, Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, said Bangladeshis are now among the top nationalities travelling to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

Contacted by The Daily Star, he said, "Many Bangladeshis try to reach Italy through Libya, where traffickers detain and torture them in camps for money. These incidents constitute smuggling of migrants."

However, this issue was not addressed in the existing Human Trafficking Act 2012. "As a result, traffickers often escape punishment, denying victims justice. Including SOM in the new law is therefore a positive step."

Shariful also stressed the need for implementation, saying, "A law has little impact if it stays on paper. We need sustained awareness campaigns, especially in communities where people take such dangerous risks."

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

# Europeans push back at US peace plan

REUTERS, Brussels

two cabinet ministers on Wednesday over the scandal.

A US Army delegation, led by Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and the Army's Chief of Staff Randy George, was in Kyiv and expected to meet Zelensky late yesterday.

Russia has been pounding Ukrainian cities and infrastructure with nightly bombardments, killing civilians and causing power cuts as winter sets in. Authorities said 22 people were still missing and 26 dead from airstrikes that destroyed an apartment block early on Wednesday, one of the worst attacks in months.

European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels were careful not to comment in too much detail about a US peace plan that has not fully been made public. But they made clear they would push back against demands for punishing concessions from Kyiv.



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Sirajganj.

Tel: 02588831039, Fax No:02588830242

Email:eeshid@rhd.gov.bd/erhsirajganj@gmail.com

### Invitation for e-Tendering

Invitation Reference No.	Memo No: 35.01.8800.471.07.001.24-2462 Date: 20/11/2025		
Tender ID & No	Work description	Publication Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1181494, e-GP/06/EE/SDR/2025-2026	Supplying of 1st class Bricks, Stone Chips, Gunny Bags, Local Sand, Fire Wood, Road Marking Paint and Thinner at the Stack Yard of Ullapara Road Sub-Division under Sirajganj Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	20 Nov - 2025 16.00 Hrs	01 Dec-2025 14:00 Hrs

This is an online tender where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches for 01.12.2025 Up to 13:30 Hrs. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (+8809609112233, +880176265528-31)

  
(Md. Imran Farhan Sumel)  
Identity No-602280  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Sirajganj.

GD-2515

## Matiul Islam

FROM PAGE 1  
completed his master's in public administration from Harvard University.

Appointed as the finance secretary of newly independent Bangladesh on January 15, 1972, he was handed the formidable task of rebuilding a shattered financial system and implementing the nationalisation of the banking sector.

"He was an outstanding civil servant, a man who left a mark in every institution he touched — be it the banking industry, the civil service, or international cooperation," said Md Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, reflecting on Matiul.

"He was made finance secretary with a view to reviving the economy from its shattered state. And he worked immensely hard to achieve that."

He later served as the secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Planning. He was also the chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh.

One of Matiul's early accomplishments was building relationships with global financial institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

He served as alternate executive director at the World Bank, head of the UNIDO/World Bank Cooperative Programme in Vienna, and UNIDO country director in India.

He was pivotal in consolidating 12 fragmented banks into six nationalised banks, ensuring professional management and shielding them from political interference. "Bangladesh will survive if banks survive" became his guiding philosophy.

His contributions also expanded to the private sector.

Matiul helped launch and lead several key institutions, including AB Bank Ltd (formerly Arab Bangladesh Bank), International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd, National Housing Finance & Investment, the Industrial

and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) PLC, and the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB).

Matiul was also admired for his refined cultural sensibilities. "He was a man of very high cultural standing. He studied music under a maestro and was a singer of modern Bangla songs," Farashuddin recalled.

In recognition of his contributions, he was honoured with numerous awards, including the HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Award in 2010 and the DHL-The Daily Star Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, who worked closely with Matiul, described him as more than a colleague: "He was my mentor."

He said, "During my time in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, I learned so much from him -- lessons that guided me throughout my career."

Syeduzzaman recalled Matiul's role during a time of crisis. "Rebuilding the economy wasn't a one-man job, but his contribution was crucial. His presence in the financial sector was a rare strength."

Matiul authored "Memories of a Civil Servant Turned Banker", a memoir chronicling his journey through Bangladesh's formative years. Their close working relationship also finds mention in the book that Syeduzzaman notes is an accurate testament to Matiul's legacy.

Despite working within teams led by figures like Tajuddin Ahmad, Matiul stood out for his clarity of thought and relentless discipline. "He didn't work alone," Syeduzzaman said, "but the way he applied his intellect made a lasting difference."

In a statement, Matiul's family said, "He will always remain in our hearts for the love he gave, the wisdom he shared, and the quiet but profound impact he made on everyone around him."

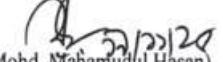
### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP portal for the following procurement of goods:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Name of Tender	Tender documents last selling/ downloading Date & Time	Tender closing & opening Date & Time
01	1170870	Procurement of Conferencing System (With Camera & Smart Display) for Board Room of Petrobangla	08-Dec-2025 12:00	08-Dec-2025 14:00

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 guideline are available in the National e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
(Mohd. Mahamudul Hasan)  
Manager (Purchase)  
Addl. Charge  
Petrobangla, Dhaka.

GD-2510

## লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা

লালমনিরহাট  
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ  
(পৃষ্ঠা/যাত্রিক/বিদ্যুত শাখা)  
[ps.lalmonirhat.gov.bd](http://ps.lalmonirhat.gov.bd)

Memo No-LAL/PAURA/ENG/2025/607

Date: 20-11-2025

### e-Tender Notice: 01/2025-2026(OTM)

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

Sl. No	T.ID No	Name of Scheme	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
01	1175620	RDNPP/LALM/23/ST-01,ST-02,ST-03, (ST-01: Part-A): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Lalmirhat Rail Station to Mission More. (Ch.00-1000m), (35 Nos Pole), Ward No-03, (ST-02: Part-B): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mission More to Circuit House. (Ch.00-800m), (28 Nos Pole), Ward No-03, (ST-03: Part-C): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mission More via Sadar Hospital to Paura End Point,Ch. (00-100m), (168 Nos Pole) at Ward No-03, 05, 06, Under Lalmirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00
1175622		RDNPP/LALM/23/ST-04,ST-05,ST-06, (ST-04: Part-A): Construction & Installation of Street Light from BDR Gate to Saka More via Sayed More. (Ch. 02-1100m), (71 Nos Pole), Ward No-04, (ST-05: Part-B): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Chandi Bazar to Abashan Road, (Ch. 00-1000m), (35 Nos Pole), Ward No-07, (ST-06: Part-C): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Thana More to Thana Para via Uttar-Mazhipara Mondir Road, (Ch.00-2000m). (70 Nos Pole), Ward No-08, 09, Under Lalmirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00
1175625		RDNPP/LALM/23/ST-07,ST-08,ST-09,ST-12, (ST-07: Part-A): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mazhipara Mondir to Moni Master House. (Ch. 00-1000m). (35 Nos Pole), Ward No-09, (ST-08: Part-B): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Narsia Madrasa More to Putlimon Dola Road, (Ch. 00-1400m), (48 Nos Pole), Ward No-05, (ST-09: Part-C): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Kulghat Road Ex-Mayor Chatol to House of Nur Islam. (Ch. 00-1100m). (38 Nos Pole), Ward No-06, (ST-12: Part-D): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Rangpur Road Sena Mohtr Hokers Market to Zelkhana Via Chadi Bazar, (Ch. 00-2100m), (71 Nos Pole), Ward No-03, Under Lalmirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00
1175628		RDNPP/LALM/23/ST-10,ST-11,ST-18, (ST-10: Part-A): Construction & Installation of Street Light from BDR Road Taher Market to Sation Road Public Library and House of Dulu to Agriculture Department More. (Ch. 00-600m). (21 Nos Pole), Ward No-02, (ST-11: Part-B): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Patgram Road DN Bangle to Adarsa Colony, (Ch. 00-700m), (25 Nos Pole), Ward No-01, (ST-18: Part-C): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Zila Parishad More to Saka Road Via Mission more. (Ch.00-4800m), (162 Nos Pole) . Ward No-01 & 04, Under Lalmirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00
1175627		RDNPP/LALM/24/DR-18, Construction of RCC Drain from Banavasa to Mohir Moar Via Patgram Rail Line Culvert, (Ch.00-1350.00m) (Cross Drain-1No.) in Ward No- 1&4 Under Lalmirhat Paurashava, Distric: Lalmirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00

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

## AFGHAN BORDER Army kills 30 militants in Pakistan Says they belonged to Pak Taliban

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan security forces killed 30 militants in two targeted operations near the Afghan frontier, the army said yesterday, a week after a suicide bombing killed 12 people in Islamabad.

The militants belonged to the Pakistani Taliban or its affiliated groups, the military said in a statement, accusing archrival India of backing them.

The raids took place in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a flashpoint for cross-border militancy that has worsened since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021.

"Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the statement added.

Islamabad has



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, yesterday. Inset, a displaced Palestinian man holds the body of his child, Salem, killed in Israeli strikes, at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

## Israeli strikes on Gaza a 'dangerous escalation'

Qatar warns after 31 Palestinians killed in 2 days, says fragile truce at risk

AGENCIES

routinely accused Kabul of harbouring militant groups, particularly the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), that stage deadly attacks in Pakistan.

Pakistan has also stepped up rhetoric against India in recent months, which it claims backs militant groups.

Both neighbours deny any involvement. The raids come after a suicide bombing outside a court in Islamabad killed 12 people and wounded dozens last week, which Pakistan said was planned from Afghanistan.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

» Doha calls for concerted efforts to preserve ceasefire deal  
» Israel, Hamas accuse each other of violating truce

defence agency, which operates under Hamas authority.

Israel and Hamas have accused each other of violating the ceasefire.

A source at Gaza's Hamas run interior ministry, who did not wish to be identified, said artillery fire was continuing in the Khan Yunis area, reports AFP.

"These ongoing crimes represent a blatant disregard by the occupation for the ceasefire agreement," Hamas said in a statement.

Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel said

he believes the ceasefire in Gaza "is holding", telling reporters that there would be violations, but that Trump's plan, which was endorsed by the UN Security Council this week, had more support than any plan in the past. "It won't be easy," he told reporters at a meeting of European foreign ministers in Brussels.

Meanwhile, US Senator Cory Booker and Representative Dan Goldman have called on President Donald Trump to pressure Israel to prevent settler violence in the occupied West Bank and hold perpetrators accountable.

In a letter sent Wednesday night, the Democratic lawmakers said such violence occurs "on a near daily basis" yet perpetrators are rarely held accountable, reports Al Jazeera online.

Israeli forces also carried out a mass arrest campaign in Hebron governorate for a second straight day yesterday, rounding up dozens of people in a local stadium.

## INDO-PAK CONFLICT

## China ran campaign to discredit French fighter: US panel

REUTERS, New Delhi

China ran a disinformation campaign to hurt sales of the French Rafale fighter jet after India used the planes in May for the first time against Chinese weapons deployed by its neighbour Pakistan, a bipartisan US commission said this month in a report that the Chinese rejected as false information.

The report by the US China Economic and Security Review Commission was published on Tuesday and followed the signing of a letter of intent by Ukraine to obtain up to 100 Rafale fighters made by Dassault Aviation over the next 10 years.

More than half a dozen countries have bought the Rafale, whose reputation took a hit this year when Pakistan's Chinese-made J-10 fighter shot down at least one Rafale used by India during a four-day conflict between the nuclear armed neighbours.

China used fake social media accounts to share AI-generated images as well as video game images of supposed debris of aircraft that Chinese weaponry had destroyed, the commission said in a report to US Congress.

"The report issued by the committee itself is false," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in response to a Reuters request for comment.

## Trump to meet Mamdani at White House today

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said he will host New York's mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani for a meeting today, after fiercely attacking the 34-year-old self-described Democratic Socialist during his recent campaign.

Trump, while repeating his false claim that Mamdani is a "communist," said on his Truth Social platform that the meeting "will take place at the Oval Office on Friday, November 21st."

Mamdani's spokesperson Dora Pekic confirmed the meeting in a statement. "As is customary for an incoming mayoral administration, the Mayor-elect plans to meet with the President in Washington to discuss public safety, economic security..." Pekic said Wednesday.

## IAEA demands Iran open up bombed nuke sites

AFP, Vienna

The International Atomic Energy Agency board yesterday passed a resolution demanding that Iran provide "full and prompt" cooperation including access to sensitive nuclear sites, but Tehran immediately rejected the measure.

Long-simmering tensions with the UN nuclear watchdog flared anew after Israeli and US strikes on Iranian sites in June. UN inspectors have not had access to any of the damaged complex.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi renewed a call for Tehran to let inspectors into the key nuclear sites and the agency's governing board passed a resolution proposed by the US, UK, France and Germany by 19 votes to three with 12 abstentions.



People wade through floodwaters past submerged vehicles in Nha Trang, in Vietnam's coastal Khanh Hoa province, yesterday. Authorities said at least 16 people were killed.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tunisians protest against crackdown on press freedom

AFP, Tunis

Dozens of Tunisians including journalists yesterday protested to denounce attacks on press freedom, with some describing the crackdown on media as "unprecedented" since the country's 2011 revolution.

Demonstrators slammed recent legal and administrative restrictions, including the temporary shutdown of two independent news outlets and the jailing of journalists.

"Tunisian journalism is at its worst since the 2011 revolution," said Mahdi Jlassi, a journalist and former head of the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), which called for the demonstration.

"Today we're seeing unprecedented repression of freedom of the press and expression," he told AFP.

"Innocent journalists are jailed in unjust trials, stripped of their rights and punished for doing their job."

Independent media outlets Inkyfada and Nawaat were recently among about 20 NGOs that were handed administrative suspensions over accusations including receiving suspicious funds.

"Injustice in this country is becoming widespread, and it is our duty as journalists to be able to shed light on that without fear," said Zied Dabbar, the current head of the SNJT.

**রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি**  
RUPALI BANK PLC

ধানমন্ডি কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা

শাখা স্থানান্তর

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর ধানমন্ডি কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা  
আগামী ২৩/১১/২০২৫ তারিখে রোজ রবিবার হতে নতুন ঠিকানায়  
ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করবে।

পুরাতন ঠিকানা

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
ধানমন্ডি কর্পোরেট শাখা  
বাড়ি নং-৪০/২, রোড: ১৪/এ,  
ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা।

নতুন ঠিকানা

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
ধানমন্ডি কর্পোরেট শাখা  
নিজাম শাকের প্লাজা, হোল্ডিংস ৭২ (পুরাতন),  
৭২ (নতুন), সড়ক নং: ২৫ (পুরাতন),  
১৪/এ (নতুন), সড়কের নাম: পুরাতন-১৯,  
সাত মাসজিদ রোড, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা।

সমানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের ব্যাংকিং

সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

GD-2508

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212  
স্মারক নং- ২৭, ২১, ০০০, ৮৮৯, ০৭, ০০৭, ২৫, ৮০৫  
Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd  
তারিখ: ১৯/১১/২০২৫

**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাওয়ার শিল্পের জিএমডি, সিলেট দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1162200	27.21.000.449.07 .007.25.789; Date: 15.10.2025	Deadline Checking Work of Various Transmission Lines under GMD, Power Grid, Sylhet.	04-Dec-2025 at 13:00

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

মোহাম্মদ মিশন্টির রহমান  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, সিলেট

**INVITATION OF TENDER**  
161 FIELD WORKSHOP COMPANY  
SYLHET CANTONMENT

1. Financial year 2025-2026 sealed quotations are invited from bona fide reputed and enlisted (Headquarters 17 Infantry Division) firms of Bangladesh Army who all are renewed (2025-2026) of local repair of Vehicle/Equipment as below:

Ser	Tender no.	Description of work	Date of selling tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
a.	Tender No- 2025-2026/18 Dt: 12/11/2025	BA No-088130 Trk Utility Cargo 2.5-ton Renault D13 HIGH PAX4.240E3 Necessary Spare parts/ Equipment (as per schedule)	According to PPR 2008 rule 61 (4) the schedule will be sold up to 14 days from the date of publication of the newspaper.	Tenders will be opened on the 15 <sup>th</sup> day of the schedule sale.

2. The terms & conditions with technical specification are available in Technical Store office of 161 Field Workshop Company, Sylhet Cantonment during office time. 2% earnest money of the total tendered amount have to be deposited in the form of Bank draft/Pay order along with the tender in favour of Acting Officer Commanding, 161 Field Workshop Company, Sylhet Cantonment. Interested firm has to purchase tender schedule from Technical Store Office of 161 Field Workshop Company upto 1400 hours in every working day till last date of selling as mentioned in Column 4. On the opening date (mentioned in column 5) at 1230 hours tender box will be opened in presence of intending bidders or their representatives (if any).

3. Participating firms must have past experience in doing the similar nature of work and experience certificate to be attached in tender.

4. If any vehicle/equipment shows any malfunction in the current financial year, the supplying firm will be bound to repair it again without demanding any financial support.

5. The package price offered by the firm participating in the tender will be the considered as lowest bidder.

6. Authority reserves all the rights to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/৭৭৫  
GD-2517

Acting Officer Commanding  
161 Field Workshop Company  
Sylhet Cantonment



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

বাণী



রাষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

## ARMED FORCES DAY 2025

### Special Supplement

#### Armed Forces in the Liberation War

সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস-২০২৫ উপলক্ষ্যে আমি বাংলাদেশ সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আতরিক ভেঙ্গে ও অভিনন্দন। এই দিনে আমি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আত্মোৎসর্গকারী সাতজন বীররোষ্টিসহ সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সকল বীর শহিদদের শৃঙ্খল প্রতি গভীর শুভ্রা জানাই।

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর বীরত্বাব্যা জাতিক ইতিহাসে এক গৌরবেজ্ঞল অধ্যয়। ১৯৭১ সালের ২১ নভেম্বর পাকিস্তানি সদস্যদের বাহিনীর বিকেন্দ্রে আমাদেশ সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সমিলিত পাঁচটা আক্রমণ চূড়ান্ত বিজয়কে ত্বরান্বিত করে। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর এই সমিলিত লড়াই দেশের সাৰ্বভৌমত্বের ওপর যে কোনো আক্রমণ এক্ষণ্ডভাবে প্রতিরোধে আমাদেশ সাহস ও প্রেরণা যোগায়।

সশস্ত্র বাহিনী আমাদেশ গর্ব ও আছার প্রতীক। বাহিনীতা ও সাৰ্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষার পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন দুর্বিগ্র ও জাতীয় সকেট মোকাবিলা এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী উত্তোলিত্যে দুর্মিকা রেখে চলেছে। ২০২৪ সালের ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যাস পরবর্তী সময়ে সারা দেশে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষণাত্মক দুর্বিগ্র মোকাবিলা সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর কার্যক্রম জনগণের প্রশংসন অর্জন করেছে। এছাড়া, জাতিসংঘ শান্তিরক্ষ মিশনে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অংশগ্রহণ আন্তর্জাতিক পরিসরে দেশের মর্যাদা বৃক্ষ করেছে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ সর্বদা রাষ্ট্র ও নেতৃত্বের প্রতি পরিপূর্ণ অবগত থেকে কর্তৃত অনুশীলন ও দেশপ্রেমের সমরয়ে নিজেদেশ পৌরুষ সমূহত রাখবেন।

আমি সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর উত্তোলন সমূক্তি এবং বাহিনীসমূহের সকল সদস্য ও তাদেশ পরিবারবর্ণের অব্যাহত সুখ, শান্তি ও সমৃদ্ধি কামনা করছি।

মোঃ সাহাবুল্লিম

রাষ্ট্রপতি ও সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সর্বাধিনায়ক



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

MESSAGE

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF  
Bangladesh Army

21<sup>st</sup> November is a significant day in the history of Bangladesh Armed Forces, resplendent in the glory of unity and sacrifice. On this day in 1971, the valiant members of our Army, Navy and Air Force along with the Freedom Fighters of Bangladesh launched a combined offensive against the Pakistani occupation forces from land, sea and air which accelerated the final victory on 16 December 1971. On this great day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all members of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

Bangladesh achieved sovereignty, an independent map and a national flag by sacrificing millions of invaluable lives. The Armed Forces Day reminds us of those inspiring stories of selfless sacrifices, and revives the esprit-de-corps among the members of three services. On this special day, I pay homage to our greatest heroes who made supreme sacrifices for our independence. My special tribute to the valiant members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who laid down their lives during and after the Liberation War for the cause of our dear motherland. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls, and convey my heartfelt gratitude and empathy to the members of all the bereaved families.

The Armed Forces is a symbol of unity, strength and pride of our nation. Besides, the primary role of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, particularly Bangladesh Army are performing a wide variety of responsibilities including maintaining peace and stability in Chattogram Hill Tracts, national development activities, disaster management and assisting distressed people. Members of Bangladesh Army are deployed under 'In Aid to Civil Power' to maintain overall law and order in the country and are performing their duties with utmost professionalism. On this auspicious day, I like to thank the people of Bangladesh for keeping their trust on Bangladesh Army, and extending full support during all national development and disaster management activities. I like to mention with pleasure that our Armed Forces could earn the trust and respect of people beyond our borders.

Our Armed Forces personnel are also risking their lives every day to promote and sustain peace and stability in distant lands. Through our sincerity, dedication, relentless efforts and sheer professionalism, we have achieved our position as one of the top troops contributing countries in the United Nations which is a great accomplishment for all of us. Necessary steps are taken to modernize our Armed Force in order to achieve self-reliance utilizing our own manpower and indigenous technology. In the future, this efficient and active Bangladesh Army will continue to work dedicatedly with the firm conviction to play a more effective role as a symbol of the nation's trust, Insh'Allah.

On this auspicious day, I convey my heartfelt gratitude and felicitations to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who bear the indomitable spirit of our Liberation War in their hearts. I also extend my thanks and gratitude to all who have worked at different levels for publishing the special supplement to national dailies to mark the Armed Forces Day-2025. I solicit the divine blessings for the continued progress and prosperity of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

May Allah bless us all.

WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN  
General



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

MESSAGE

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF  
Bangladesh Navy

The 21<sup>st</sup> November is an important reminder of the unwavering courage, unity, and sacrifice of our Armed Forces members, whose relentless commitment rendered our aspiration for independence into a reality. On this day in 1971, the combined assault of Army, Navy and Air Force, in conjunction with the resolute spirit of our people, accelerated the defeat of occupying forces. This action ultimately resulted in enemy's surrender and the establishment of a sovereign and independent Bangladesh.

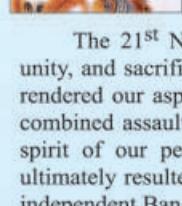
As we observe the 'Armed Forces Day 2025', I pay my deepest homage to our brave martyrs and freedom fighters, whose ultimate sacrifices have enabled us to stand as an independent nation. I also pay my solemn tribute to Bir Sreshtho Shaheed Ruhul Amin, along with all the valiant martyrs of the Armed Forces, whose patriotism and devotion will continue to inspire future generations. I extend my deepest condolences to the injured freedom fighters and the families of the martyrs of our Liberation War.

Bangladesh Navy is dedicated to the protection of nation's sovereignty, preservation of territorial integrity, and upholding the maritime interests. In response to the evolving needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our three-dimensional navy is consistently modernizing, integrating state-of-the-art equipment such as drones, helicopters, UAVs and warships, while striving for self-reliance. With the introduction of indigenous ships and craft, advanced surveillance, communication technologies and naval systems, BN has earned recognition as a professional navy in the region.

Apart from its core duties, Bangladesh Navy also plays a critical role in ensuring a stable law and order situation in designated areas and coastal regions to support civil administration. Navy also safeguards marine resources, combats smuggling and human trafficking, prevents illegal fishing activities and thereby contributes to the national economy. Furthermore, Chittagong Dry Dock Limited has established exceptional standards of professionalism, in the management of port operations at the New Mooring Container Terminal in Chittagong Port. Navy has also made significant contributions to disaster relief and humanitarian efforts, both domestically and internationally, by assisting affected communities. It recently dispatched immediate assistance to Myanmar in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake. Moreover, by participating in the United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh Navy consistently maintains extraordinary service standards, thereby enhancing country's international image in supporting global peace and stability.

On this solemn occasion, I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces. The courage and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel in securing our freedom will endure as a lasting symbol of inspiration. I also commend the efforts of the Armed Forces Division in publishing this special supplement, which underscores the significance and relevance of this day. I am confident that all members of the Armed Forces will pursue the commitment to serve our nation, guided by the spirit of 21<sup>st</sup> November. May Almighty Allah (SWT) bestow His divine blessings upon all of us.

M NAZMUL HASSAN  
Admiral



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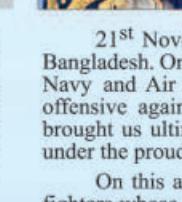
CHIEF OF AIR STAFF  
Bangladesh Air Force



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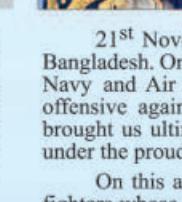
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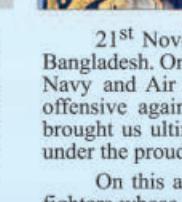
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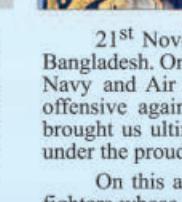
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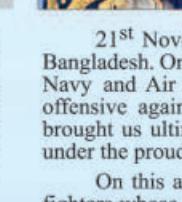
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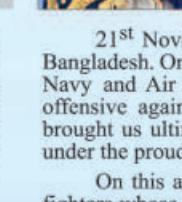
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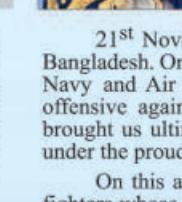
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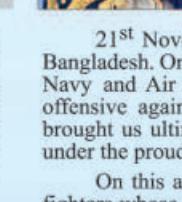
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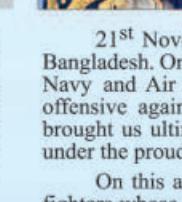
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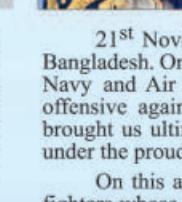
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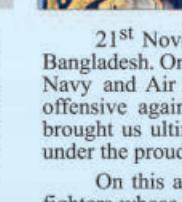
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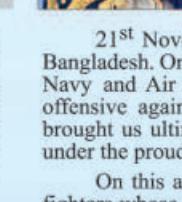
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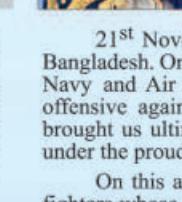
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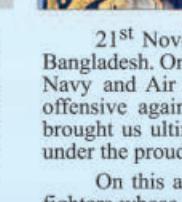
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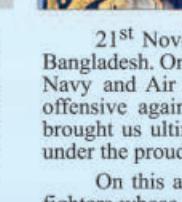
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MESSAGE

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF  
Bangladesh Air Force



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ



## Everliving sons of the soil, you will remain in our memory in bounty



Shaheed Captain  
Mohiuddin Jahangir  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy  
Hamidur Rahman  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy  
Mostafa Kamal  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Engine Room Artificer  
Md. Ruhul Amin  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Flight Lieutenant  
Matiur Rahman  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Lance Naik  
Munshi Abdur Rouf  
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Lance Naik  
Nur Mohammad Sheikh  
Bir Sreshtho

### BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES-DEDICATED TO THE COUNTRY

#### Bangladesh Armed Forces is Ever Ready to Safeguard the Sovereignty

**ARMY:** 'In war and peace, we are everywhere for the country' - this motto underscores the paramount duty of Bangladesh Army for safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. Soon after the independence construction of new infrastructures, training and modernization of Bangladesh Army were started despite the limitations. As part of this, various Arms, Services and more than 100 units have been established in the Army. Besides, new cantonments have been established at Bogura, Savar, Mirpur, Mymensingh, Dighinala, Ruma and Alikadam. As part of the expansion of Bangladesh Army, 17 Infantry Divisions in Sylhet, 10 Infantry Divisions in Ramu, 98 Composite Brigade in Tangail and 7 Infantry Divisions in Lebukhali, Barisal have been established. To supervise the construction and security of Padma Bridge 99 Composite Brigade has been established. In addition, Special Works Organization, National Defence College, Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT), Bangladesh Infantry Regimental Centre (BIRC), various Arms/Services Centers and Schools and Para Commando Brigade have been formed. With the aim of building a modern and advanced Army, this force has been equipped with modern weapons and equipment. With the passage of time, Bangladesh Army, today, has become a well-disciplined, efficient, experienced and exemplary force which is always ready to face any external enemy and protect the country's sovereignty and geographical integrity.

**NAVY:** Guided by the motto 'In war and peace invincible at sea' - Bangladesh Navy remains steadfast in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation and its vast maritime domain. To protect these maritime interests and ensure regional security, initiatives were undertaken after independence to build a modern, capable, and formidable naval force. Over the years, the Navy has expanded steadily, incorporating advanced warships such as Frigates, Corvettes, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Helicopters, and Submarines. A highly trained and daring special force, SWADS has been formed with naval commandos and divers. Today, Bangladesh Navy stands proudly as a respected, professional, three-dimensional Maritime Force recognized across the world. To modernize training and enhance technological proficiency, the Navy reorganized the Navy Training and Doctrine Command (NATDOC) and established the Bangladesh Navy Dockyard Technical Institute. Moreover, the Navy's own shipyards and Dry Docks are now building and repairing vessels using domestic expertise. The patrol craft BNS BISHKHALI, constructed at Khulna Shipyard, along with three Diving Boats - GANGCHIL, PANKOURI, and MASRANGA - has recently been inducted into the naval fleet. The establishment of the Centre for Naval Research and Development (CNRD) is playing a key role in technological advancement and indigenous innovation. Every sailor of the Bangladesh Navy remains resolute in defending the sovereignty of the nation and protecting its vast 118,813 square kilometers of maritime territory.

**AIR FORCE:** Bangladesh Air Force holding the glorious motto 'Free shall we keep the sky of Bangladesh' is always ready and dedicated to protect the country's airspace with great vigilance and responsibility. Immediately after independence, supersonic fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and air Defence radars were added in the inventory, which strengthened the foundation of a modern and well-organized Air Force. In a very short time, this force has built a strong Defence structure through reorganization, infrastructural development, modernization of the training system and reformation of manpower. As part of the continuous development activities, sophisticated fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and air defence radar system have been added. In addition, the capabilities of this force has been increased manifold by adding various military technologies including modern radars, advanced air Defence systems, and advanced simulators to create an impenetrable Defence zone in the airspace of our country. Bangladesh Air Force has successfully built a basic trainer aircraft for the first time using its own technical knowledge and manpower, which is a unique example of technological self-reliance. All members of Bangladesh Air Force, inspired by the spirit of relentless hard work, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism, are firmly determined to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country through the proper use of modern fighter aircraft, helicopters and military equipment.

#### Bangladesh Armed Forces in Nation-Building and Development Activities

**ARMY:** Bangladesh Army has consistently played a highly efficient and successful role in responding to any form of national disaster. During natural calamities, Army conducts emergency evacuations, rescue operations, distribution of food and relief materials, medical assistance, housing support, and provides other essential humanitarian services. Bangladesh Army also ensures comprehensive security and cooperation for the people living in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. As part of these efforts, Army has been engaged in the seizure of illegal arms, ammunition, narcotics, and contraband items; organizing free medical camps and distributing medicines; providing sewing machines to underprivileged women; offering financial assistance for medical treatment; distributing solar panels and housing materials to distressed families; and supplying food to destitute children alongside providing critical assistance during various emergencies. Under the "In Aid to Civil Power," Bangladesh Army continues to play a leading role across the country in maintaining law and order; recovering illegal weapons, ammunition, and narcotics; rescuing flood victims; distributing relief and medical support; and ensuring the safety of the lives and property of citizens as well as safeguarding critical state infrastructure. During the July uprising, Bangladesh Army ensured the treatment and essential medical support of injured fighters of July 13 at the Combined Military Hospitals. By providing emergency care, surgeries and rehabilitation services, Bangladesh Army set a remarkable example of humanitarian assistance.

Bangladesh Army operates cadet colleges, cantonment public schools and colleges, cantonment English medium institutions, and cantonment board schools and colleges across the country. For higher education, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) and the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) offer graduate and postgraduate opportunities. Moreover, Army has established 12 specialized educational institutions under the name "Proyash" for children with special needs. To ensure optimal power generation and distribution, Bangladesh Army has been deployed to supervise several key national power plants. Army has also played a pivotal role in implementing nationwide projects such as the preparation of the photo-enlisted voter list and National Identity Cards as well as the Machine-Readable Passport (MRP) and e-Passport programs. Bangladesh Army ensured security for the Padma Bridge and played a central role in implementing the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project. It is also responsible for the physical protection and overall security of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Furthermore, the construction of the ongoing Border Road Project under Army supervision is expected to revolutionize communication infrastructure in the hill districts. Alongside serving the nation at home, Bangladesh Army has extended humanitarian contributions abroad. Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025, a 55-member rescue and medical team led by Bangladeshi Army was deployed. Bangladesh's contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions have earned global respect. As one of the largest troop-contributing countries, Bangladesh continues to play a prominent and vital role in UN peace operations.

**NAVY:** Bangladesh Navy is actively engaged in the protection and sustainable extraction of marine resources, securing the maritime boundary, providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, contributing to national and socio-economic development, and participating in peacekeeping missions at the international level. In recognition of its significant contribution to the conservation and enhancement of fish resources, through various operations Bangladesh Navy was awarded the 'National Fisheries Award' on 18 August 2025. Furthermore, the establishment of a maritime university under the supervision of the Navy is contributing to the development of skilled human resources in the maritime sector and economic advancement. Naval shipyards engaged in the construction and repair of warships and commercial vessels are generating substantial revenue for the state treasury. By ensuring the security of seaports—the gateways of the national economy—Bangladesh Navy supports smooth and uninterrupted movement of domestic and international commercial vessels, thereby accelerating import and export activities. Additionally, by taking responsibility for operating the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port, the Navy has enhanced cargo handling efficiency and yard capacity, playing an active role in strengthening the country's economic progress. To support the rehabilitation of families affected by floods, the Navy has constructed 85 newly built houses, distributed essential materials to damaged institutions, repaired embankments, and built walkways and bridges, thereby ensuring safe, normal living conditions. Through infrastructure development and the construction of planned housing for displaced Myanmarese nationals in Bhashanchar, Bangladesh Navy has helped to ensure safe, organized, and dignified living conditions for them. This humanitarian initiative has greatly enhanced Bangladesh's diplomatic standing and international reputation.

Under the mandate of 'In Aid to Civil Power', Bangladesh Navy plays an effective and continuous role in supporting the civil administration, particularly in coastal and assigned areas. Alongside national development activities, Bangladesh Navy plays a highly significant role in maintaining diplomatic relations with neighboring and friendly countries. In continuation of this commitment, the BNS SANGRAM is currently deployed in Lebanon under UNIFIL for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Additionally, naval contingents and personnel are serving under UNMISS in South Sudan, as well as in other peacekeeping missions around the world. To foster mutual cooperation and strengthen relations with friendly nations, the Navy regularly participates in Navy to Navy Staff Talks, Defence Dialogues, and joint international

## Special Supplement

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exercises such as LIMA, AMAN, MILAN, CARAT, CORPAT, BANGASAGOR and PASSEX. Beyond national borders, Bangladesh Navy has also carried out several humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the Philippines, Maldives, Sri-Lanka, and Myanmar. Whether in war or peace, the Bangladesh Navy remains steadfast in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation's vast maritime domain.

**AIR FORCE:** Bangladesh Air Force plays a significant and praiseworthy role in disaster management. Recently, in the sudden and severe floods that occurred in different regions of Cumilla, Chattogram, Feni and Noakhali, the fearless members of Bangladesh Air Force have professionally and humanely carried out various humanitarian and relief activities including rescue operations for helpless people trapped in the floods, urgent search, medical camping, emergency medical assistance and distribution of relief & emergency medicines through airdropping by helicopters. They have always played a vital role in saving the lives of affected people by risking their own lives and facing danger fearlessly. Bangladesh Air Force is entrusted for 02 important sectors out of 09 sectors of Dhaka city in the post-earthquake rescue work. This force regularly provides all-round support to the country's civil administration in firefighting and rescue work. The specially trained members of this force play an important role in protecting lives and property with the utmost professionalism and efficiency in firefighting. Recently, Bangladesh Air Force members played an active role in extinguishing the terrible fire that broke out at Unity Accessories Limited in Chattogram EPZ, Zant Accessories Factory in Karnaphuli EPZ, and in rescuing those trapped in the fire, and when a terrible fire broke out at Mohakhal Eureka Enterprise Filling Station in Dhaka. In addition, when a humanitarian disaster occurred due to strong earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan, rescue teams with humanitarian aid were sent as soon as possible through a C-130J transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force. Recently, Bangladesh National Football Team, which was stranded under unstable conditions in Nepal, was brought back home by transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force. Besides, Air Force members representing Bangladesh in various UN missions have brought an enviable achievement of glory and praise for the country and the nation. A total of 40,000 students study in 07 BAF Shaheen Colleges, 01 BAF Shaheen English Medium College and 02 secondary schools run by Air Force and achieve successful results in the SSC and HSC examinations every year. It has also played an important role in the expansion of education in the country by establishing 'Golden Eagle Nursery' and 'Blue Sky School' with modern facilities for special needs children. In line with modern science, the Aviation and Aerospace University Bangladesh has been established with the aim of rapidly advancing space research in Air Force and civil aviation. For a long time, Bangladesh Air Force has been actively providing assistance to Bangladesh Army and BGB, other law enforcement agencies and civil administration through helicopters to maintain peace and harmony in the remote mountainous areas of the Chattogram Hill Tracts. Recently, Bangladeshi Air Force has been efficiently performing the security responsibilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and other important airports to ensure uninterrupted security under the 'In Aid to Civil Power'.



### IMPORTANCE OF ARMY COMMANDO COURSE IN BANGLADESH ARMY

Captain Abdullah Al Nayim, Infantry

In Bangladesh Army anyone doing Army Commando Course is lucky to have basic Para trooping training beside commando training. So, the commando is a strong man with good physical and mental strength who is ever ready to take any challenge without any hesitation for nation at any time. Hardship is something most of the time people do not want to take it voluntarily. May be that is the reason why punishment, rewards and incentives came in army as part of command style. Initially announced rewards and incentives push an individual to take risks, later on his inner instinct of courage or fear comes in action. Those who are capable, they continue on risky and hard job like commando training. Those who are not capable they become eliminated. So, for a normal soldier, announced rewards and incentives make him signed in for the Army Commando Course and rest is done by course itself by helping him to understand his mind and knowing his limit of capacity. At present soldiers coming for Army Commando Course are also motivated by some motivating factors. These motivating factors vary from person to person. Whatever may be their motivating factor, at the end all of them are same in quality, fearlessness, robustness and determination after passing through six months of commando training under Special Warfare Wing, School of Infantry & Tactics. UN mission is a big welfare for Bangladeshi soldiers. A soldier needs to wait long 9 to 10 years or more time to be selected for an UN mission. Where as commando soldier gets this welfare within very short time of the completion of Army Commando Course. Beside early mission, there are commando NCOs and JCOs who went for three times mission in his service as a commando. Army Commando Course qualified and recommended soldiers can go for different foreign course to learn advance level. It is also a rare chance for a soldier to know about other country and widen their knowledge. Anything decorative in uniform bears a significant meaning and pride for the individual who puts it on. Brevet is one of the decorations of military uniform and among all golden wing of Army, Commando Course is a beautiful one. Commandos take pride of this brevet and try their best to uphold its honour. Those who are posted in Para Commando Battalion can put on 'Cheetah' in their uniform. Para Commando Battalion is the Battalion of the commandos. So, this decoration can also be achieved by doing Army Commando Course only.

In Bangladesh Army, four advance courses are run by Special Warfare Wing in School of Infantry & Tactics. Those are Jump Master, Rigger, Path Finder and Free Fall course. The letter 'M' represents Jump Master, 'R' represents Rigger 'P' represents Path Finder and these letters are encrypted beneath the wing once anyone completes an advance course. These letters beneath anyone's wing offers him respect for his qualifications. There are soldiers who joined army with a hope of getting chance to do adventurous and exciting things in army. But after recruitment, many of them get involved in regular unit activities. After few days they discover that there is nothing exciting, adventurous or heroic to do. So, to fulfill their dream they want to join Army Commando Course. In the organogram of Para Commando Battalion, there is a company named Counter Terrorism Company. Anyone loves to serve country like this in heroic way, needs to be a commando first. A paratrooper jumps from thousands feet of height and see the earth like a flying bird. Anyone doing Army Commando Course can have that scope which a normal soldier does not get. A student of Army Commando Course participates in three speed march; 30, 40 and 50 kilometer speed march. This is very challenging for a soldier to complete with his personal weapon and heavy weight at the back within limited time. None can test his endurance by doing this but a student of Army Commando Course. Many people watch survival activities of Bear Grylls on Discovery channel and think of adventure in living that life. Army Commando Course students are also left in the jungle on operational purpose for seven days without any food. They need to survive there on ground following survival techniques and hunger makes every student Bear Grylls.

Beside above mentioned events, a student of Army Commando Course undergoes many more exciting events like 20 kilometer run, Cross Country run, Adventure Run, Running through the Hilly Jungle, Ridge Line March, Battle Obstacle Crossing, Fast Roping and Heli-Rappelling from helicopter, Confidence Building Circuit, Artificial Rock Climbing, Jungle Lane Shooting, Reflex Action Shooting etc. There are soldiers who want to take all these challenges in their military life and they join Army Commando Course. No one is born as commando, paratrooper or a pilot. Everywhere it needs courage and determination. Still, people can do all these things once he discovers himself. Before someone discovers his ability or limit of capacity, this is where motivation comes in action and leads him to take challenges as a pilot, paratrooper or a commando. Whatever may be one's motivating factors of doing Army Commando Course, it can only give him entry in the course, does not make him a commando. To become a commando, he has to possess the quality of a real commando who will not hesitate to undergo any difficult situation and perform effectively. Interest of getting rewards or incentives is not a fault but interest for only rewards and incentives without valuing one's need in time is a fault.



### SIGNIFICANCE OF ARMED FORCES DAY AND INSPIRATION FOR CREDIBLE ARMED FORCES OF BANGLADESH

Lieutenant Commander Sadman Sakib Aikyo, (X), BN

Armed Forces Day is celebrated in Bangladesh on 21<sup>st</sup> November every year. This date holds immense historical and emotional significance as it commemorates the first unified military action by Army, Navy and Air Force against Pakistani occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War. This coordinated joint offensive marked a decisive moment in Bangladesh's journey to independence.

The day is a solemn reminder of the valour, unity and strategic brilliance demonstrated by our Armed Forces. Commemorative events are held across military installations and public venues throughout the country, showcasing Bangladesh's military legacy.

Additionally, Defence Attachés stationed in foreign missions organize events to represent Bangladesh's military history and strengthen diplomatic relations. Beyond celebration, Armed Forces Day serves to reinforce national pride and collective memory, inspiring both the military and civilians to uphold the values of patriotism, service and sacrifice that defined the Liberation War which was triggered by Operation Searchlight—a brutal crackdown by Pakistani forces on 25 March 1971.

Under the leadership of Colonel M. A. G. Osmani, the Bangladesh Forces formally began organizing in April 1971. Guerrilla warfare dominated the early months, as freedom fighters used hit-and-run tactics to destabilize the enemy. By September, with Indian support, the Armed Forces were reorganized into structured units including three brigade-sized formations and sector commands.

The joint operation on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1971 was a game-changing moment. All three services launched a synchronized attack on Pakistani positions. Air Force achieved air superiority, providing cover for ground troops. Navy's missile boats executed daring raids on Karachi, crippling the enemy's naval capacity. Army executed heliborne assaults at Sylhet and para-dropped troops at Tangail to cut off enemy reinforcements. These actions significantly weakened Pakistani morale, disrupted their command infrastructure and accelerated the liberation process. On 16 December 1971, Pakistani Army surrendered, marking the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation. The observance of Armed Forces Day has multi-dimensional significance. It is an occasion to honour the immense sacrifice of the military and civilian martyrs who laid down their lives during the Liberation War. The event revives national consciousness, fostering unity among different branches of the military and between the Armed Forces and civilians. It reminds the nation of the importance of a strong, disciplined and professional Armed Forces to safeguard sovereignty. Public displays, parades and exhibitions allow civilians to engage directly with service members, enhancing trust and transparency. Schools, colleges and universities host awareness programs that inform young citizens about the significance of the Armed Forces and the history of 1971. This day also provides an opportunity for introspection and strategic planning. Military leadership uses this occasion to renew their commitment to professional development, modernization, and ethical conduct. These reflections are vital in maintaining operational readiness and aligning the military with national development goals.

It is essential that all ranks from soldiers to senior officers, remain grounded in the ethical foundations of military service. The courage and discipline of the martyrs should inspire present-day service members to maintain integrity, honour and loyalty to the constitution. Programs commemorating the martyrs' contributions strengthen this resolve and encourage a culture of respect and sacrifice. Modern warfare has evolved to include cyber threats, psychological operations, and hybrid tactics. Armed Forces must adapt to these challenges without compromising on core values. Training in advanced technologies, intelligence analysis and inter-agency collaboration should be pursued aggressively. Leadership must foster a culture of accountability, inclusivity and mental resilience. Regular mentoring, performance reviews and moral education will help nurture a confident and ethically sound force. It is also crucial to engage the families of service members as they are an integral part of the military community. Civil-military cooperation is another critical area. Armed Forces personnel routinely assist in disaster relief operations, infrastructure development and vaccination drives. Such roles require empathy, cultural sensitivity and a people-first approach. Participation in these activities not only builds credibility but also strengthens national unity. Every personnel must understand that their duty extends beyond combat. It includes upholding human dignity, supporting democratic institutions and contributing to peace both nationally and globally. This holistic view of service is what makes an Armed Force credible and admired. Armed Forces Day stands as a lasting tribute to the bravery, unity and sacrifice that led to the birth of Bangladesh. It reflects the transformative journey of our Armed Forces from guerrilla fighters to a modern, respected military force committed to peace and development. By commemorating this day, we not only remember history but also chart a path for the future. The Armed Forces must continue to evolve, embracing modern tools and ethical frameworks while staying true to their foundational values. Armed Forces must remain a symbol of hope, unity, and resilience. With the spirit of 1971 as their guiding light, they will continue to serve the nation with distinction, ensuring Bangladesh's journey toward a prosperous and peaceful future.

### AIR POWER: ROLE OF BANGLADESH AIR FORCE AND NEED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Air Commodore Abul Fazal Muhammad Atiquzzaman, BSP, GUP, ndc, psc, GD(P)



Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) is a key component of military force in ensuring national defence, sovereignty and effective humanitarian operations. Since its birth during the War of Liberation in 1971, BAF has transformed from a tiny unit with minimal resources into a modern air force equipped to serve strategic defence, support aid to civil power during national crises and contribute significantly to global peacekeeping efforts. Moving forward, BAF's modernisation and the need for additional air assets are vital to meeting future national and international obligations. The primary role of BAF is to secure Bangladesh's airspace through air defence, tactical operations and aerial reconnaissance. These roles ensure deterrence against external threats and offer rapid response capabilities during emergencies. Secondary roles have grown in significance over the decades, including participation in humanitarian relief, disaster response, search and rescue operations, and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions. These multifaceted roles demand continuous modernisation and resource augmentation. Operation Kilo Flight, December 3, 1971, was a turning point in Bangladesh's liberation war narrative. A few brave Bengali conducted this operation with makeshift aircraft and limited resources. This operation targeted enemy forces fuel depots in Chattogram and Narayanganj, severely disrupting enemy logistics. It symbolized the inception of BAF's operational role. It demonstrated the tactical ingenuity and determination of the newly emerging air force. Operation Kilo Flight became a beacon of national pride and resilience, inspiring future military leadership and doctrine.

BAF's capability to rapidly deploy across the country has branded it as a firsthand responder during any natural disasters and emergencies. BAF is frequently called upon to airlift relief materials, evacuate injured civilians, and conduct aerial reconnaissance. BAF uses its air assets to inspect affected areas, estimate requirements, evacuate casualties, and help with relief efforts during Cyclone Amphan. BAF has provided assistance in post-disaster recovery, including restoring infrastructure, medical aid and logistical support. After Cyclone Amphan, more than 100 people were sent to places like Satkhira to help the community. BAF has also conducted relief operations beyond national boundaries. Some important things that have been done are helping people in India after an earthquake (2001), Pakistan after an earthquake (2005), Sri Lanka and the Maldives after a tsunami (2005). In collaboration with the Armed Forces Division, the BAF has established disaster response coordination and operation cells that work with civil agencies, military branches, and NGOs to ensure an effective approach to crisis management. BAF is globally recognised for its role in UN peacekeeping missions. BAF aviation units have been stationed in Kuwait, East Timor, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Haiti, and the Central African Republic. It is responsible for air logistical operations, aerial surveillance, CASEVAC, MEDEVAC, special air operations, moving VIPs, and helping ground soldiers. This participation not only increases Bangladesh's diplomatic presence, but it also helps the country gain operational experience and work better with other countries' forces.

To remain effective, BAF must continue its modernization drive as part of Forces Goal 2030. To establish dominance in aerial operations, there's a growing interest in acquiring advanced multi-role fighter jets such

# Theatre brought peace to my life: NAWSHABA

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

There was a time when Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed found herself facing one of the most challenging phases of her life. In the middle of that chaos, theatre entered her world — offering a rare sense of hope and peace just when she needed it most.

"Theatre isn't just close to my heart; it's a reflection of my soul. I haven't been involved in theatre for very long. I might have worked in one play before 2018, but my real journey began after that. During that turbulent period, my presence on screen became limited, and even stepping outside the house felt overwhelming," shared the actress.

**"As a nation, we're also going through a turbulent period. With everything happening around the world, the wars, the uncertainty — Siddhartha doesn't just give answers; it also raises questions. It inspires you to love your life and helps you move forward. Siddhartha is not a destination; it's a journey."**

Nawshaba is currently starring in *Siddhartha*, directed by Reza Arif and produced by the theatre troupe Aarshinagar Dhaka. Based on Hermann Hesse's acclaimed novel, the play features Nawshaba in the titular role of Siddhartha, a young Brahmin on a profound journey through wisdom, disillusionment, and ultimately, enlightenment.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nawshaba reflected on how the play has helped her rediscover inner peace during one of the most challenging periods of her life.

"When I started working on *Siddhartha*, I was going through a lot mentally," she said. "Around that time, I

created Together We Can — my own group through which I offer art therapy to people with special needs. I wanted to use art to support their mental health. Since 2018, I've directed two or three productions featuring their stories and performed in different parts of Bangladesh."

"While I was sitting and watching a rehearsal, Reza Arif sir suddenly told me to read for *Siddhartha*. I thought he meant only for the reading, but when he told me I would actually be playing Siddhartha, I became anxious. Siddhartha is traditionally a male character. When I asked him, 'Why me?', he simply replied, 'Does Siddhartha belong to any gender? What does Siddhartha mean to you?' I told him Siddhartha is a feeling. And he said, 'Feelings don't have a gender.' After that, I never doubted it again."

For Nawshaba, the play resonates far beyond her personal experience. "As a nation, we're also going through a turbulent period. With everything happening around the world, the wars, the uncertainty — Siddhartha doesn't just give answers; it also raises questions. It inspires you to love your life and helps you move forward. Siddhartha is not a destination; it's a journey."

This is the fourth edition of the play, with four shows scheduled from November 19 to 21. There will be two shows today — one at 4pm and another at 7:30pm.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



## Oscars to air all 24 awards in 2026

The Oscars will air all 24 competitive awards during the 2026 broadcast, including a new category for achievement in casting, the Academy confirmed.

The casting prize is the first new addition since the best animated feature joined the lineup in 2001.

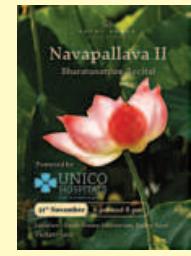
The 98th Academy Awards will take place on March 15 and air live on ABC at 7pm ET, with Conan O'Brien hosting. A shortlist of 10 films for the casting award will be selected by members of the Academy's casting directors branch.

It will follow rules similar to categories such as documentary, international film, makeup and hairstyling, and visual effects. The shortlist will be announced on December 16, and nominees will be revealed on January 22. A stunt design award is slated for 2028.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### 'Navapallava – Annual Bharatanatyam Showcase'

**Navapallava** gathers dancers across generations from Arthy Ahmed Dance Academy to trace a year of discipline and transformation. From beginners to seasoned students, the performance celebrates growth, refined technique, and evolving expression — affirming that Bharatanatyam thrives through consistency, community, and lifelong learning.



**Date:** Today | November 21, 2025

**Time:** 6pm-8pm

**Venue:** Bangladesh Girl Guides Association Headquarters, Bailey Road

# NEWS

## 15-yr-old sent to jail

FROM PAGE 16  
superintendent.

Contacted, prominent rights lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua termed the incident "objectionable" and said the boy should have been granted bail.

"It shows the judicial malpractices of the past regime are repeating, where judges appear unable to carry out their duties independently," he told The Daily Star. "Refusing bail has now become the norm in cases where the opposite should have been the norm".

Sub inspector Alamgir filed the case at Nangolkot Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act against 25 named accused, including the boy, and at least 50 unnamed activists of the banned BCL and Awami League, on charges of

holding a torch procession on Chilpara-Urkuti Road under Dhaltua Union.

The case statement says police arrested one person on the spot. They later conducted drives in different areas and arrested five more, including the eighth grader, whom the SI described as a child and BCL activist.

At the Cumilla court premises yesterday, the boy's father said that despite trying for two days, he could neither secure bail nor obtain permission for his son to sit for annual exams, which began yesterday.

He said the false charges have put his son's academic year at risk.

"My son is not involved in any political activities, and neither am I. I am a decorator [event organiser] by profession, and it requires me to supply

products to BNP, Jamaat, Awami League — any political party. That is simply the nature of my business," he said.

"On what grounds are they saying my son goes to rallies or meetings? He is not even old enough for that. If my son has done anything wrong, show me proof. I am appealing to all of you for justice."

Officer-in-charge Fazlul Haque of Nangolkot Police Station said they arrested six individuals based on specific allegations of participating in the rally by a banned organisation and sent them to court.

The head teacher of the boy's school said the annual exams began yesterday and that the father has collected a certification letter to present before the court.

of the deals?" he asked.

Former CPA Member Mohammad Zafar Alam, however, said the discussion on the Laldia terminal started ten years ago when a Canadian company was appointed as the transaction adviser.

The latest transaction adviser, the IFC, also worked for months while the CPA officials engaged in talks with APM Terminals for a long period before the deal, he said.

Such a deal involving highly technical issues cannot be done in quick time, said Alam, who believes that due negotiations has been conducted.

He, however, said the Pangaon project was not on the table earlier.

Since Pangaon ICT was a losing concern, there is no matter for concern of losing anymore, he said, adding that it is better that a global logistics operator like Medlog, a subsidiary of renowned shipping line MSC, is hoping to make it efficient.

Chattogram Port Users Forum Convener Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury also said the deal with APM Terminal was not done all on a sudden; rather, it was done after taking enough preparations.

The previous government took the initiative but progressed little, Humayun said, adding that after getting repeated requests from the Danish government the interim government expedited the process.

"Most of our concerns were addressed as a local firm has been partnered with the global operator. We earlier demanded for open tender. But, as APM Terminals, a subsidiary of global shipping giant Maersk, got the work, we welcome them."

## War of words erupts at ICT during cross-examination

FROM PAGE 16  
could challenge the witness's credibility but could not ask such questions.

Defence lawyer Mizanur shot back, "A police officer was beaten to death, and his body was hanged. Why can't I ask this question? The court has not convened here for a one-sided trial."

He added that just as the prosecution had come to court responding to a mother's plea, this matter involved the plea of Raju's widow, holding up documents from the case she filed.

At this point, Prosecutor Mizanur questioned whether the defence had permission to present such documents and whether the tribunal had received the defence witness list and submissions.

The defence counsel responded sharply, "Do you want to create

another Sukhranjan Bali? Whenever we submit a defence witness's name, threats begin."

Appearing before the tribunal over three months ago, Sukhranjan, a witness in the war crimes case against Delwar Hossain Sayeedee, alleged that he had been kidnapped from the tribunal's gate and later found himself in an Indian jail.

Prosecutor Mizanul replied that the defence lawyers "should not have come to court at all," adding that they could have requested to keep the defence witness's identity protected, but had not done so.

The tribunal then rebuked both sides, noting that "every time we start taking evidence, it turns into chaos".

Defence counsel Mizanur argued that the law requires an approver to provide a true and full disclosure of all facts within his knowledge, saying, "This matter falls within his knowledge."

The prosecutor countered that any question must be relevant to the crimes under trial.

Mizanur again asked Abzalul about the case filed by ASI Raju's widow, drawing further objections from the prosecution, who insisted that only the witness's credibility -- not unrelated matters -- could be probed.

"Then what does this relate to?" Mizanur asked, accusing the prosecution of "failing to uphold the law, relying instead on force".

Prosecutor Mizanul, visibly agitated, repeatedly shouted, "What is this?" prompting the tribunal to tell both sides to maintain decorum.

Sixteen people have been accused in the case, eight of whom are currently in custody.

## Govt moves for UAE lease amid protests

FROM PAGE 16  
the evaluation of the technical proposal was conducted on November 5. On November 6, the financial offer was assessed and negotiations began on the same day.

Negotiations between CPA and APM Terminals were completed on November 7 and November 8, which was a weekend.

A ministry official, however, said the negotiations were done on November 9. That day, the CPA board approved the proposals and sent the summary to the shipping ministry.

The following day, it was forwarded to the Ministry of Law. On November 12, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the final proposal.

The chief adviser gave final approval on November 16, and on the same day, a Letter of Award (LoA) was issued to APM Terminals for the agreement.

Usually, there is a two-week gap between the awarding of LoA and the signing of the contract. But the concession agreement for the Laldia Container Terminal was signed the following day on November 17.

After evaluating the technical and financial proposals submitted by APM, the draft concession agreement was sent to the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division for vetting.

The division later issued a set of specific opinions and recommendations, requesting that these be implemented before finalising the agreement.

The shipping ministry asked the CPA to verify several legal, financial and technical issues before finalising the concession agreement.

The Development 1 Wing of the

## Bangladesh loses \$8b annually

FROM PAGE 16  
two possible futures, contrasting what girls would have contributed to the economy had they stayed in school and entered better-paying work with what they contribute when early marriage cuts those opportunities short.

Economists calculate the gap between these two life paths in terms of earnings, health and long-term participation in the labour force.

The MICS-2025 also said that at the current rate of reduction, 4 percent per year, it would take over 64 years to eliminate child marriage in Bangladesh.

UNICEF officials yesterday said many existing child protection committees, including those on child marriage, child labour and anti-trafficking, function effectively only in areas where UNICEF and the government have jointly invested in social workers and community hubs.

"Bangladesh still has woeful levels of child marriage, with 49 percent of girls being pushed into early unions," said UNICEF Representative Rana Flowers, warning that early marriage drives a cycle of early pregnancy, malnutrition, higher neonatal deaths and rising divorce rates.

She also highlighted the country's chronically low investments in human capital: Bangladesh spends

1.7 percent of GDP on education, of which only 60 percent is utilised, and 0.7 percent on health, among the lowest globally.

UNICEF's Chief of Child Protection Natalie McCauley said major ministries remain so under-resourced that they cannot activate statutory mechanisms at the local level.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, for instance, still lacks a Department of Children Affairs, leaving significant gaps in coordination and oversight, she added.

Despite strong laws, including the Children's Act, implementation remains weak due to the absence of approved budgets and rules. "On paper, it looks strong, but in the field, it cannot be implemented without money."

UNICEF called on the government and political leaders to prioritise children in upcoming national agendas, warning that continued underinvestment will deepen losses for families and the country's economy.



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Principal  
Sylhet Polytechnic Institute, Sylhet-3100  
Website: <https://sylhet.polytech.gov.bd>  
E-mail: [principalsylhetpoly@gmail.com](mailto:principalsylhetpoly@gmail.com)



Accelerating & Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project

Memo No. 57.03.9131.304.07.007.25-33

Date: 20/11/2025

## Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for following procurement. All concerned are hereby requested to follow the corrections made for the e-Tender Notice Memo No. 57.03.9131.304.07.007.25-32, Date: 17/11/2025 as per following status.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package description	Original tender closing & opening date and time	Corrigendum tender closing & opening date and time
1167024	ASSET-SPI-25-26-GD-02	Supply of Equipment for Civil Technology	08-Dec-2025 11:30:00	10-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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Mohammed Rehan Uddin**  
Principal (Additional Charge)  
Phone: 02-9966-32529

GD-2513

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Cumilla  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.127.2025-8185

Date: 20/11/2025

## e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 18/2025-2026

(Only for Social Procurement Category under PPR 2025 Rule 80 (1) (Gha))

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender/Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/downloading date and time	Tender/proposal closing date and time	Method of tender
1	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-64	Rehabilitation of Nalghor Bazar-Nalghor High School Road from Ch.36m-290m (Road ID: 419315134) under Choudhogram Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159460	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
2	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-70	Rehabilitation (Widening) of Dhaka Ctg Highway (Protapbari Madrasha)-Bolara Primary School Road from Ch. 00m-938m (Road ID: 419315035) under Choudhogram Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159466	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-71	Rehabilitation of Shiber Bazar GC-Amratali Bazar Road via Kotashar Road from Ch. 3047m-3480m (Road ID: 419674005) under Adarsa Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159467	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
3	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-72	Rehabilitation (Uni Block) of Comilla B, Para RHD-Burichong Madrasa via Ershad Degree College Road from Ch. 00m-235m (Road ID: 419184043) under Burichong Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159468	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
4	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-73	Rehabilitation (Uni Block) of Mainamati UP Office-Kalakachha Bazar (NHW) via Zafor Bari Road from Ch. 00m-333m (Road ID: 419183017) under Burichong Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159469	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
5	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-81	Periodic Maintenance of Dulalpur-Vitikalmna Baherakalma Road from Ch.00m-3825m (Road ID: 419544001) under Honna Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1159477	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
6	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-83	Periodic Maintenance of Chaigaria Barera UPC Road from Ch.1000m-3150m (Road ID: 419273017) under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla	1159479	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM
7	LGED/GOB M/Cum/25-26/RW-95	Emergency Maintenance of Gazipur deep tube-well-Mithilapur Ferrighat Road from Ch. 1050m-1100m (Road ID: 419184010) under Burichong Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1159491	09-December 2025 16:00 BST	10-December 2025 12:30 BST	LTM

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd) and [www.lged.comilla.gov.bd](http://www.lged.comilla.gov.bd)

**Mohammed Abdul Matin**  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Cumilla  
Phone: 051-68960  
E-mail: [xen.cumilla@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.cumilla@lged.gov.bd)

GD-2518

## Replace with same memo and date

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project  
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No.: 46.02.0000.670.07.027.2025-1440

Date: 18/11/2025.

## e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 3/2025-2026

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)	Tender Closing (Time & Date)	Tender Opening (Time & Date)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	1177169 & Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project	Construction of Primary School cum Flood Shelter with Solar PV Nano Grid, Street Light, Lightening Protection & Connecting Roads, Bridge/Culvert, Furniture and Tree Plantation at Bogra District. (Package No.: LGED/RIVER/BOG/21-22/NW-06)	17.00 hrs 29-Dec-25	14.00 hrs 30-Dec-25	14.00 hrs 30-Dec-25

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for the e-GP downloading e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to 29-Dec-2025 upto 17.00 hours. The notice is also published in the [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd) & [www.riverbd.org](http://www.riverbd.org) websites.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**(Mohammad Atikul Islam)**  
Project Director  
Phone: +88-02-55006730  
Email: [pd.lged.river@gmail.com](mailto:pd.lged.river@gmail.com)

GD-2514

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)  
LGED-RDEC Bhaban (Level-05), Agargaon  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka-1207  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

RFB No: 46.02.0000.564.07.098.25- 560

Date: 20 November 2025

## Corrigendum Notice for IFB No.: ICB/2025-26/08

**Country: Bangladesh**  
**Name of the Project: Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)**  
**Contract Title: Pavement Grinder (Milling Machine)**  
**IDA Credit No. 7588-BD and 7589-BD**  
**Contract Package No. RUTDP/PMU/G-13**

The bid submission date will be January 13, 2026 instead of December 22, 2025 and Bid Opening date will be January 13, 2026 instead of December 22, 2025 due to unavoidable circumstances. The others Terms and Conditions will be remained unchanged.

(Farukh Hossain)  
Project Director  
RUTDP, LGED, Dhaka  
LGED-RDEC Bhaban (Level-05),  
Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar,  
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh  
Phone No: +8802 44826376  
Cell No: +8801717297650  
Email: [pd.rutdp@lged.gov.bd](mailto:pd.rutdp@lged.gov.bd)

GD-2519

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Barind Multipurpose Development Authority  
Head Office  
"Barind Bhaban" Rajshahi-6000

ফোন-০২৫৮৮৮২৬২৬১৯  
E-mail: [bmda@bmda.gov.bd](mailto:bmda@bmda.gov.bd)  
Website: [www.bmda.gov.bd](http://www.bmda.gov.bd)

Memo No. BMDA/HQ/Admin/PPM-334-342/2025-26/8748

Date: 20.11.2025

## e-Tender Notice (Goods)

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

Sl. No.	ID No.	Name of goods	Tender/proposal document last selling date and time	Tender/proposal document closing date and time
01	1178543	Procurement of Smart Card (with Cover) for use in pre-paid Meter.	03.12.2025 15.00	04.12.2025 15.00
02	1178567	Procurement of Smart Card Based Pre-Paid Meter, Card Reader & Mobile Vending Unit with Necessary Accessories.	07.12.2025 15.15	08.12.2025 15.15

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any CPTU registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk.

**Md. Tofazzul Ali Sarker**  
Executive Engineer  
BMDA, Rajshahi  
Phone No. 02588862691  
E-mail: [it@bmda.gov.bd](mailto:it@bmda.gov.bd)

GD-2512

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Bagerhat

Email: [ee\\_bag@eedmoe.gov.bd](mailto:ee_bag@eedmoe.gov.bd)

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## Malaysia should relax criteria for recruiters

Concerns about some conditions for agency selection are justified

The concerns raised by migration experts, industry insiders, and government officials over Malaysia's new criteria for selecting Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are quite justified. According to a report, of the 10 conditions Malaysia has set for a fresh round of labour intake, seven seem reasonable and can be fulfilled by many of our more than 2,000 licensed agencies. These include having a valid licence for five years, experience of sending workers to at least three countries, a certificate of good conduct, having no record of forced labour, trafficking, extortion, money laundering, or labour law breaches, and written employer testimonials. It is the remaining three conditions that have raised red flags, however.

Requiring an agency to have recruited at least 3,000 workers in the last five years, to operate training and assessment centres under its sole control, and to maintain a permanent office of at least 10,000 square feet for the last three years are requirements that few can meet. Not only are they impractical, but they are also unnecessary. For example, the training centre requirement is redundant as Malaysia itself doesn't mandate specific training, as per a former joint secretary of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA). This could instead inflate recruitment costs that already soared to Tk 450,000-600,000 despite a government cap of Tk 79,000 prior to the 2024 market closure.

Likewise, the large office space requirement seems unnecessary as it has no proven link to recruitment quality or workers' protection. The 3,000-worker threshold is equally unrealistic for most local recruiters considering the disruptions caused by Russia-Ukraine war, global economic downturn, long-running syndication in the Malaysian labour market, and the closure of labour channels by some key destination countries in recent years. Against this backdrop, it is perfectly reasonable that the harsh conditions have raised fresh fears of syndication, concentrating power in the hands of a few large recruiting agencies while depriving the wider sector of fair competition and workers of meaningful protection.

We simply cannot afford a repeat of the 2016-18 and 2022-24 syndicate eras when a handful of agencies, reportedly backed by influential actors in both countries, monopolised the market, drove migration costs to unbearable levels, and ultimately contributed to Malaysia halting recruitment altogether, citing widespread labour exploitations. Enforcing those new conditions would be putting "old wine in a new bottle," as a migration researcher called it while speaking with this daily. Reportedly, Malaysia had initially sought a list of compliant agencies by November 15 but extended the deadline later. So far, about 1,000 agencies applied for selection, and the expatriates' welfare ministry shortlisted roughly 500. While the ministry has requested Malaysia to review the three contentious conditions, concerns about the new criteria very much remain.

We, therefore, urge the Malaysia government to revisit and redesign the selection process in a way that ensures fairness without complicating the process unnecessarily or making it susceptible to syndication risks. Bangladesh, for its part, must also rigorously vet its own recruiters, enforce cost ceilings, and prioritise worker welfare in its negotiations. Only a fair, competitive, and accountable recruitment system can help prevent the kind of exploitations that often haunted our workers in Malaysia and some other markets.

## We must stop child labour and marriage

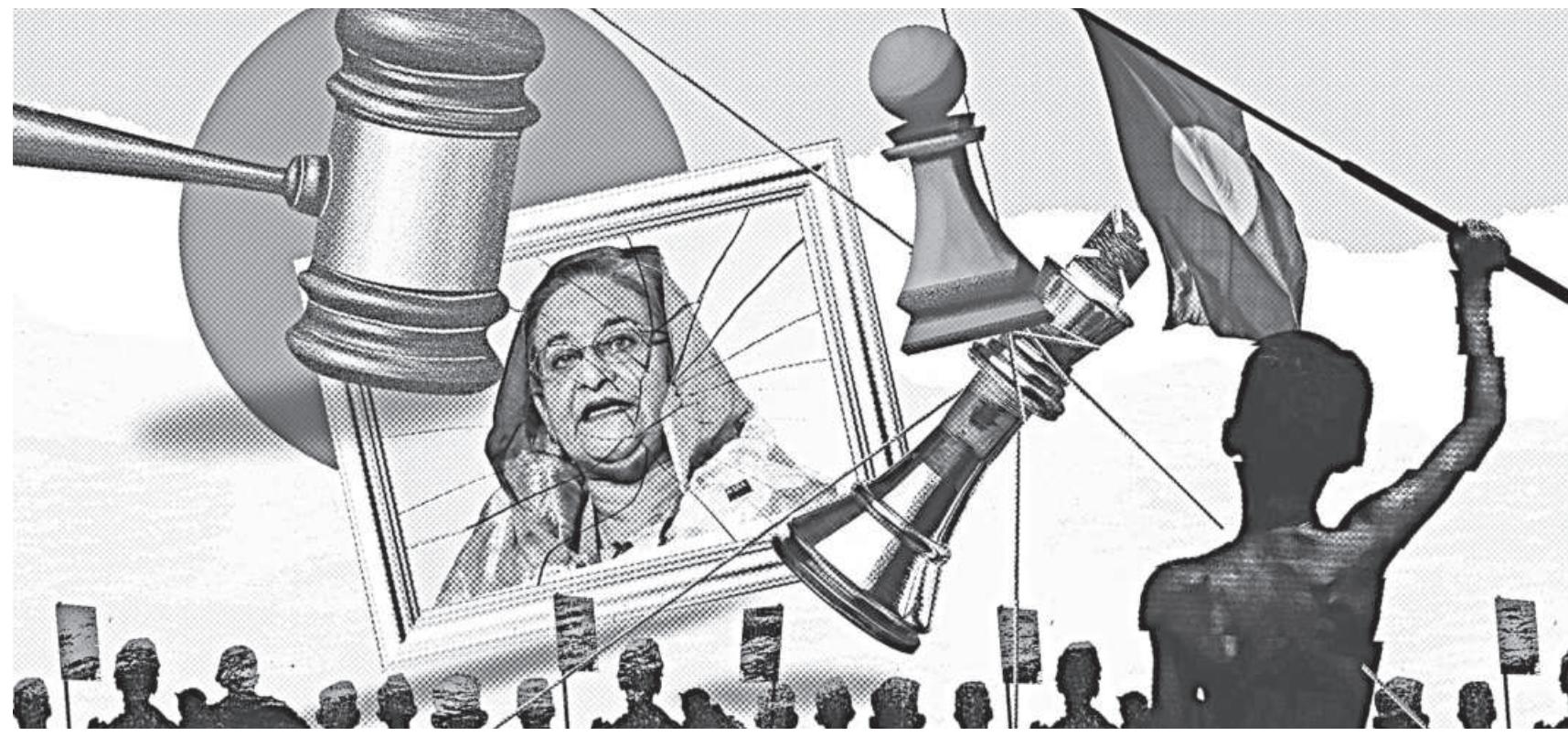
Political parties, relevant authorities must commit to end both

A recent survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, with support from Unicef, has unravelled some bleak statistics on children from low-income households. Although 84 percent of children in Bangladesh complete primary school, less than half finish secondary education. Those who drop out are either married off, especially if they are girls, or pushed into hazardous labour. The survey found that the number of recently married girls aged 15 to 19 sharply increased from 32.9 percent to 38.9 percent. Nine percent of child workers (up from 6.8 percent in 2019) are in hazardous jobs and exposed to dangerous conditions such as extreme heat, toxic chemicals and dust, heavy loads, or unsafe tools and machinery.

Children not attending school are around 2.6 times more likely to be in labour. According to the survey, northern divisions of Rajshahi and Rangpur have a higher number of child workers compared to Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet, where there is better access to education and economic opportunities. With the cost of living sharply rising and incomes not keeping pace, low-income families often depend on their children's income to run the household. In addition, education quality and teachers' inability to motivate students are also leading to drop outs. While boys are put into economic work, girls are burdened with unpaid domestic work and then married off while they are teenagers. Furthermore, gaps in contraception availability and family planning are pushing more girls into early pregnancies, often leading to health complications.

Both child labour and child marriage rob children of their childhood, their right to education and good health. The increase in numbers shows that these are crises that need to be addressed immediately. While there are laws against child labour and child marriage, they are not enforced because society has normalised both these maladies.

Experts have pointed out that unless the reality of extreme poverty of these households is addressed, it will be very difficult to combat these evils. Social safety nets must ensure that poor households can meet basic needs. The government should also raise awareness among parents regarding the need for education and the harmful consequences of child marriages. This requires all stakeholders, including political and religious leaders, to be on board to create social awareness. The education system must be redesigned so that schools are accessible and equipped with better-trained and better-paid teachers as well as innovative curricula that spark the interest of students. As political parties get ready for the next elections, they must pledge their commitment to children. They must promise to enforce the existing laws to end hazardous child labour and child marriage and ensure that every child has access to education.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

## Before Hasina lost in the court of law, she had lost in the court of the people



### THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam  
is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

#### MAHFUZ ANAM

Let legal experts discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the ICT trial and verdict. Our focus will be on the fact that Sheikh Hasina's political demise had already occurred, and the "guilty verdict" was pronounced by the people, especially the younger generation, much earlier, during the tumultuous days of July-August 2024.

The future is always unpredictable, but as of now, her reputation lies in ruins and her political career buried under a mountain of debris of self-righteous arrogance, misgovernance, and impunity. Whatever may be Awami League's narrative about the national or international conspiracy behind Sheikh Hasina's fall, the fact is that the "death sentence" by the ICT was brought on by her own cruel suppression of political dissent, abuse of the law, corruption, partisan administration, bank looting, money laundering, suppression of independent media houses and corruption of the compliant ones, and finally, the killing of 1,400 citizens including children to stay in power during the last few weeks of her rule. Over the years, enforced disappearance and extra-judicial killings became the hallmark of her regime. Yes, there were some vital infrastructural developments, increase in per capita income, and growth in many social indicators, but the credit for them was swept aside by her destruction of democracy and overwhelming dictatorial rule.

Eventually, Hasina's public acceptance totally collapsed, and hatred for her skyrocketed and the "death sentence" in the people's court was passed due to the killings on the streets, as mentioned above. What distinguishes her rule from that of many dictators and autocrats is that very few of them killed so many unarmed protesters in so short a time.

It is to Sheikh Hasina's credit that she was able to revive, reorganise, rejuvenate, and re-inspire Awami League (AL) to win elections in 1996 after 21 years out of power. Her first stint in office, especially the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (which she herself did not implement) and the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, marked a new beginning for AL. But over the years, she effectively demolished her own party as she destroyed the police, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, etc—transforming it from a political powerhouse into an apparatus of extortion, corruption, and violence, and replacing ideology with sycophancy, principles with praise for the leader, and service to the people with service to themselves. Every nomination was for sale, most promotions within the party ranks came for a bribe, and every development project was treated as their plaything. BUET student Abrar Fahad's torture and murder by Chhatra League was testimony to how the AL's student body was turned into a murderous gang.

She did not take well either of her electoral defeats in 1991 and 2001. Her view that AL could never be defeated in a free and fair election, but only through rigged ones, partly made her reject these results, inventing the term "subtle-rigging." This marked the

beginning of the arrogance and myopia that led her towards ignoring the truth and making massive blunders. A miraculous escape from a near-fatal attempt on her life in August 2004, in which 24 AL workers and leaders were killed, with no credible attempt by the then BNP government to investigate the grenade attack and punish the perpetrators, probably convinced Hasina that she would always be vulnerable as an opposition politician, and thus she may have decided never to give up power if and when she regained it. This, in our view, killed the prospect of democracy in Bangladesh.

Hasina regained power in a free and fair election in 2008, abolished the caretaker system in 2011, and then manipulated all the following elections held in 2014, 2018 and 2024. As her manipulations succeeded, she grew over-confident and felt that all her political allies were her pawns, all opponents manipulatable, and all dissenting voices easily suppressed. She became entrapped in the mindset of never admitting any mistakes, which resulted in her becoming supremely arrogant. During a meeting

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with editors in 2013, I heard her say: "In spite of so many attempts on my life, Allah has kept me alive for the purpose of carrying out His will. So, you all may write anything you like. I don't care." She felt she was divinely guided and, as such, had nothing to worry about. Thus, she plunged deeper into isolation on the one hand and became further intolerant on the other, both of which distanced her from the people and her party.

Changing the constitution to do away with the caretaker government system to oversee elections gave the first clear signal of Hasina's intention to take over the process of holding national elections. It was crystal clear that the 2014 election was openly and shamelessly manipulated. We have written before—but it deserves to be repeated—that out of 300 seats in parliament, 153 had only one contestant as others withdrew "voluntarily."

The Election Commission, therefore, declared "elected" the only contestant there was, who happened to belong to the AL. Thus, in the 2014 election, before a single vote was cast, AL gained the majority in parliament to form a government. It was the most blatant, undemocratic, and immoral tinkering with elections ever. Could that have happened without the sitting prime minister (PM) and the party chief's direct involvement?

The fact that Sheikh Hasina's government was able to get away with such electoral frauds—marking a failure on the part of the BNP to make

an effective protest—gave her and her sycophants a dangerous but ultimately illusory confidence that led them to repeat this manipulation in the 2018 and 2024 elections, thereby digging its own grave, into which it fell in July-August 2024.

The Covid pandemic during 2020-2022 isolated her from her party and the people. The day-to-day functioning of the administration became an unthinking ritual. This was followed by the ostentatious observance of Bangabandhu's birth centenary, which greatly offended the conscientious section of civil society and the public in general. It became clear that people's urgent needs had no place in the PM's mind; instead, creating an infallible personality cult was where her government placed all its attention and resources.

Hasina totally misread the national psyche, which is fundamentally averse to individual cultism. Dubious authors wrote thousands of books that the government bought at exorbitant prices, which, in fact, became a way of siphoning off public money to corrupt bureaucrats, teachers and so-called professionals, all of whom were in an undeclared competition to curry favour with the AL leadership and, of course, make some money in the process. The birth centenary celebration did not produce a single well-researched or intellectually honest account of the leader of our independence movement, but instead flooded schools, colleges, universities and all institutions linked with education

everything converged on one man. Freedom fighters still alive, and the family members of those killed during the war, felt insulted.

Just to cite another example of arrogance and lack of foresight, Hasina forced every government office, every semi-government institution, universities both public and private, NGOs, banks, airports, etc, to open what was called a "Mujib corner" to display photos and books—mostly substandard ones—on him. If instead she had set up "Muktijoddha corners"—which would have been most appropriate at that moment—and filled them with books on the Liberation War, our people in general, and the younger generation in particular, would have been far better informed about that glorious moment in our history. The truth is that Hasina's government was in power for 15 consecutive years and did virtually nothing to raise public awareness about our freedom struggle; she turned into Mujib worship that only served to create a sense of disgust and alienation.

By 2022, Hasina had reached the height of arrogance. "I know everything," "Every critic is an enemy," "Whatever I do is best for Bangladesh," and similar statements dominated the political discourse. The sycophancy reached such absurd levels that her party leaders and workers started to believe that there were no problems their leader could not solve and no challenges she could not tackle. This allowed conniving party henchmen to try to outdo one another with ever cruder assertions of the leader's infallibility, creating a bubble of absurdities in which Hasina and her courtiers lived.

Hasina and her government's handling of the students' stance against the government quota system for jobs clearly showed the dysfunctionality to which her party and her government had descended. At one stage, she suddenly declared all quotas abolished, which went against constitutional guarantees for quotas for the physically and mentally challenged and ethnic minorities. So, the higher court threw it out. Thus, the demand lingered. At this stage, she could have held a dialogue with the demonstrators and resolved it. In July 2024, things turned violent, and since July 16, killings on the streets in large numbers began. The Daily Star's reporters counted bodies in government and private hospitals. By August 1, 2024, they tallied 201 dead bodies and spoke to hundreds of families who lost their loved ones. We headlined death counts every day that we could verify.

Hasina denies that she gave orders to fire lethal weapons on demonstrators—despite a plethora of proof—but then why did she not stop it once it began occurring? Each day's newspapers showed how many were killed the day before. If she is speaking the truth about not giving orders to kill, then why didn't she issue an instant order to stop the carnage? There is no way one can believe that firing on the streets would occur day after day for several weeks, and the PM would not know. She knew, and she had given the order. So, her direct involvement—and the doctrine of "command responsibility"—brings these cruel crimes to the doorstep of the PM, who ran her government with an iron hand.

Legality aside, those who lived through those crucial days, witnessed the tragic incidents, reported on them, wrote on them, or warned and alerted the government about them, feel convinced that as the head of government, Sheikh Hasina is guilty of crimes against her own people.

# We need a new vision for shared rivers in South Asia

Professor Sk Tawfiq M Haque

is director of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University. He can be reached at [tawfiq.m.haque@northsouth.edu](mailto:tawfiq.m.haque@northsouth.edu).

Md Parvez Hasan Yousuf

is a research associate at SIPG, North South University. He can be reached at [parvez.yousuf@northsouth.edu](mailto:parvez.yousuf@northsouth.edu).SK TAWFIQUE M HAQUE and  
MD PARVEZ HASAN YOUSUF

The story of transboundary water sharing in South Asia is one of competing fears and intertwined destinies. The Yarlung Zangbo dam, the expiring Ganges treaty, the frozen Teesta deal, and the floundering Indus framework all point to a fragile regional order under hydrological stress. But Bangladesh's future need not be hostage to geography. By learning from global models like the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), strengthening its own scientific and diplomatic capacity, and treating water diplomacy as a cornerstone of national security, Bangladesh can shape a more secure, cooperative, and sustainable path forward. In the coming decade, rivers will test not only our technology but also our capacity for trust. For Bangladesh, that test has already begun.

China's construction of the world's largest hydropower project on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet has become one of the most sensitive issues in South Asia lately. This river, known as Brahmaputra in India and as Jamuna in Bangladesh, sustains the lives of hundreds of millions downstream. For Beijing, the project symbolises technological might, energy security, and national pride. But for India and Bangladesh—the two lower riparians—it evokes anxiety over ecological damage, livelihood threats, and shifting power asymmetries. The Yarlung Zangbo dam is thus more than an engineering project; it is a geopolitical flashpoint that may redefine the future of regional water diplomacy.

For Bangladesh, the concern is more existential. As a deltaic nation dependent on more than 50 transboundary rivers, its survival hinges on how upstream countries manage shared waters. Its fertile plains, fish stocks, and sediment flows rely on regular monsoon patterns and predictable river behaviour. Any upstream alterations, such as dams, diversions, or hydroelectric control, risk disrupting this balance. The Yarlung Zangbo project could alter sediment transport and change the hydrological rhythm of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin, intensifying both droughts and floods. Moreover, Tibet's high seismic activity raises concerns of dam failure that could unleash flash floods across northern Bangladesh. For a country already vulnerable to climate change, such a scenario compounds potential risk.

Bangladesh's predicament is part of a broader regional puzzle shaped by competing riparian interests, domestic politics, and the absence of a basin-wide water sharing

mechanism. The 1996 Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India was once hailed as a model of transboundary cooperation, although it has faced criticism for failing to guarantee adequate dry-season flows to Bangladesh. The treaty is set to expire in 2026, and negotiations for its renewal still remain uncertain. The interim government has reportedly urged early dialogue, but political transitions and shifting Indian

India-China rivalry, with Bangladesh caught in the middle.

Another regional context reinforces the anxieties. In early 2025, India "suspended" the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, an agreement that had endured more than six decades of hostility. That "withdrawal" signals that even long standing water accords can collapse under geopolitical strain. For Dhaka, this raises critical questions: how durable are

not without challenges, this model shows that cooperation, rather than confrontation, yields better water security for all.

Bangladesh could draw on this experience in several ways. First, it should champion a Brahmaputra Basin Cooperation Mechanism involving China, India, and Bangladesh, modelled loosely on the LMC's institutional structure. Such a platform could facilitate scientific data exchange, coordinate

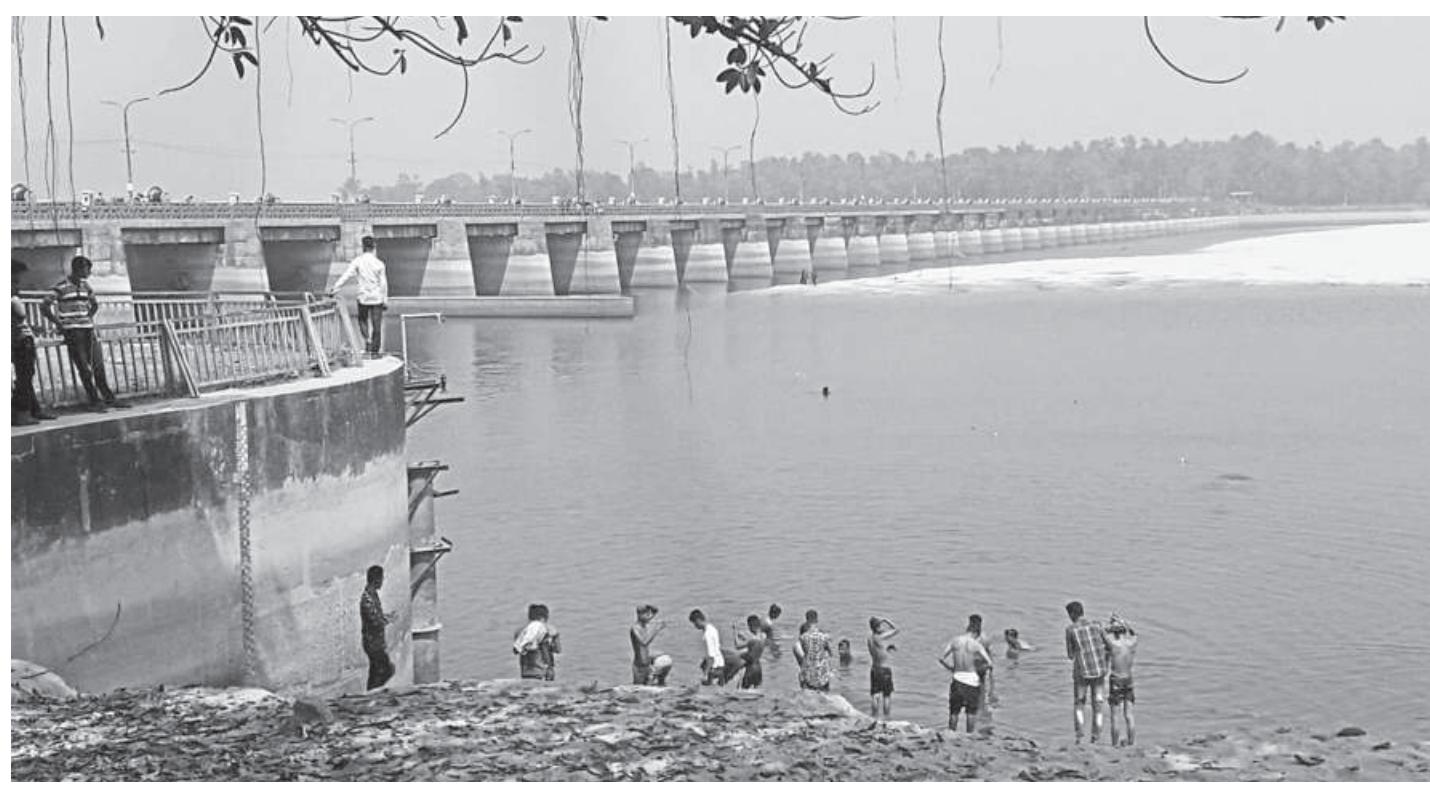
must navigate these competing narratives with caution. It should welcome international support for scientific transparency but resist becoming a pawn in global power rivalries. Its priority must remain securing water flows and resilience for its people.

The interim government has so far adopted a balanced approach, engaging with China for technical cooperation while maintaining dialogue with India over transboundary rivers. BNP and other political parties, meanwhile, criticise India's past unilateralism and call for stronger water sovereignty. Civil society and environmental advocates continue to demand accession to global water conventions and greater scientific openness. In reality, none of these actors can resolve the issue alone. Effective transboundary water management requires long-term political stability and institutional memory, both of which are often disrupted by Bangladesh's polarised politics.

As the Ganges treaty nears expiry and the Teesta project takes shape, Bangladesh's next elected government will need to prioritise water diplomacy as a central pillar of foreign policy. This includes establishing a permanent National Water Diplomacy Council to coordinate inter-ministerial actions, track regional developments, and align environmental, agricultural, and foreign policy goals. The government must also invest in hydrological research, real-time data systems, and satellite monitoring to reduce dependence on foreign information sources.

Crucially, Bangladesh should take the lead in advocating for a South Asian Transboundary Water Cooperation Charter, an umbrella framework inspired by the LMC's cooperative ethos and supported by international partners such as the World Bank and UNESCO. Such a charter could promote shared research, benefit-sharing principles, and conflict-resolution mechanisms. By linking water management with broader agendas such as energy transition, disaster preparedness, and regional connectivity, Dhaka can transform water from a zero-sum contest into a platform for collective resilience.

Climate change adds further urgency to this mission. Melting Himalayan glaciers, erratic monsoons, and rising sea levels will intensify both floods and droughts in the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins. The future of South Asia's rivers will depend not just on engineering or treaties, but on political imagination, the ability to see water as a shared lifeline rather than a tool of control. The Lancang-Mekong experience proves that even amid asymmetries, dialogue and institutional mechanisms can build trust over time. Bangladesh, positioned at the edge of the delta, must push for the same transformation within its own region.



As a deltaic nation dependent on many transboundary rivers, Bangladesh's survival hinges on how upstream countries manage shared waters.

FILE PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

priorities could delay progress. The question is not only whether the treaty will be renewed but also whether it will adapt to our changing climatic, demographic, and geopolitical realities.

The Teesta River, flowing through India's West Bengal and into northern Bangladesh, reflects another unresolved dilemma. Despite years of negotiation, India has not signed the Teesta water sharing deal due to political resistance from West Bengal. As Bangladesh's northern districts face recurring water shortages, Dhaka has turned to China for help in modernising the Teesta River Management Project. This has raised strategic eyebrows in Delhi, which views it as a sign of Dhaka's deepening alignment with Beijing. Bangladesh, however, insists it is an act of pragmatism, not politics, aimed at managing water scarcity. Nonetheless, Chinese involvement in Teesta, alongside the Yarlung Zangbo megaproject, may transform the Brahmaputra basin into a new frontier of

the existing water-sharing frameworks? What guarantees exist that upstream commitments will endure when domestic or strategic pressures mount? The Indus precedent suggests that water treaties in South Asia rest on fragile political trust rather than binding institutional mechanisms.

In contrast, China's management of the Lancang-Mekong River, which flows through six Southeast Asian nations, offers valuable lessons. Despite asymmetrical power relations, the LMC framework has established joint monitoring systems, early-warning mechanisms, and basin-level dialogues among member states. The Mekong countries have demonstrated that even with China as the dominant upstream actor, cooperative governance can mitigate tensions and generate mutual benefits. The LMC's focus on data sharing, environmental impact assessment, joint research, and benefit distribution illustrates a pragmatic path towards shared management. While

hydrological studies, and develop flood forecasting systems, all of which are essential for climate adaptation. Second, Dhaka should advocate for benefit-sharing arrangements rather than rigid volumetric divisions of water. This could involve joint hydropower development, navigation infrastructure, or ecological restoration projects that generate shared economic gains. Third, Bangladesh could promote environmental diplomacy, emphasising basin-wide ecological health and biodiversity protection as priorities that transcend borders.

Western governments have sometimes expressed concern over China's dam-building spree, citing human rights issues, environmental degradation, and risks to indigenous cultures in Tibet. While these critiques hold some merit, they are largely shaped by strategic considerations. By framing China's projects as environmental threats, Western powers seek to contain Beijing's influence in South Asia. Bangladesh

Western governments have sometimes expressed concern over China's dam-building spree, citing human rights issues, environmental degradation, and risks to indigenous cultures in Tibet. While these critiques hold some merit, they are largely shaped by strategic considerations. By framing China's projects as environmental threats, Western powers seek to contain Beijing's influence in South Asia. Bangladesh

better roads and ports and enhancing customs efficiency.

Of course, geo-economics also means politics. Bangladesh is walking a tightrope between China's Belt and Road Initiative (with plausible \$26 billion in investment) and the US-led Indo-Pacific framework. The smart move is to stay balanced, using both relationships to serve national goals. Too much tilt either way could limit autonomy. This balancing act, as Spykman would remind us, is what keeps a rimland state relevant and respected.

The final focus should be on the tech side. Services like ICT and telecom are growing fast, but manufacturing still needs a revival. Otherwise, employment generation will lag behind growth. Diversification, both in exports and in technology, is the only way to sustain momentum.

Bangladesh has the potential to carry out all the tasks discussed above. Reducing trade transaction costs by just a few percentage points could add 2-3 percent to GDP. Regional integration could create millions of new jobs. The blue economy could bring in billions in new revenue. These aren't wild projections; they come from hard data and real trends. Therefore, to capture this opportunity, Bangladesh first needs to fix internal issues such as congested ports, inconsistent regulations and slow digitalisation. The payoff for getting it right is huge. Imagine a future where Chattogram rivals Colombo as a shipping hub, where coastal tourism thrives, and where Bangladeshi firms supply parts to ASEAN manufacturers. That's not fantasy; that's geo-economics in action.

Geography doesn't guarantee prosperity; it offers a chance. Countries that understand this—Singapore, Vietnam, even the UAE—turned location into leverage. Bangladesh can do the same if it invests wisely, connects boldly, and negotiates smartly. The Bay of Bengal is a corridor of opportunity and Bangladesh's future depends on how well we facilitate it.

## How Bangladesh can use its geo-economic advantage to sustain development



Alauddin Mohammad  
is joint member secretary of National Citizen Party (NCP) and executive director at Institute of Policy, Governance and Development (IPGAD).

ALAUDDIN MOHAMMAD

Geo-economics is not just maps and borders; it is about understanding how geography turns into economic power, and how trade routes, coastlines, and neighbours shape what a country can become. For Bangladesh, located neatly between South and Southeast Asia and on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, geography is both a challenge and a gift. The question is: how well can it use this position to secure long-term growth?

Let's start with the big picture. Despite political unrest and the authoritarian regime, over the past few years, Bangladesh has been one of Asia's economic success stories, averaging around seven percent growth. It didn't happen by accident. Remittances from abroad, steady exports—especially garments—and a wave of infrastructure investments kept the momentum going. However, to move from a "developing" to "developed" country, Bangladesh needs a different game plan, one rooted in geo-economics, given the world's current economic and strategic situation.

Here's the thing: more than 90 percent of Bangladesh's trade flows through the sea. Its ports—Chattogram, Mongla, and the more recent Payra—are lifelines. After the 2014 maritime arbitration, Bangladesh gained over 118,000 square kilometres of sea territory. That was a huge win. Though critics may argue, opening the door to what analysts call a "blue economy" will potentially add about one percent to our GDP every year, if it is managed right. We're talking fisheries, offshore gas, marine tourism—the kind of industries that can cushion the country from overdependence on textiles.

To make sense of all this, some classic theories help. First, Paul Krugman's "New Economic Geography", from his book *Geography and Trade* (1991), argues that economic activity tends to cluster where trade costs are low and connectivity is high. In simple terms, countries that master logistics and linkages can punch far above their weight. Bangladesh fits that description if it fixes its inefficiencies. For instance, transporting goods from Dhaka to Chattogram costs more than shipping them from Chattogram to Singapore. That's not just inconvenient; it's a geo-economic handicap.

Another framework comes from Nicholas Spykman's "Rimland Theory" in *America's Strategy in World Politics* (1942). Spykman believed that the areas bordering the great seas—the rimlands—would shape global power. Bangladesh sits right on such a rimland, at the Bay of Bengal, the very zone connecting the Indian Ocean with the Pacific. That makes it a connector state, a bridge between South and Southeast Asia, and a player in the wider Indo-Pacific balance. The more it uses this geography strategically, the more leverage it has in both regional and global affairs.

Maritime leverage is the first big piece. Turning Chattogram and Payra into regional transhipment hubs could attract foreign investment and bring down the high logistics costs that hold back exports. Developing deep-sea ports and better hinterland connectivity would position Bangladesh as a trade gateway for Bhutan, Nepal, and India's northeast. In Krugman's terms, this is about reducing

"distance friction," thus making economic gravity work in Bangladesh's favour.

Regional integration is the next frontier. The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) transport corridors could boost annual exports to India and Bhutan significantly. Add the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and you've got a path to connect South Asia with ASEAN.

percent), oil and gas (19 percent), shipbuilding/ breaking (nine percent), and minerals (three percent). At that time around three crore people, nearly 20 percent of the 2015 population, depended on the blue economy. With its expanded maritime zone, Bangladesh can develop fisheries, seabed minerals, and offshore hydrocarbons—industries that add resilience to growth. However, this requires clear regulation, environmental safeguards,



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

That's where the "bridge economy" idea comes in: Bangladesh linking two economic regions and benefiting from both. The BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) corridor could also reduce intra-Asian transport costs by up to 30 percent, which is massive. But it requires coordination, which Bangladesh currently lacks.

The blue economy is another untapped resource. A World Bank report shows Bangladesh's ocean economy added \$6,192.9 million (3.33 percent of GDP) in 2014-15, driven by tourism (25 percent), fisheries and aquaculture (22 percent), transport (22

percent), and technological partnerships. Otherwise, the "blue" opportunity could quickly turn into a "grey" liability.

Then there's the question of the industrial corridor and the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). SMEs, particularly in light engineering, are crucial to regional value chains. As industrial clusters form across borders, these SMEs can move from local workshops to export-oriented suppliers. In several studies, these sectors have shown strong potential for job creation and regional competitiveness. Thus, it all comes down not just to creating better policies but to building



# The lantern town of HOI AN



KHAMA MAHMUD

No travel experience of Vietnam would be complete without encountering the charm of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every nook and cranny of this two-thousand year-old town felt like something out of a fairytale.

Leaving behind the bustling coastal city of Da Nang, we reached Hoi An -- just 30 kilometres away -- while there was still some daylight left. Our guide, PhiPhi, kept calling it "Hoi An Ancient Town," and as we entered it, "town" did feel like the right word -- neither rural nor urban, but balanced between the two, tranquil and inviting. In Vietnamese, Hoi An means "peaceful meeting place," a name as poetic as the town itself.

Even before the sun slipped beyond the horizon, lanterns flickered to life one by one -- strings of red, blue, yellow, and green lights illuminating the town like scattered jewels.

PhiPhi had arranged dinner for our group, who had all travelled together from Da Nang by bus. Although the sun had just set, an early dinner before exploring did not seem like a bad idea. Through a maze of lantern-lit alleyways, PhiPhi led us to a restaurant where steaming dishes had already been laid out, and the rich aromas stirred our appetites. The wide array of dishes felt overwhelming at first, but our curiosity soon took over, and we couldn't resist tasting a little of everything from Vietnam's celebrated cuisine.

After dinner, the group dispersed to explore on their own. My daughter and I wandered until we reached a river glinting under lantern light. The sight was mesmerising. Boats swayed gently, their lights reflecting across the water.

The Thu Bon river flows through central Vietnam, and its branch, the Hoai river, runs through the heart of Hoi An.

Hoai means "remembrance," a fitting name for a river that once sustained the first fishing settlements here. Over centuries, the Hoai witnessed the rise and fall of traders who made Hoi An one of Southeast Asia's busiest ports.

As we approached the pier, it was hard to tell whether the lanterns outnumbered the boats or the other way around. After a brief round of bargaining, we climbed into one of the small boats -- each carrying no more than five or six passengers. The motor hummed to life, and we glided across the river, passing through other boats and watching the quiet rhythm of life unfolding along the water's edge.

Farther along, a glowing sign caught our eye: "Hoi An Memory Land," an islet clearly built for tourists. Yet it felt charmingly authentic and mindful of its environment.

Halfway through the ride, the boatman invited us to join a local ritual: lighting a candle in a paper boat and setting it afloat. All around us, others were doing the same -- sending their wishes gliding down the river with tiny flickering flames. My daughter and I each set our own paper boat adrift, watching it join hundreds of others bejewelling the water. It was a sight to remember and a memory to hold close.

When we returned to shore, the town felt more alive. We walked for a while and soon found cyclos -- Vietnam's distinctive rickshaws. Unlike back home, the riders here pedal from behind the

country. Between the souvenir stalls, tiny markets offered fresh fruits and vegetables, and the air was filled with the rich aroma of roasted coffee beans from nearby cafés.

But even as the city seemed like something out of a fairytale, one cannot help but notice the effort of its modest residents. Hoi An thrives on the labour of its 150,000 people, whose livelihoods revolved around the tourism industry. Their clothes were not drab, but plain and modest -- much like the quiet, hardworking way they lived.

When our cyclo ride ended, we continued on foot. By then, the town's transformation was complete -- every lantern glowing, the air humming with life. Hoi An felt like a world from Thakumar Jhuli, the old Bengali tales where kingdoms awaken under moonlight.

The town's history was visible at every turn. Once home to the Cham people who migrated from Java, Indonesia, Hoi An later became a trading hub under their rule. The Chams followed Hinduism, and by the 10th century, Arab traders had introduced Islam to the region. In 1471, the Vietnamese assumed control, and for the next few centuries, merchants from Japan, China, and Europe sailed here to trade silk, spices, and ceramics. Europeans called it "Faifo," while the Chinese and Japanese often regarded it as a second home. The influence of these cultures is still palpable in the wooden architecture, tiled roofs, and vibrant culture that permeate the town, located in Vietnam's Quang Nam province.

As we wandered from one alleyway to the next, people milled in and out of ancient buildings that had been repurposed into shops and homes. Cafés serving the famous Vietnamese egg and salt coffees, along with restaurants

and souvenir shops, lined the alleyways; the chatter of buyers, sellers, and bargainers continued well into the night. We stumbled upon a few vans stocked with shelves of books, inviting passersby to browse, pick one up, or read if they wished -- though no vendors were in sight.

Strolling through streets lined with homes from a bygone era, with large windows, bougainvillea shrubs, and no house taller than a storey or two, it was impossible not to feel nostalgic. Of course, silk and paper lanterns of every colour and design adorned each house, flickering even through the branches of trees. Yet what truly delighted us were the yellow-walled houses scattered across town. These homes brightened the golden-hued alleys and also served a practical purpose -- the yellow paint absorbed less heat, keeping interiors cool in Vietnam's tropical weather. The colour also symbolises joy, prosperity, and luck in Vietnamese culture. As we gazed at these striking houses, we couldn't help but think of Vincent van Gogh's The Yellow House.

The town's ancient houses, temples, and streets have been zealously preserved by its strict laws. Rather than wreaking havoc on the past in the name of development and progress, Hoi An has chosen to weave history and tradition into its residents' everyday lives. It offers not just a glimpse into a stiller and less deafening world, but also a rare reprieve from the chaos of modern life.

By the time we returned to our hotel, the town was still aglow. The river shimmered with drifting candles, and the air felt touched by magic. Hoi An, the "peaceful meeting place," had kept its promise -- a meeting not just of people and cultures, but of memory and light.



passengers. After a quick negotiation, we climbed in, and our rider carried us slowly through the narrow streets, weaving past bustling shops and bargaining tourists. Yet, even amid all the motion and noise, the Ancient Town somehow held on to its quiet, enchanting charm.

Hoi An at night felt timeless. Stores overflowed with silk lanterns, embroidered clothes, and wooden carvings, while vendors on vans sold souvenirs and small crafts that captured everyday Vietnamese life. Some of the most iconic images of Vietnam -- cyclos and people wearing nón lá, the conical hats that shielded them from the sun -- appeared everywhere, from trinkets on vans to shops and galleries across

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PHOTO: AFP, KHAMA MAHMUD



## 'Boring' Mushfiqur drives team-first approach

**Mushfiqur Rahim** appeared for a press conference after Day 2 of the second Test against Ireland, already making the landmark 100th Test feel more special with a ton yesterday. The dedication to succeed and keep improving, qualities that make Mushfiqur's Test career so special in Bangladesh cricket, were reflected in his talk with the press; the excerpts of which are as follows:

**Question:** You've played 100 Tests and celebrated it with a century. If you could tell us how you're feeling?  
**Mushfiqur Rahim**

**(MR):** I actually can't believe that, being a player, especially from Bangladesh, I would play 100 Tests. So, it's really a huge achievement. That's not only because it's my name; I think for any cricketer, for any nation, it's a proud moment.

**Q:** When you look back at the 20 year journey, do you have any regrets in Test cricket?

**MR:** No, but being a senior player, I have one wish that, hopefully, by the time I leave this

team, Bangladesh can at least be in the top six.

**Q:** You have experienced many things in your career. What are the highlights for you in your career?

**MR:** The way I improved

each and every day... In the last 20 years, I haven't batted for a whole day and been 99 not out, which is a new experience and something I really enjoyed last night as well. Cricket is a game where, even after 20 years, you can experience many new things.

**Q:** What were your plans for the 100th Test and what expectations did you put on yourself?

**MR:** I always try in every match to give my best effort and to contribute as much as possible for the team's winning cause. And yesterday, at the beginning of the match, I said something in the huddle that, whether it's the 100th match or any milestone for me or anyone else, it's always 'team comes first'. And I said that, for Bangladesh, I, Mushfiqur Rahim, feel

like a couple of drops of water in an ocean. Bangladesh always comes first, team come first, and winning this match will be my biggest gift.

**Q:** How much further do you have the urge to go?

**MR:** Playing every Test for Bangladesh is very special for me... As long as my team management wants me or the team wants me, and as long as I feel

Mushfiqur became the 11th cricketer to score a century in 100th Test. He joined the likes of Colin Cowdrey, Alec Stewart, Joe Root, Javed Miandad, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Gordon Greenidge, Ricky Ponting, David Warner, Graeme Smith, and Hashim Amla.

from inside that, yes, my team needs me, I intend to continue.

**Q:** How have you maintained yourself throughout this long journey?

**MR:** To be honest, I am actually a boring person. I can do exactly the same thing over and over in practice... I don't compromise on professionalism.

Whether I score 100 or I score zero, that's not my success, it's not in my hand, but the effort, the process, the honesty is in my hand. So, that's my only motto in life. At the huddle [before the game] I said that I feel like I am playing my first game today. I was that eager and excited.

**Q:** Your Test cap has stayed with you all these years. Did you think you would be able to carry this cap for so long?

**MR:** For a player, I think, as I said, the ultimate format among the three formats is Test. And the biggest thing in Test is your baggy green cap. So, if a player doesn't understand the honour of this, it cannot be explained to him.

**Q:** What sacrifice do you think brought you here today?

**MR:** I think the biggest sacrifice is the support my wife has given me. You also know, or maybe see, that I practise more than others. And that would never have been possible if I didn't have such an environment at home.

**Q:** To whom do you want to dedicate this achievement?

**MR:** To my grandparents... They were actually my biggest fans when they were alive.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Rangatungi Football Academy girls 'want to play without fear'

MD. QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT  
from Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon's Rangatungi United Female Football Academy -- an institution that has produced several national-level players -- is now facing uncertainty, as a section of locals is attempting to halt its activities citing religious objections.

Established in 2014, the academy is located in Rangatungi village, about three kilometres from the Ranishankoil upazila headquarters.

Local children of different ages regularly train on the academy's playground, which takes up a part of an approximately 25 bigha (15.625-acre) piece of government khas land.

Outside the field, portions on the south-eastern and south-western corners are used by locals as a graveyard.

When talking to the academy's female members on Saturday afternoon, they said that over a decade after the academy was founded, a group of locals is now claiming it is inappropriate for girls to play football near a graveyard and is trying to stop its activities.

Among them, Joya Kisku, 15, said



about two weeks ago a group of locals dug up parts of the ground and tried to uproot the goalposts to stop football practice.

"Nowadays, we are practicing in fear, worried that they may attack again," she said.

Academy sources also added that the group demolished the foundation stone laid by the deputy commissioner for the construction of a boundary wall to separate the graveyard from the playground.

Appealing to the authorities, Joya

added, "Give us a playground, and we will deliver good football."

Suborna, 14, another member of the academy, said, "We want to play without fear. For this, we seek security from the local administration."

Tajul Islam, founder and director of the academy and a retired teacher of Ranishankoil Degree College, said that 18 girls from the academy have gone on to play for the Bangladesh women's football team and various other national age-level sides.

Currently, academy students

Mosammat Sagarika, Swapna Rani, and Kohati Kisku are in the Bangladesh national women's football team squad, while Reshma Akter, and Protima Rani are part of the Under-17 team.

Former national players Sohagi Kisku and Anjana Rani also began their football careers at the academy, he added.

Responding to a query, Tajul said that in order for the academy to carry on with its activities and provide rural girls with opportunities to develop their talents, the concerned authorities could allocate around 7-8 bighas (4.45 acres) of land exclusively to the academy to resolve the crisis.

Acknowledging the incident at the academy, Officer-in-Charge of Ranishankoil Police Station Arshedul Haque said a tense situation had arisen among locals in the village over the graveyard and playground. "The situation is being closely monitored to prevent any untoward incidents," he added.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khadiza Begum said, "We will discuss the matter with the local residents and the academy authorities to find a way out of the situation."

### SHORT CORNER



#### Italy to face Northern Ireland in 2026 WC playoffs

Four-time World Cup winners Italy will face Northern Ireland in the semi-finals of the European playoffs for the 2026 tournament, following the draw on Thursday. If Italy get through that match on March 26 next year, they will play the winner of Wales's semi-final against Bosnia-Herzegovina five days later.

#### India's Gill doubtful for 2nd SA Test

India will not play skipper Shubman Gill in the second Test against South Africa on Saturday if it risks aggravating his neck injury, a team coach said. Gill suffered neck spasms in the first innings of the opening Test and pulled out of the remainder of the match. "If he is fully recovered and it is a guarantee that he won't have this issue again then he will play. If there is doubt, then I am sure he will take rest (for) one more game," batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said on Thursday.

\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

## Australia roll the dice as England eye history

AGENCIES

Australia and England completed their Ashes preparations on Thursday, the hosts revealing their intentions while the visitors kept their final XI hidden away ahead of Friday's first Test in Perth.

Injuries have twice shredded Australia's plans in recent weeks, yet stand-in captain Steve Smith remained composed as he confirmed that debutants Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett would be thrust straight into the furnace at Perth Stadium.

Both 31 years old, the pair do little to lower Australia's ageing squad profile but offer England contrasting challenges. Weatherald, an aggressive left-hander, will open alongside the patient Usman Khawaja, having forced his way past Sam Konstas through sheer domestic weight of runs.

Doggett, once firmly sixth in line among Australia's fast bowlers, has been summoned because Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Sean Abbott are all sidelined. Their baptism of fire will come against an England team steeled by captain Ben Stokes, who insists the urn surrendered eight years ago is within reach.

"We've got an opportunity over the next two and a half months to write our own history," Stokes said. "We've come with the goal to board that plane in mid-January as Ashes winners."

The Perth pitch has been promised as



green, fast and bouncy, but Stokes gave nothing away about whether England would counter it with four quicks or include specialist spinner Shoaib Bashir.

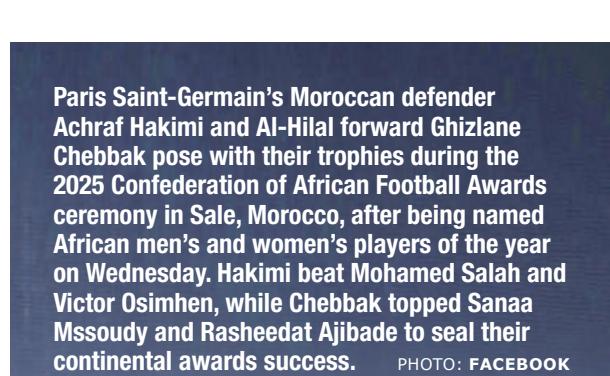
Australia, meanwhile, had no hesitation picking Nathan Lyon, who turned 38 on Thursday and begins his eighth Ashes campaign. Nicknamed "Goat" for his Australian record 562 Test wickets as an off-spinner, Lyon boasts 29 wickets at 20.86 at Perth Stadium. "He's

done really well out here," Smith said. "So we'll see how it pans out." Smith will also have Cummins nearby, offering calm counsel.

England's travelling fans return for the first time since they were barred during the COVID-affected 2021-22 tour, a bruising 4-0 defeat that left few survivors in today's squad. A tighter contest is expected, though Prime Minister Anthony Albanese couldn't hide

his hopes: "When battle lines are drawn on Friday, I'll be hoping for a 5-0 result in Australia's favour."

England face a steep climb to reclaim the urn on Australian soil for the first time since 2010-11, all while absorbing flak from home critics. The Western Australian even mocked them as "arrogant Bazballing Poms." Stokes remained undeterred: "We know we're going to be outnumbered... and that's going to be good fun."



Paris Saint-Germain's Moroccan defender Achraf Hakimi and Al-Hilal forward Ghislane Chebbak pose with their trophies during the 2025 Confederation of African Football Awards ceremony in Sale, Morocco, after being named African men's and women's players of the year on Wednesday. Hakimi beat Mohamed Salah and Victor Osimhen, while Chebbak topped Sanaa Mssoudy and Rasheedat Ajibade to seal their continental awards success.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK





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## STATE WITNESS

# War of words erupts at ICT during cross-examination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Temper flared at the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday as prosecution and defence sparred during the cross-examination of a state witness in the Ashulia murders and body-burning case, tied to the July 2024 mass uprising.

The confrontation unfolded when defence counsel Syed Mizanur Rahman, representing former additional SP Abdullahil Kafi, pressed approver and former sub-inspector Sheikh Abzal Haque on whether he had learnt about the killing of ASI Raju.

During questioning, Abzal said he left Ashulia Police Station without permission on August 5 last year and returned on August 15.

Mizanur then asked if, upon returning, he had heard about Raju's death.

Prosecutor Md Mizanul Islam objected, arguing that the defence

SEE PAGE 10 COL. 4

## BCL PROCESSION

# 15-yr-old sent to jail on anti-terror charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A 15-year-old eighth grader has been arrested in Cumilla's Nangolkot and sent to jail on anti-terrorism charges for allegedly participating in a procession of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League.

According to the case statement, he took part in a procession on November 17, the day the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death for crimes against humanity during last year's uprising.

The student's father, a businessman, claimed his son is not involved with any political party and was at home when the procession took place in the evening, the time mentioned by police.

Police picked him up from his home around 3:00 am on November 18 and produced him before a Cumilla court later that day. The family sought bail, but the court rejected the petition and sent him to jail.

Yesterday, they filed a fresh bail petition, which will be heard on Sunday.

The boy is now in Cumilla Central Jail, and the process of transferring him to the Juvenile Development Centre in Gazipur is underway, said Halima Khatun, senior jail

SEE PAGE 10 COL. 1

## NEW MOORING CONTAINER TERMINAL

# Govt moves for UAE lease amid protests

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The government is forging ahead with its plan to lease the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), the Chattogram port's largest functioning terminal, to the UAE-based DP World by December, despite widespread protests.

As part of the procedure, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on November 16 asked the shipping ministry to form a seven-member committee, to be headed by Additional Secretary Md Mahbub Alam Talukder, to evaluate the tender for the project, which would be done under the public-private partnership model.

The proposed committee would include a deputy secretary-rank official from the ministry, three representatives from the Public Private Partnership Authority, an external member nominated by the CPA and Kazi Meraz Uddin Arif, the port's deputy chief finance and accounts officer.

The development comes on the heels of the government entering into long-term deals with two foreign port operators for operating the Laldia Container Terminal in Chattogram and Pangaon Inland Container.

**The development comes on the heels of the government entering into long-term deals with two foreign port operators for operating the Laldia Container Terminal in Chattogram and Pangaon Inland Container.**

As per the transaction structure report submitted by the International Finance Corporation on April 30 this year, a 62-day timeframe for completing the process from the submission of the terminal operator's proposal to the signing of the agreement was recommended.

However, the CPA completed the entire process in just two weeks. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

APM Terminals submitted its technical and financial proposals on November 4 while

SEE PAGE 10 COL. 1

government headed by Muhammad Yunus.

The move immediately faced strong opposition from different political parties, port users and experts, while street protests have been ongoing since October last year.

The protesters argued that NCT, which was constructed and equipped from the port's own fund, should not be leased to any foreign operator as there is little scope for investment.

The way the government signed deals with two foreign operators for Laldia and Pangaon terminals hastily and without disclosing details of the deals are concerning, said Sheikh Nurullah Bahar, Chattogram convener of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, a platform of different workers' organisations.

## Baul singer lands in jail for 'hurting religious sentiment'



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court yesterday sent renowned baul singer Maharrab Abul Sarkar to jail in a case filed over hurting religious sentiments.

Earlier yesterday, Sarkar was arrested in Madaripur by the Detective Branch of the police in connection with a case filed by Mifti Md Abdullah, imam of Ghior Bandar Mosque.

Later in the afternoon, he was produced before the Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, where the judge sent him to jail.

The case was filed at Ghior Police Station yesterday morning. According to the case statement, the baul singer made religiously misleading remarks while performing at a programme in Ghior upazila on November 4.

The case is under investigation, said Md Kohinur Islam, officer-in-charge of Ghior Police Station.

## CHILD MARRIAGE

# Bangladesh loses \$8b annually Says UNICEF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is losing around \$8 billion every year due to child marriage, yet government investment in prevention remains "shockingly low", UNICEF said yesterday while presenting the latest child rights findings from the MICS 2025.

At a media briefing in the agency's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office, UNICEF officials said the country allocates only 0.01 percent of GDP to child protection systems, a level they described as grossly inadequate for a country facing some of the highest child marriage rates in the world.

**“Are we honouring the dignity of girls when they face the highest levels of violence, early pregnancy, poor nutrition, higher neonatal mortality and rising divorce rates? The answer is no.”**

RANA FLOWERS, UNICEF representative to Bangladesh.

The lack of trained social workers, case workers and community-based support systems severely limits the country's ability to intervene in vulnerable families, they said.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-2025, conducted by the BBS with technical support from UNICEF and published on Sunday, found that the rate of currently married girls aged 15-19 has risen sharply from 32.9 percent to 38.9 percent between 2019 and 2025.

Conducted on around 63,000 households countrywide, it said child marriage costs the country \$7.8 billion annually in lost productivity and human potential.

The loss in this case is estimated by comparing

SEE PAGE 10 COL. 4



## MAA BRINGS BREAKFAST

A mother little grebe brings breakfast to its chick in the wetlands of Chuadanga -- a scene of tender love. These tiny waterbirds live on ponds, marshes, canals and flooded fields from Europe and Africa through Central Asia to Japan and Southeast Asia, including Bangladesh. Expert divers, they slip under with barely a ripple, chasing small fish, tadpoles, insects and snails before popping back up with a meal. Little grebes build floating nests hidden among reeds and gently cover their eggs with wet plants when they leave. Once the chicks hatch, the striped young often ride on their parents' backs. Though listed as Least Concern, the little grebe's future rests on clean wetlands, threatened by drainage, pollution and disturbance.

PHOTO: MONJUR MORSHED



**Shetu Pesticides Factory in Trishal Earns LEED Platinum, Setting a Landmark in Bangladesh's Agro-Chemical Sector**

Shetu Pesticides Ltd's factory, Trishal Mymensingh, has achieved green building status, by scoring 87 and earning Platinum-rated LEED Certification. This is awarded by the global USGBC, based on audit of transformation performance, energy, water, and waste management.

This is the first factory to achieve LEED status in the agro-chemical sector. Bangladesh is the global leader in number of LEED-rated green

buildings in the apparel's sector. In practice, this will lower carbon emissions, lower operating costs, conserve resources, and promote healthier and a more sustainable environment through building design and operation.

This certification reflects the company's deep commitment to environmental responsibility and plays a crucial role in addressing climate challenges while improving quality of life for future generations.

