

61% women in agro-industries face abuse
B1



Thai-Cambodia border clashes reignite
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The silent worlds of neglected children
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Ritu Porna thrilled with Rokeya Padak
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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Graft taints the graft watchdog

6 top officials dismissed this year; 2 ex-bosses under probe; 245 employees disciplined over 17 years

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission is facing a crisis within its own walls, as fresh allegations of bribery and illicit benefits surface against its officials, including some tasked with investigating graft.

In 2025 alone, six ACC officials have been dismissed, three of them in September, among whom is a director-level officer.

Over the past 17 years, the commission has taken disciplinary action against 245 officials and employees for bribery, unethical benefits, and involvement in corruption. Among the penalised, 34 have been dismissed, while many others faced forced retirement, demotion, or salary cuts. More than 10 officials currently face departmental cases.

Today, as the ACC observes International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity," the shadow over its own integrity looms large.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen decried corruption by its own officials, claiming it takes immediate action whenever such allegations surface.

However, campaigners warn that corrupt ACC officials, like other accused, must face trial, not just action by ACC as such revelations strike at the heart of the institution's credibility.

"Departmental action alone is not enough; they must be handed over to the court for trial," said Iftekharuzzaman, head of the ACC reform commission and executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

"The commission cannot function properly while retaining corrupt officials. Dismissal alone is insufficient; they must be prosecuted," he told The Daily Star when asked for comments.

6 OFFICIALS FACE ACTION

The ACC dismissed Khan Md Mizanul Islam as its director on September 8 for allegedly accepting medical expenses from a private hospital director, who is being investigated by the ACC.

On September 4, Deputy Director Mahbubul Alam, and Deputy Assistant Director Mohammad Zulfikar were removed over separate allegations.

Mahbubul reportedly extorted around Tk 1 crore from the principal and administrative officer of Ideal School in Motijheel by threatening to file cases. He is also accused of taking Tk 10 crore in bribes from the managing director of Essential Drugs.

Zulfikar allegedly received financial benefits from the former

ACC's internal anti-corruption committee dysfunctional

Reform commission proposed task force to tackle internal graft

Campaigners say corrupt ACC officials must face trial

chairman of Arcade Real Estate Limited in exchange for resolving a case. He and his family were reportedly living in a flat without purchase or rent.

On August 6, Deputy Director Ahsanul Kabir Polash was dismissed for negligence in a corruption investigation.

On July 17, Deputy Director Komlesh Mandal faced the same consequence for negligence in probing allegations against officials of the Dhaka Water Supply Network Improvement Project.

On October 5, Assistant Director Abdullah Al Mamun was suspended for allegedly forming a syndicate involved in fabricating documents, preparing false notesheets for submission to commission meetings, and targeting upper-middle-class and wealthy individuals with these forged documents.

In March, Assistant Director SM

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People help a family carry a sick newborn whose ambulance got stuck in a jam near Shanir Akhra on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital yesterday. The ambulance taking the critically ill child from Dhanmondi to Bangladesh Neonatal Hospital in Narayanganj was stuck as locals blocked the highway demanding uninterrupted gas supply.

PHOTO: STAR

Plots afoot to derail democratic process

Tarique says country going through 'abnormal times'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With democracy and accountable governance absent, the country is passing through an abnormal time, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday.

Restoring democracy is the only way to return the nation to normalcy, he added, speaking virtually at the closing session of the party's two-day "Plan to Build the Country" programme in the capital.

"Why is the share market crashing? This is abnormal. Bank after bank is closing down, shutting down, collapsing. This is abnormal. These abnormal things cannot continue," he said.

He added that mills and factories were shutting, investors unwilling to invest, hospitals lacking adequate treatment facilities, and educational institutions struggling to run academic activities. All of these are signs of "abnormal situations", he said.

Tarique alleged that conspiracies were underway to derail the democratic process and insisted that an elected government is essential to restoring normalcy.

He said people now fear being mugged when stepping outside, and even if they avoid that, there is no guarantee of returning home safely due to frequent road accidents.

"More than 7,000 people were killed in road accidents last year. What happened to the families who lost their only breadwinner? Does anyone think about them the next day?" he asked.

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Polls schedule 'tomorrow or the day after'

EC asks BTV, Betar to record announcement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday asked Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar to prepare to record on December 10 CEC AMM Nasir Uddin's address to the nation unveiling the polls schedule.

The address will be delivered at the EC office in Agargaon.

Speaking to reporters at the Election Bhavan in the afternoon, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said that although the address will be recorded on December 10, it may be broadcast either on the same day or the following day.

"The EC has already sent letters to BTV and Bangladesh Betar in this regard."

In the 12th national

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

We work with religion, we don't use it

Says Jamaat ameer; eight-party accepts referendum on polls day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said yesterday that they strongly believe a national government is necessary for at least five years to restore the country's stability and economy, establish the rule of law, and eradicate corruption from society.

"If we are voted to power, we will form this [national] government. We will accept just two things from those who would join this government. We expect that no one will engage in corruption or show leniency towards it in any form. And secondly, they must not interfere in ensuring equal justice for all," he said.

Shafiqur made the remarks while talking to journalists after a meeting with a high-level delegation of the European Union at its embassy.

He added that Jamaat is willing to form a national government with those who agree to these two conditions.

Jamaat will form a national government even if it wins a majority in the upcoming 13th national

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Fifty-three years after independence, many stories of the Liberation War remain untold. Part 5 of this 12-part series turns to Manikchhari in Khagrachhari, where an indigenous king opened his palace to refugees, stood by freedom fighters, and fought alongside them -- leaving behind a legacy unlike any other.

Mong Prue Sain: A monarch who fought for freedom

AHMAD ISTIAK

Mong Prue Sain, the seventh king of the Mong dynasty, emerged as a symbol of resistance during the Liberation War. He threw his support behind the struggle for freedom. He opened his palace and treasury to shelter refugees and freedom fighters, set up a temporary hospital there, and even fought on the battlefield himself. His actions set a rare and powerful precedent in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

MONG PALACE

In July, this correspondent visited Manikchhari upazila in Khagrachhari to document the role of King Mong Prue Sain and his palace. Conversations with former palace members, freedom fighters, and elderly residents revealed remarkable stories of courage.

The Manikchhari upazila headquarters sits along the Khagrachhari-Chittagong highway.



TALES OF FREEDOM

At one end of the local bazaar stands the Mong palace, once the administrative centre of the monarchy. Beside the main building is the Nanuma Devi Memorial Hall, which functioned as a wartime hospital.

After the massacre of March 25, 1971, panic gripped Chittagong district. Civilians fled in fear, and Bangalee soldiers, though initially

resisting, were eventually forced to retreat. Many crossed the border seeking refuge in India.

Along the way, thousands found shelter at the Mong palace, where King Mong Prue Sain opened his doors to welcome them.

The palace set up community kitchens to feed refugees and soldiers, and all 150 staff members were drawn into the war effort. Freedom fighters on their way to India for training often stopped there for shelter.

One such freedom fighter, Md Shafi Uddin, now 75, told this newspaper that right after March 7, King Mong Prue Sain began coordinating with Badshah Alam, the freedom fighter organiser in Fatikchhari, and that the royal palace became an essential transit point and base camp.

He remembered: "Many of the refugees who travelled from North

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BUSINESS

Economy at a crossroads, says GED report

The country's economy shows signs of stabilising, but it remains at a critical juncture, according to a new government report.

Rising inflation, weak investment, governance issues and external pressures threaten growth and living standards.

"Foreign direct investment remains critically low," said the report by the General Economic Division (GED). It also highlighted potential for a rebound if reforms are carried out swiftly and seriously. Economists said without faster action, the country risks slower growth, rising poverty, and a deepening debt trap.

STORY ON B1

Mother, daughter murdered in their Mohammadpur flat

Suspect domestic worker left the home wearing victim's school uniform



Laila had at least 30 stab wounds and her daughter had five. They were stabbed mostly in their throats and necks, according to police and officials at Shaheed Shurawardy Medical College morgue.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her teenage daughter were stabbed to death at their residence in Dhaka's Mohammadpur yesterday, allegedly by their part-time house help hired only four days ago.

The victims were identified as Laila Afroze, 48, and Nafisa Nawal Binte Aziz, 15, wife and daughter of AZ Azizul Islam respectively.

The double murder took place on the seventh floor of a 12-storey building

on Shahjahan Road in Mohammadpur when Azizul, a teacher at an English-medium school, was out.

Laila had at least 30 stab wounds and Nafisa had five. They were stabbed mostly in their throats and necks, according to police and officials at Shaheed Shurawardy Medical College morgue.

The house help Ayesha is the primary suspect as CCTV footage shows her to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

31 deported from US were ‘shackled for 60 hours’

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one Bangladeshis were sent back from the US yesterday, with several of them saying they were kept in handcuffs and shackles for nearly 60 hours before being flown to Dhaka.

They arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 7:00pm on a special US military flight, according to airport officials.

After landing, airport authorities handed them over to Brac, which provided transportation and emergency support.

Most of the deportees are from Noakhali, while others are from Sylhet, Feni, Shariatpur, Cumilla, and several other districts.

The returnees said they were freed from the restraints after reaching Dhaka airport.

Earlier this year, the US deported 226 Bangladeshis, many of whom alleged they were restrained in a similar way.



This handout photo taken and released by Agence Kampuchea Press (AKP) yesterday shows local residents evacuating after clashes along the Cambodia–Thailand border in Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia.

PHOTO: AFP

Mob beats man to death in Noakhali

Family claims he was targeted due to rivalry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A man was beaten to death by a group of people in Noakhali’s Begumganj upazila yesterday.

The victim, Fakhru Islam Manju alias Boli, 25, was a resident of Khalasibari area under Chowmuhani municipality.

Police said Boli had a criminal record, and people were angry with his criminal activities. He was killed due to “public outrage,” said the police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Begumganj Model Police Station, MA Bari, confirmed that Boli died on spot, and his body was sent to the morgue of Noakhali 250-Bed General Hospital for autopsy. He added that Boli’s associate Kiron was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

“Boli was accused in five to seven criminal cases. People in the area had long been enraged by his criminal activities,” said the OC.

Locals and police said a trader, Mizanur Rahman, was carrying over Tk 20 lakh cash from his home to Chowmuhani market around 7:30 am today. Boli and his associate Kiron intercepted and abducted Mizan on the way, took him to their den, and tortured him. Upon hearing Mizan’s screams, locals gathered, dragged Boli out and beat him to death.

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Mother, daughter murdered

FROM PAGE 1

be the only person entering and leaving the flat before and after the incident, Mohammad Ibne Mizan, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division of Police, told The Daily Star.

The investigators are analysing the footage and investigating whether anyone else was involved, he said.

The footage shows Ayesha entering the flat around 7:51am wearing a burqa and leaving at about 9:36am dressed in a school uniform, with a bag slung over her shoulder.

Noorem Mahpara, a cousin of Nafisa, said the uniform belongs to Nafisa, a student of class-IX. The wardrobe’s lock was found broken, while Laila’s gold jewellery – including bangles, earrings and a necklace – are missing, according to Noorem.

Police and family members said Azizul left for work around 7:00am. As exams are ongoing at his school, he returned home earlier than usual and repeatedly knocked at the door but got

no response.

He then opened the locked door with a spare key and found Nafisa’s body lying face down in a pool of blood by the door. Laila’s body was lying in a pool of blood in the kitchen.

Hearing Azizul’s screams, neighbours rushed in and informed the police. The residents of the two adjacent flats were outside during the murder.

Mohammad Aiyub, the building’s manager, said the woman, aged around 20, came to the building four days ago wearing a burqa and sought work as part-time house help.

“As the victims were looking for a house help, we sent her to their flat.”

After that, the house help started working for two hours daily.

“As the woman was leaving the building, I could not recognise her as she was in a school uniform. I stopped her, and she said she came to the 7B flat as a guest a couple of days ago and is now leaving.”

The woman hurriedly left the scene

on a rickshaw, he said.

Police recovered two knives from the flat.

Signs of struggle were found inside the flat. Blood stains were seen at the entrance, inside the flat, and on the walls, and kitchen. The wardrobe and toilet and furniture were found in a disorderly condition, said police officials.

A murder case is being prepared for filing, said Mezbah Uddin, the officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Police are checking what valuables are missing, and if confirmed, this would be added to the case, he said.

Investigators said they were gathering CCTV footage of the past several days to get more information.

Nafisa’s maternal uncle, Babu, said that the killer, in all likelihood, washed herself in the bathroom afterwards.

“Two people were killed for a meagre amount of money. People are not even safe in their bedrooms any more. What kind of country are we living in?”

Mong Prue Sain: A monarch who fought

FROM PAGE 1

Chittagong to India took shelter at the Mong palace, even if only for one night. We freedom fighters initially stayed in the palace for days on end.”

Beyond providing food and shelter, Mong Prue Sain’s wife, Queen Nihar Devi, also set up a temporary hospital for the wounded refugees and freedom fighters.

Kraingo Khulti Marma, now over 85, who was a domestic help at the palace during the war, said, “There were thousands of people in the palace then; some were refugees, some were freedom fighters. Some would eat and then leave for India; others would stay for several days. We had to cook four or five times for each meal. It was a massive undertaking.”

The royal family handed over 33 rifles and ammunition from their own collection to the freedom fighters.

For five weeks, from late March to April, the palace functioned simultaneously as a shelter, hospital, and freedom fighter camp.

FORCED EXODUS

With the Pakistani threat growing continuously, staying at the royal palace became too dangerous for the king and his family. High-ranking officials of the Mukti Bahini and the Mujibnagar Government, therefore, urged the king to move to India via Ramgarh. To prevent the Pakistani army from attacking the king, freedom fighters established a defensive perimeter in Manikchhari.

On April 30, CHT Deputy Commissioner HT Imam sent an urgent letter and a jeep to King Mong Prue Sain, requesting his immediate departure to Ramgarh. Subsequently, the king and his family set off for Ramgarh.

On the same day, Mukti Bahini Commander-in-Chief Colonel MAG Osmani arrived in Ramgarh and ordered Bangalee soldiers to defend the area.

Soon after the king’s departure, Pakistani forces attacked the palace. The freedom fighters fought fiercely, yet they couldn’t hold their ground for long and eventually had to retreat. Meanwhile, Razakars (local collaborators) looted the Mong palace, destroyed priceless artefacts, and set up a camp inside.

While sheltering in the Ramgarh SDO bungalow, the king met key military figures, Major Mir Shawkat Ali and Captain Rafiqul Islam (later Sector 1 Commander). At that time, King Mong instructed the local indigenous communities to enlist in the war effort.

Later, crossing into India on May 2, he toured refugee camps in Tripura, urging young men to also enlist. Many did, including Kongga Sain Marma of Guimara. Now 70, he recalled: “The

king came to our camp and told us to fight. Forty to 50 of us joined battles across several frontiers.”

RECOGNITION

The story of Mong Prue Sain’s participation in the war was prominently featured by international news outlets, most notably the BBC.

The king became a high-value target, with the Pakistani forces offering a substantial reward for his live capture. There were several attempts on his life, all of which failed due to vigilance by freedom fighters and Indian forces.

For security reasons, Mong Prue Sain later moved to Rupaichhari. Having been trained as a marksman,

Prue Chowdhury, recalled, “After independence, we found almost nothing left – golden Buddhist statues, luxury cars, rare birds, musical instruments, antiques, all gone.”

Yet the king himself remained resolute. When family members lamented their losses, he replied: “Yes, we lost much, perhaps even my life could have been taken. But in return, we gained freedom. That is the greatest achievement of my life.”

Speaking about the contribution of the king, Sector 1 Commander Major (ret’d) Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, who is now 82, said, “King Mong’s role cannot be overstated. He opened his palace,



Nanuma Devi Memorial Hall



Mong Prue Sain



Kraingo Khulti Marma



Kongga Sain Marma

the king maintained his active role in the war effort by training freedom fighters at the Harina camp.

Eventually, he was taken to Agartala, where he met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Throughout the war, he campaigned across India, raising funds and awareness for Bangladesh’s cause.

In October and November, Mong Prue Sain fought alongside Indian forces in several battles, notably at Akhaura in late November. In recognition, the Indian Army awarded him the honorary rank of “Colonel” that very month.

LEGACY

By the time the king returned home at year’s end, the palace was in ruins. His grandson, Kumar Suching

donated his cars, weapons, and wealth for the cause, and inspired hundreds of indigenous youths to fight. His legacy in the Liberation War will remain unforgettable.”

SOURCES

All accounts of King Mong Prue Sain’s contributions to the Liberation War have been drawn from historical texts and witness testimonies.

Key documentary references include “Bangladesher Swadhinota Juddho – Sector Bhitik Itihash (Sector-I)” and Swadhinota Juddho: Dolil Potro (Volume 9). In addition, specialised works such as “Muktijuddhe Adibasi” by Ayub Hossain and Charu Haque, and “Adibasi Muktijoddha” by Tapan Kumar Dey, provided further context.

Graft taints the graft watchdog

FROM PAGE 1

Mamunur Rashid was dismissed for allegedly torturing his former wife and demanding dowry.

Contacted, ACC Chairman Momen said, “If my commission is not free of corruption, then I lose the moral right to speak out against corruption elsewhere. Whenever we find evidence of corruption within our institution, we take immediate action.”

Former ACC director general (legal) Moyeedul Islam cautioned that corruption within the commission “obstructs the commission’s anti-corruption efforts and creates a negative perception among the public”.

He said a committee led by the ACC chairman verifies complaints and takes action, but noted that the internal anti-corruption committee “is currently dysfunctional”. He urged its reactivation to address internal graft effectively.

EX-BOSSSES UNDER SCANNER

The ACC on December 1 confirmed it has opened an inquiry into former chairman Iqbal Mahmood, the first time in the commission’s history that a former chief is being investigated over corruption allegations.

ACC sources said Iqbal’s name

surfaced during interrogation of his brother, Sadik Mahmud Bokul, who was arrested on September 11. Sadik is alleged to have maintained close business ties with Motazzurul Islam Mithu, a controversial health contractor long accused of large-scale graft.

Investigators claim that the two remained untouched for years due to Iqbal’s influence during his tenure, and that Iqbal is accused of accepting two luxury Gulshan flats from Mithu.

The inquiry will examine allegations of money laundering, abuse of power, and illegal wealth accumulation.

On December 3, the ACC also approved a corruption case against former ACC commissioner and ex-BTRC chairman Md Jahurul Haque, another first for the institution.

According to the case statement, between October 2015 and January 2018, BTRC reduced international incoming call rates from \$0.030 to \$0.015 without government approval, slashing the state’s revenue share from 51.75 percent to 40 percent while raising IGW operators’ share from 13.25 percent to 20 percent.

The move allegedly caused Tk 383.73 crore in revenue-sharing

losses, Tk 2,941.99 crore in reduced call-rate losses, and a foreign currency shortfall of Tk 5,685 crore.

RECOMMENDED REFORMS

In its report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on January 15, the ACC reform commission called for a high-powered task force with representatives from intelligence and investigative agencies to identify corrupt officials and pursue disciplinary and criminal action.

It recommended dissolving the ACC’s internal anti-corruption committee and replacing it with an independent disciplinary division staffed by ACC officers and personnel deputed from defence, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies.

The unit would enforce the code of conduct, carry out covert investigations and counter-intelligence operations, review asset declarations under the ACC (Employees) Service Rules, 2008, and impose punitive measures.

Since its establishment in 2004, replacing the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, the ACC has struggled with persistent internal complaints. The Service Rules empowered the formation of a three-member internal anti-corruption committee.

Polls schedule ‘tomorrow or the day after’

FROM PAGE 1

election, CEC Kazi Habibul Awal announced the polls schedule live on both state-run broadcasters. This time, the EC has decided to record the address.

Meanwhile, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret’d) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that all necessary preparations for the upcoming national election have been completed, including training for law enforcement agencies, procurement of body-worn cameras, and ensuring electricity at every polling centre.

He said this while briefing

journalists after the 17th meeting of the Advisory Council Committee on Law and Order at the home ministry conference room in the Secretariat.

The adviser also said the recovery process for looted weapons is ongoing. Asked whether a level-playing field has been ensured for the election, he said, “We want to deliver a free and fair election.”

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said the EC has yet to ensure a level-playing field.

The party also expressed concerns over the worsening law and order situation as the country prepares for

the polls and July Charter referendum in mid-February.

Jamaat expressed these concerns when a six-member delegation met Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the Election Bhavan in Dhaka’s Agargaon in the afternoon.

Speaking to reporters after the hour-and-a-half-long meeting, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, “We are witnessing serious disturbances during our campaigns. Party meetings are being attacked, and even women involved in voter outreach are being harassed, attacked, and injured.

Plots afoot to derail democratic process

FROM PAGE 1

“Every day, when we open newspapers, we see attempts to hide the truth. But hunger speaks the truth. Empty pockets speak the truth,” he said.

Warning of difficult days ahead, he said a “dangerous” campaign was underway to portray everyone except one group as bad.

“Sadly, after August 5, for some reason, it seems that this practice has not ended. This idea must change,” he added.

“We believe in multi-party democracy. In a multi-party system, people will express different opinions. They have the right to speak. But the belief that one person is good and

everyone else is bad can never be acceptable.”

Tarique said several political parties were promising honest governance and justice with vague language the BNP does not use. “Where is their plan?”

“The BNP is the only party presenting detailed and practical plans covering education, agriculture, women’s welfare, farmers, healthcare and economic reforms,” he said.

“Step by step, we will fix the problems and take Bangladesh towards a normal, responsible and democratic future.”

If voted to power, he said, the BNP would dig canals to reduce flooding,

ensure irrigation for farmers, launch major tree-plantation programmes to protect the environment, and train unskilled people for better employment. The party also plans to provide cards with special facilities to 50 lakh families in its first year in office and introduce a farmer’s card.

At the event, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed alleged that the public had identified a political party trying to deceive people by exploiting religion.

“It has no policy, no ideals, and no plan, and is trying to deceive the public in the name of religion. Their real face has already been exposed,” he said, without naming any group.

We work with religion, we don’t use it

FROM PAGE 1

parliamentary election, he said. “In the interest of the country, even if, by the will of Allah, we win 200 seats, we will still form such a government, Inshallah.

“We will not exclude any party,” he told the reporters.

Dismissing the allegation of using religion in election campaigns, the Jamaat chief, “We work with religion; we do not use it for political gain.

“You know better who actually uses religion – those who suddenly start praying more during elections, who put on caps, and carry prayer beads.”

Responding to a journalist’s query, Shafique said there was no scope for deferring the election.

“We believe the election must be held within the February deadline. Any deviation from it would severely harm the country, and we do not want the nation to suffer at the hands of anyone.”

Meanwhile, eight like-minded parties, including Jamaat, yesterday announced that they have accepted the government’s decision to hold the referendum on election day, despite earlier demands for the referendum to be held before the polls.

The announcement came at a

press briefing following a liaison committee meeting at the central office of Khelafat Majlish in Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

Khelafat Majlish Secretary General Ahmad Abdul Kader said, “We wanted the referendum to be held before the election. However, following the government’s announcement, we have accepted this in the greater interest.”

On seat-sharing, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad said that in each constituency, only one candidate nominated by the eight like-minded parties will contest based on mutual understanding.

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HC rejects writ petition seeking stay on Feb polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition seeking a stay on the process for holding the 13th national election scheduled for February 2026.

The bench of Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi and Justice Raziuddin Ahmed told petitioner Md Earul Islam that the entire nation is now focused on the election. Filing such a petition at this stage is not appropriate, and therefore a plea of this nature is not acceptable at this moment, the court said.

The bench rejected the petition on the grounds that it was not placed before it properly.

Advocate Md Earul Islam, secretary general of the political party Bangladesh Congress, who filed the petition, told The Daily Star that he had sought the order in what he described as the greater interest of the nation.

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Speakers at a roundtable, titled “Ending Digital Violence: Policy Priorities for Advancing Health and Justice for Women and Girls,” at the capital’s The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was organised by the CSO Forum for Strengthening a Sustainable SRHR Ecosystem in Bangladesh and The Daily Star as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.”

PHOTO: STAR

Many major antibiotics now less effective

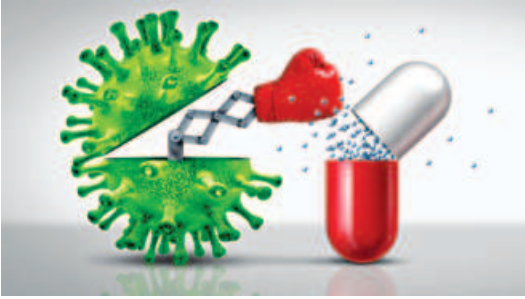
Says BMU report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several widely used antibiotics in the country have become even less effective than they were three years ago, putting life-saving treatments at risk, according to a Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) report.

Some antibiotics, including Ciprofloxacin and Azithromycin, now show resistance levels above 80 percent against certain pathogens – meaning these drugs are effective in less than 20 percent of such infections.

For example, Salmonella Typhi, a Gram-negative bacterium that causes bloodstream infections, showed an estimated resistance rate of 83.4 percent to Azithromycin. This marks a sharp rise from 31 percent in 2022, according to the report prepared by BMU’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology and presented at the university yesterday.



- Several widely used antibiotics have become less effective than in 2022
- BMU analysed 46,279 samples; 24% contained germs
- Health experts blame overuse, livestock antibiotics, poor hygiene, lack of new drugs

According to WHO, AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines, making infections harder or impossible to treat and increasing the risk of severe illness, disability and death.

The Antimicrobial Resistance Report 2024–25 analysed 46,279 inpatient and outpatient samples from July 2024 to June 2025.

It recommended strengthening surveillance, implementing targeted interventions, developing evidence-based policies, and increasing collaboration and investment to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The findings follow recent reports by the World Health Organization and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), both of which warned of rising antibiotic resistance and growing public health risks.

According to WHO, AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines, making infections harder or impossible to treat and increasing the risk of severe illness, disability, and death.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

ICT exonerates Fazlur Rahman of contempt charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday cleared BNP chairperson’s adviser and Supreme Court lawyer Fazlur Rahman of contempt charges over his recent remarks about the tribunal during a television talk show.

Fazlur appeared before the tribunal and offered an unconditional apology, which the court accepted.

At the start of the proceedings, Fazlur’s counsel, pro-BNP lawyer Ruhul Quddus Kazal, requested that his client be allowed to sit as he was standing before the court. Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder granted the request.

Kazal told the tribunal that Fazlur expressed deep remorse for his comments. The tribunal then sought a response from the prosecution. Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said Fazlur had stated during the talk show that he did not accept the tribunal.

Kazal told the tribunal that Fazlur expressed deep remorse for his comments. The tribunal then sought a response from the prosecution. Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said Fazlur had stated during the talk show that he did not accept the tribunal.

When asked to speak, Fazlur told the court he had not spoken in that manner. “It was a slip of the tongue. I am 78 years old, and this is the first mistake I have made. I offer my unconditional apology,” he said.

Cautioning him, the tribunal said, “You have liberty, but you must remain within limits.”

It added that the ICT is not a court for any specific group or era and deals with crimes against humanity, which can occur at any time. The chairman also said, “There is a misperception that freedom fighters are being brought here for trial.”

Meanwhile, two defence witnesses – former inspector (operation) of Shabbagh Police Station Md Arshad

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Online abuse taking toll on women’s mental health

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Online abuse has become a growing health concern for women in Bangladesh, with many victims of cyberbullying or online harassment reporting depression, anxiety and stress.

These emotional problems often disrupt daily life, relationships and physical well-being. Symptoms include persistent sadness, loss of interest in routine activities, sleep disturbances and low self-confidence.

In many cases, the emotional harm also appears as physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches and sleep problems, according to a keynote paper presented yesterday.

The keynote was delivered by icddr,b scientist Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman at a roundtable titled “Ending Digital Violence: Policy Priorities for Advancing Health and Justice for Women and Girls,” held at The Daily Star Centre.

The event was organised by the CSO Forum for Strengthening a Sustainable SRHR Ecosystem in Bangladesh and The Daily Star as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.”

Ehsanur highlighted findings

from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics’ Violence Against Women Survey 2024, which showed that eight percent of women who have access to technology have experienced technology-facilitated gender-based violence at least once. The highest prevalence was among young and urban women.

education.

Nearly half of the perpetrators were strangers, indicating how digital platforms create vulnerability even within private spaces.

Supreme Court advocate Barrister Priya Ahsan Chowdhury presented “Women and Children in

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM	
KEY ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Online violence pushing young women into depression	Strengthen digital safety edn in schools, communities
Cyberbullying emerges as major health threat	Create a single, easy-to-remember emergency helpline
Digital harassment linked to rising emotional distress	Improve coordination among law-enforcement, mental health services, NGOs
Young women most vulnerable to online abuse	Simplify legal processes so victims can report without fear or stigma

Sixteen percent of women aged 20 to 24 reported facing this form of violence.

Exposure was also shaped by education and wealth. Almost one in five women with a bachelor’s degree or higher encountered online violence, compared to 2.8 percent of women with no

Online Space: Navigating Through the Justice System in Bangladesh,” where she discussed the threats women face online, actions that can be taken in cases of cyber violence, evidence preservation and relevant laws.

Prof Ruchita Tabassum Navad,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Shaukat Mahmood sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered senior journalist and Janata Party Bangladesh Secretary General Shaukat Mahmood to be sent to jail in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Rana passed the order and fixed Thursday for a hearing on the investigation officer’s 10-day remand plea.

Mahmood, a former president of Jatiya Press Club, was arrested from his home on Sunday by a team of the Detective Branch.

Enayet Karim Chowdhury, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, is also accused in the case lodged with Ramna Police Station, said Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner of the Detective Branch.

Enayet was arrested from Dhaka’s Minto Road over his suspicious movement on September 13. The next day, Sub-inspector Azizul Hakim of Ramna Model Police Station filed a case against him for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the interim government. He was later placed on a total of 12 days’ remand in three phases.

Inspector Akther Morshed of the DB’s Ramna Zonal

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



A schoolgirl browses through winter clothes and accessories at a shop before picking out an animal-motif cap and trying it on. With winter finally here, shops around the capital are selling a wide range of seasonal items. The photo was taken in Mohammadpur yesterday.


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



In Loving Memory
Barrister Mainul Hosen
1940 - 2023

On his 2nd death anniversary, we honour his legacy and cherish those precious moments.
Always in our hearts.

- Family



Nurul H Khan
(1935 - 2020)

In loving memory
All those you left behind

DHAKA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY Students continue sit-in for ordinance



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DU CORRESPONDENT

Undergraduate and postgraduate students from seven government colleges in Dhaka continued their sit-in for the second day in front of Shikkha Bhaban yesterday, demanding immediate formal proclamation of the Dhaka Central University Ordinance.

The demonstrators were still occupying the road around 5:00pm, said Shahbagh Police Station Sub-Inspector Mainul Islam.

"They have been staying here since Sunday. They resumed their sit-in again this [yesterday] morning," he said, adding that vehicle movement towards Shikkha Bhaban has been suspended due to the protest.

The students said the government must issue the ordinance for the new university, or they will continue their sit-in.

On the other hand, students from several higher secondary colleges, including Dhaka College, staged demonstrations yesterday demanding the preservation of their institutions' independent identity. They fear that the proposed Dhaka Central University will jeopardise their future.

Garos celebrate Wangala



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The two-day Wangala festival of the Garo community came to an end on Sunday, concluding with prayers and harvest offerings at the Fulchhara Garo Line field in Sreemangal upazila.

From yesterday morning, villagers in colourful traditional attire gathered at the venue as the rhythmic beat of drums, harmoniums, guitars and indigenous instruments filled the air. Performers sang Wangala songs in the Garo language, while families offered a portion of their fresh harvest to the creator, marking the season's first grains.

Organised by the Srichuk Garo Nokma Association, the festival opened with prayers led by Garo representatives from various regions. The main harvest dedication ceremony was followed by a cultural programme featuring traditional dances and songs celebrating Garo heritage.

"Wangala reflects the history and heritage of the Garo people. We celebrate it to thank Missi Saljang, the god of crops, and to seek permission to eat the new harvest," said Association President Chisim.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A driver transports rods on a battery-powered easy bike, leaving the sharp ends exposed despite regulations requiring them to be secured at both ends. Carrying rods protruding in this way on a busy road poses a serious risk to pedestrians and other vehicles. The photo was taken in front of Khulna New Market yesterday.

Jatindra Mohan's historic residence left to decay

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The residence of Deshpriya Jatindra Mohan Sengupta, a historic British-era landmark in Chattogram's Rahmatganj area, now lies in neglect.

A noted leader of the anti-British movement, Sengupta was a five-term mayor of Calcutta Corporation during the British period and president of the All India Congress. He organised one of the subcontinent's largest labour movements as part of the struggle for freedom from British rule.

Cultural activists and civil society members have long been urging the government to conserve the site. Senior officials of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs visited the building in 2021 and decided to prepare a plan for its preservation and transformation into a museum showcasing relics from the anti-British movement in Chattogram, said sources.

Article 24 of the Constitution mandates protection of any monument or site of artistic or historical importance. A signboard announcing the planned museum and a plaque quoting

the constitutional provision were installed at the house, along with Ansar deployment, said sources.

No further step followed. The house has since deteriorated and is now on the verge of ruin. A recent visit found bushes encroaching on the compound and the building visibly fragile. The signboard remains, but no security guard was seen.



Rashed Rauf, poet and journalist, urged immediate government action, saying the site is crucial for future generations to understand the country's history.

He said Sengupta's family made major contributions to education and social welfare, though many of their properties now lie in disrepair.

Dr Mahfuzur Rahman,

chairman of Liberation Struggle of Bangladesh and Liberation War Research Centre, said Chattogram's central role in the anti-British movement makes the residence an important landmark that must be preserved.

In a joint statement on August 29 last year, eminent citizens in Chattogram called for urgent government action. They noted that the house had hosted visits by Netaji Subhash Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Shaukat Ali and Mohammad Ali. The statement also alleged a land-grabbing attempt on January 4, 2021.

A Directorate General of Archaeology team led by regional director Nahid Sultana visited the site on July 25 this year.

She said they found justification for conservation and sent a proposal to the directorate.

Contacted, Directorate General of Archaeology DG Sabina Alam said she was unaware of receiving such a proposal and would check.

Archaeologist Dr Ataur Rahman said conservation work suffers because Chattogram lacks a regional office of the archaeology department, unlike every other division.

2 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 455 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the DGHS, the deaths are from Dhaka South City Corporation areas.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of dengue-related deaths this year rose to 398, while the total number of cases stood at 98,284.

LUXURY APARTMENT for SALE
A BRAND well furnished Apartment of 4,000 sq ft approx in North Gulshan is ready for Sale.
01711122249, 01711348757

FLOOR FOR SALE
3 Floors of a Modern 14 stored Paradise Castle Tower at Bongobondhu Road (Chasara) Narayanganj will be Sold urgently. Each floor size is 4,700 Square Feet. Price is Negotiable. Interested buyers may Contract with Mobile Number - 01889684535 or 01672997478

HC rejects writ

FROM PAGE 3

He said the court expressed annoyance over the submission of the petition.

Earul submitted the petition on December 3, stating that DCs and UNOs have been appointed as returning officers and assistant returning officers instead of district and upazila election officers. As a result, he argued, the Election Commission becomes dependent on the executive to hold the election, which he claimed is a violation of the constitution.

He argued that the EC appoints its secretary from the executive, creating an opportunity for the executive to dominate the commission.

In the petition, he also sought a rule asking the authorities concerned to

explain why the decision to appoint DCs and UNOs as returning and assistant returning officers – replacing district and upazila election officers – should not be declared illegal. He prayed for a stay on the election process until disposal of the rule.

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 9

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.০০০.৭৯৪.০১.০০২৮.২৫.৪০৫ তারিখঃ ০৭/১২/২০২৫খিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, সিরাজগঞ্জ দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1187959	GMD Siraiganj/OTM Notice/Ullapara 132 KV/1	Comprehensive Repair and Expansion of the Ansar Barrack Shed at Ullapara 132/33 kV Substation under GMD, Siraiganj
1191995	GMD Siraiganj/OTM Notice/Shahjadpur 132 KV/2	Corrosion Control Recoat for Switchyard Equipment Framework at Shahjadpur Grid Substation under GMD, Siraiganj, Power Grid Bangladesh

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

মোঃ মামুনুস সবুর
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, সিরাজগঞ্জ

Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2065 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Rafiqul Islam, Chairman & Share Holder of Brothers Cement Mills Limited.Petitioner

Versus

Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.Respondents

Notice is hereby given that an application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Brothers Cement Mills Limited** for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024 and to relieve the officers, directors, managers, auditors etc. from any liabilities arising out of default for not holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company within the time specified.

And Hon'ble High Court Division comprising His Lordships "Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel" admitted the application on 24th November, 2025 and directed the petitioner to publish notices of the application and to file an affidavit in compliance on or before 04th January, 2026. Anyone who is interested regarding the matter may appear in the hearing either personally or through appointed Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned Advocate subject to make payment of the prescribed fees.

Barrister Md. Anowar Hossain
Advocate, Appellate Division,
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Address- Room No. 2031 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association
Annex Building, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000,
Phone- 01716170196

Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd.
Plot # 165-166 Dhaka Export Processing Zone (Extension Area) Ganakbari, Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349. Phone : 01711541047

Source : Softex/Tender/01/2025 Date : December 07, 2025

Tender Notice

Subject : Tenders are invited for the conversion of 1228 (one thousand two hundred and twenty-eight) sets (81,972 kg) of old machines used in the production of Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd., an industrial establishment in Dhaka EPZ, into scrap and sale in the local customs area subject to payment of necessary customs duties.

Tenders are invited for the conversion of 1,228 (one thousand two hundred and twenty-eight) sets (81,972 kg) of old machines used in the production of Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd. in Dhaka EPZ into scrap and sale in the local customs area subject to payment of necessary customs duties.

Terms and Conditions :

- Any company inside or outside EPZ can participate in this tender. The company participating in the tender must submit updated Income Tax Certificate, Trade License, Valid Import Registration Certificate (IRC), VAT Registration and Payment Certificate.
- The highest successful bidder will pay the customs duty payable as per the rules.
- The tenderer shall submit the tender along with the tender a 10% Tender Value pay order/bank draft (refundable) in favour of Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd. No tender will be accepted without the said pay order/bank draft.
- Interested candidates can inspect the above machinery kept in the institution between 09:00 AM and 4:00 PM till the day before the submission of tender.
- Tender Schedule can be collected from Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd. during office hours (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) at a cost of Tk. 200.00 each on or before December 23, 2025.
- Tenders can be submitted in sealed envelopes in the tender box kept at the office of the Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ, the office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, (UNO), Savar and at Softex Sweater Industries Pvt. Ltd. from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on December 24, 2025.
- The evaluation committee formed for the above-mentioned matter will open the tender in the presence of the interested bidders (if any) who have submitted their tenders on 24th December, 2025 at 2:00 PM.
- The highest bidder shall complete the scrap delivery process by establishing a letter of credit/sales agreement with the relevant bidding industrial establishment/buyer after approval of the scrap delivery matter by the Commissioner of Customs, Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka (South).
- Obtain permission from the Executive Director of Dhaka EPZ to release the said scrap after paying the remaining 90% of customs duty and other dues (if any) through customs letter of credit/sales agreement and submit it to BEPZA and Customs Authority. Scrap must be accepted with caution.
- If a minimum of 03 (three) open tenders are not received, tenders will be invited again.
- The committee formed in the above matter reserves the right to cancel the tender process without assigning any reason.

Interested domestic and foreign buyer companies are requested to participate in the auction.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
Probashi Kollayan Bhaban
Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
www.probashi.gov.bd

No: 49.00.0000.030.07.204.25-326 Date: 08/12/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Following Goods.

Tender ID No	Description of Goods/Works	Publication Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1188320	Office equipment: Smart TV, Wall Clock, Pen Drive, Telephone Set, Router, Network Switch, Door Lock.....etc	09-Dec-2025 12:00	23-Dec-2025 14:00
1188416	Cleaning products: Toilet Paper, Hand Wash, Hand Wash Refill (5 liter), Air Freshener, Aerosol, Vim.....etc	09-Dec-2025 12:00	23-Dec-2025 14:00
1188467	Electrical equipment: Multi Plug, Six Pin Socket, Mk Box, Stand Fan, Wall Fan, Electric Kettle.....etc	09-Dec-2025 12:00	23-Dec-2025 14:00

This is an e-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 system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Shibli Sadique
Senior Assistant Secretary (Service)

GD-2687

US PEACE PLAN PROPOSAL

EU leaders back
Ukraine’s Zelensky
in London

REUTERS, London

The leaders of France, Germany and Britain yesterday staged a strong show of support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in London at what they described as a “crucial time” for Kyiv, under US pressure to agree a proposed peace deal with Russia.

At a hastily arranged meeting, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Zelensky said they wanted to come up with firm plans in case of a peace deal.

A British government source said the leaders would discuss using the value of frozen Russian assets. Earlier, leaders from Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden urged the European Union to move quickly with a proposal to use the frozen assets to provide financing for Ukraine.

Starmer, Macron, Merz and Zelensky will also want to press on with efforts to get US security guarantees to help deter any further attacks from Russia. The publication of a US ceasefire plan last month has gone some way to focus the minds of European leaders.

Nepal anti-graft
body charges 55
ex-officials

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal’s anti-graft commission has filed charges against five former ministers and other ex-government officials in a case alleging multi-million-dollar corruption in a major airport construction project.

The charges, submitted on Sunday, come three months after anti-corruption protesters overthrew the government and set parliament on fire.

Documents released by the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) said that “the public servants involved in the project, knowingly and maliciously, increased the cost estimate” of the China-backed Pokhara airport project.

The CIAA said the 55 individuals involved had inflated cost estimates by around \$75 million, taking the approved cost of the project from \$169 million to \$244 million.

Those named include a former finance minister, four former heads of the ministry overseeing civil aviation, and 10 former civil service secretaries.



An aerial photograph shows people watching a paraglider as they celebrate a year since the ousting of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian capital, Damascus, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

THAILAND-CAMBODIA CLASHES

Thousands flee border area

AGENCIES

Thailand said it launched airstrikes into Cambodia yesterday as fighting broke out in multiple areas along their disputed border, after both countries accused the other of breaching a ceasefire brokered by US President Donald Trump.

More than 3,85,000 civilians across four border districts were being evacuated, with more than 35,000 already housed in temporary shelters, the Thai military said.

Across the border in Cambodia, opposition politician Meach Sovannara said civilians were also moving away from the fighting along the frontier.

At least one Thai soldier had been killed and eight were wounded in the fresh clashes that intensified around 5:00 am local time, a Thai army spokesperson said, adding

that air support was called in to hit Cambodian military targets.

Thailand’s Air Force said that Cambodia mobilised heavy weaponry, repositioned combat units and prepared support elements that could escalate military operations, reports Reuters.

One Thai soldier killed, 8 others hurt
Cambodia reports no retaliation, 3 civilians hurt

Thailand’s army has set a target of crippling Cambodia’s military capability with the aim of neutralising its threat for a long time to come, the army’s chief of staff said yesterday.

Cambodia’s defence ministry said in a statement that the Thai military

had launched dawn attacks on its forces at two locations, following days of provocative actions, and added that Cambodian troops had not responded.

Cambodia’s influential former longtime leader Hun Sen, father of current premier Hun Manet, said Thailand’s military was “aggressors” seeking to provoke a retaliatory response and urged Cambodian forces to exercise restraint.

“The red line for responding has already been set,” Hun Sen said on Facebook, without elaborating. “I urge commanders at all levels to educate all officers and soldiers accordingly.”

Three Cambodian civilians have been seriously injured in the fighting so far, according to a senior provincial official. Cambodia’s defence ministry said its forces had not retaliated.

MIGRATION POLICY

EU nations back
‘return hubs’ plan

AFP, Brussels

EU countries yesterday backed a significant tightening of Europe’s immigration policy, including endorsing the concept of setting up “return hubs” outside the 27-nation bloc for failed asylum-seekers.

Interior ministers meeting in Brussels greenlighted a package of measures, as European governments are under pressure to take a tougher stance amid a souring of public opinion on migration that has fuelled far-right gains at the ballot box.

Put forward by the European Commission earlier this year, the changes, which need to be approved by the European Parliament before coming into force, would notably allow the opening of centres outside the European Union’s borders to which migrants whose asylum applications have been rejected would be sent – the so-called “return hubs”.



UN hits out at
global ‘apathy’
over suffering

Unveils 2026 aid appeal

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations yesterday hit out at global “apathy” over widespread suffering as it launched its 2026 appeal for humanitarian assistance, which is limited in scope as aid operations confront major funding cuts.

“This is a time of brutality, impunity and indifference,” UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told reporters, condemning “the ferocity and the intensity of the killing, the complete disregard for international law, horrific levels of sexual violence” he had seen on the ground in 2025.

“This is a time when the rules are in retreat, ...our survival antennae have been numbed by distraction and corroded by apathy,” he said.

He said it was also a time “when politicians boast of cutting aid,” as he unveiled a plan to raise at least \$23 billion to help 87 million people.



Mahouts riding Sumatran elephants help clear tree debris after flash floods in Meureudu, Pidie Jaya district, in Indonesia’s Aceh province yesterday. Officials in flood-hit areas reported shortages of food, shelter and medicine as the death toll rose to 950 following weeks of heavy rain.

PHOTO: AFP

বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

নর্দান ইলেকট্রিসিটি সাগ্রাই পিএলসি

(বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন ও মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন) এর দপ্তর

প্রধান কার্যালয়: বিদ্যুৎ ভবন, হেটম খাই, রাজশাহী-৬০০০

Web: www.nesco.gov.bd

Memo No: 27.29.0000.000.017.11.001.25.33

Date: 08/12/2025

Job Opportunity

Northern Electricity Supply PLC (NESCO) is a State-Owned Company (SOC), under Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, engaged in distributing electricity across the distinctive parts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions. NESCO invites applications from eligible candidates from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh for immediate appointment for the following post on a contractual basis with renewal provision:

Sl	Post	No. of Posts	Pay Grade & Compensation
1	Assistant Engineer (S&D/ Engineering/ Procurement/Commercial Operation/Customer Service)	20 (Twenty)	NESCO Pay Grade-7 Basic Salary per month Taka 51000/-
2	Assistant Manager (Admin & HRD/PR/Company Secretariat)	2 (Two)	
3	Head Master (Secondary School)	1 (One)	
4	Assistant Manager (Finance/Audit/ Revenue Assurance)	2 (Two)	
5	Junior Assistant Manager (Admin & HRD/Company Secretariat)	3 (Three)	NESCO Pay Grade-8 Basic Salary per month Taka 39000/-
6	Junior Assistant Manager (Legal & Corporate Affairs)	2 (Two)	
7	Junior Assistant Manager (Finance/Audit/ Revenue Assurance)	12 (Twelve)	
8	Sub-Station Attendant (A)	40 (Forty)	NESCO Pay Grade-13 Basic Salary per month Taka 23000/-
9	Technician-Zonal Repairing Shop	13 (Thirteen)	NESCO Pay Grade-14 Basic Salary per month Taka 18000/-
10	Store Keeper (A)	10 (Ten)	NESCO Pay Grade-15 Basic Salary per month Taka 17000/-
11	Helper	26 (Twenty-Six)	NESCO Pay Grade-16 Basic Salary per month Taka 15500/-
12	Store Helper	6 (Six)	

The details of the circular will be available in official website (<https://www.nesco.gov.bd>) and career site (<https://career.nesco.gov.bd>) of NESCO. Online application should be submitted from 09/12/2025 (9.00am) to 31/12/2025 (up to 5.00pm).

Md. Rafiqul Islam
General Manager (Admin & HRD)
Northern Electricity Supply PLC
E-mail: hr.admin@nesco.gov.bd

GD-2689

Gazipur City Corporation

Zone-05 (Kautlia)

Gazipur.

Memo No : 46.19.0005.051.14.137..25-2834

Date: 08.12.2025

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Works)

Tender Notice No.01/2025-2026

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

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH						
1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives/Local Government Division				
2	Agency	Gazipur City Corporation.				
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, Zone-05, Gazipur City Corporation.				
4	Procuring Nature	Works				
KEY INFORMATION						
5	Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM) (e-GP)				
6	Source of Funds	Own Fund				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
7	Schedule Tender Publication Date & Time	Date:	Time:			
8	Tender Documents last selling date & time	07-12-2025	17.00			
9	Tender Closing Date & Time	22-12-2025	12.00			
10	Tender Opening Date & Time	22-12-2025	14.00			
INFORMATION FOR TENDER						
11	Brief Description of works :					

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of the work	Tender/Proposal Security (Amount in TK)	Tender/Proposal Document Price	Completion Time (Days)
1	1190042	GCC/Z-05/T-01/25-26/R-01	Construction of RCC Road work at Salna Montri Bari Road in front of Kasham Market and Huda Factory.	2,99,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
2	1190089	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-02	(a) Construction of RCC Road and Drain at Salna Shemultoli Road to Ex-Councilor Shahin Alam House. (b) Construction of HBB Road at Naga Bazar to Nannu House. (c) Construction of HBB Road at Naga Mukter Bari Rice Mill to Abdul Mozid House via Khanka Shorif and Eman Ali House	2,99,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
3	1190100	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-03	(a) Construction of HBB Road at Salna Shemultoli Dodcom Road North side of Fozor Ali Master House to Hamid Masud House and Salna to Jugergopa Road.(b)Construction of BC Road at Salna Shemultoli Naga south side of Mukter Bari Moszid to Bagolbari Road.	3,35,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
4	1190110	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-04	Construction of BC Road from Bagholbari Moyjania Madrashta to Chotobari Bridge.	1,88,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
5	1190112	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-05	Constreuction of Earth filling and HBB Road work at Tek Kathora Bashbari Moszid to Markaj Moszid Road.	2,60,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
6	1190113	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-06	(a) Construction of BC Road at Salna Jolarpar Road Shahadat House to Take Bari. (b) Construction of HBB Road at Nanduin Stylo Garments to Liton Mohammad House.	2,38,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
7	1190117	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-07	(a) Construction of HBB Road work at East side of Biprobarta Expro Accessories to Arbari Tek.(b) Construction of BC Road at Jolarpar Kawaltia Road to Late Hamid Nayeib House Road. (c) Construction of HBB Road at Kawaltia Uttarpara Mostafa House to Fozil Haque House and Biprobortha Dr. MA Aziz house Road.	3,85,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
8	1190139	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-08	(a) Construction of HBB Road at Salna Joydebpur Road to Abdul Khalek House via Nazim House and North Salna Late Abdul Sobahan Sarkar road to Masterbari Kawaltia connecting Road via Masterbari Salsdul House. (b) Construction of BFS Road at Hatiba Pathan Para Mawiana Abdur Razzak House and South Salna Ex-Councilor Aysha Akter house.	2,64,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
9	1190149	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-09	(a) Construction of BC Road at Siddik Markat- Kawaltia Road Mr.Nur House to Mr. Mainuddin House. (b) Construction of RCC Road at Rajendrapur Chowrasta to Bangla Bazar (BRAC CDM) Road.	2,50,000.00	2500.00	180 Days
10	1190154	GCC/Z-05/T-1/25-26/R-10	Construction of RCC Road at Dhaka Mymensingh Highway Road Nanduyan Jusna filling Station to Rashid Market Road.	1,63,000.00	2500.00	180 Days

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 mandatory. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches of Bangladesh Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer
Zone-05
Gazipur City Corporation.

GD-2686

Don't show leniency to wilful defaulters

Central bank must carefully assess and execute loan rescheduling policy

In the lexicon of banking, the phrase “uncontrollable factors” is the preferred euphemism for central banks to explain why the wealthiest conglomerates cannot seem to pay their debts. That excuse is now being tested on a massive scale in Bangladesh. The central bank has reportedly received applications to reschedule some Tk 200,000 crore in loans from 300 companies, including controversial behemoths like S Alam and Beximco groups. Their request is audacious: repayment periods stretching up to 15 years, grace periods of three years, and down payments as low as 1-2 percent.

The challenge in considering any such requests relates directly to proper categorisation. Bangladesh Bank will naturally be expected to draw a sharp distinction between genuine defaulters—enterprises truly battered by market headwinds or global supply shocks—and wilful defaulters who habitually game the system. Applying a blanket policy of leniency would risk conflating the unlucky with the unprincipled. The regulator therefore must not show generosity to wilful defaulters and must avoid creating a moral hazard.

It is worth noting that delinquent loans have hit a record Tk 644,000 crore, nearly 36 percent of all disbursed loans—a ratio not seen since 2000. Yet the official response has been seemingly lenient, as the central bank argues that “policy support” is required to maintain stability. This logic holds only if the support goes to those who genuinely need it to survive, rather than those who simply prefer not to pay. Data reveal that banks remain trapped in a barrage of litigation that disproportionately benefits stubborn defaulters. As of June, more than Tk 400,000 crore was tied up in over 222,000 cases in money-loan courts. In the second quarter of this year, banks managed to recover a paltry Tk 2,910 crore through the courts, even as they filed new lawsuits worth nearly Tk 97,000 crore. Evidently, this judicial backlog is a serious setback to the banking system.

Unfortunately, the interplay of these two phenomena—rescheduling pressure and judicial gridlock—creates a perfect ecosystem for wilful defaulters. Why repay a loan today when one can tie a bank up in litigation for a decade, or better yet, lobby the central bank for a 15-year reprieve? It is, therefore, imperative that the central bank does not allow wilful defaulters to exploit September's “special loan rescheduling policy,” a measure ostensibly designed to ensure equal opportunity, not immunity.

But if the central bank allows habitual, wilful defaulters to retain their “unclassified” status for a token down payment, it will effectively ignore the sector's deteriorating health. It will create a zombie banking system where insolvent borrowers are propped up by liquidity that should be flowing to productive, honest enterprises. So, going forward, any rescheduling must be conditional on rigorous, independent audits that separate genuine business failure from calculated wrongdoing. Generosity should be reserved strictly for the former. Simultaneously, the government must unplug the legal channels by establishing special financial tribunals if necessary.

Psychological abuse demands legal action

Coercive control impacts a majority of Bangladeshi women

The latest Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey 2024 lays bare a truth too often dismissed: coercive control—an insidious form of psychological violence—shadows the lives of a vast majority of Bangladeshi women. Of the 27,476 women surveyed nationwide, 68 percent of those who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) reported controlling behaviour. The figure climbs to 71.1 percent among divorced, separated, or widowed women. This form of abuse is rarely harmless, as it is frequently the first step towards physical assault, economic deprivation, sexual coercion, or even femicide.

Such control by husbands and other male figures in the household transcends class, income, and geography—from villages to Dhaka's middle-class neighbourhoods. Nearly 40 percent of women still need permission to seek healthcare; 29 percent endure in-law-related mistreatment; one in four is insulted through attacks on her parents; and 15 percent is barred from simple recreation. Other coercive control includes monitoring phones and social media, blocking access to education or work, demanding constant updates on whereabouts, or enforcing clothing rules. These are not “domestic matters” but systematic erosions of freedom. Prevalence is even higher in disaster-prone regions (73.2 percent) and among urban areas outside city corporations (70.4 percent). Younger women face the greatest risk, with nearly 60 percent of girls aged 15-19 currently experiencing such control. The urgency of the problem is reflected in the 19,584 calls to the national helpline in the first eight months, most linked to psychological abuse.

Experts trace this violence to the normalisation of patriarchal dominance, often masked as care, honour, or concern. Many women do not even recognise such behaviour as violence until years later, when it escalates into something unbearable. Although the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, identifies controlling behaviour as psychological abuse, enforcement remains negligible. Lawyers, social workers, and even courts often lack awareness of its provisions, leading to misfiled cases and no meaningful redress. Meanwhile, the state's support systems remain painfully inadequate, with victim support centres permitting only five-day stays that leave survivors without shelter, income, or long-term security.

Confronting this silent epidemic demands urgent, systemic reform. Psychological abuse must be explicitly recognised within the law, supported by clear evidentiary standards. A coordinated national response is essential—encompassing mandatory training for law enforcers, state-funded long-term shelters, and accessible complaint mechanisms at ward and upazila levels. Equally vital is early education on gender equality to dismantle the belief that women exist to be controlled. Recognising coercive control as violence and acting decisively to prevent it must become a national priority.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Can we break the triad of corruption, rights abuse, and injustice?



Dr Iftekharuzzaman is executive director at Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The article is based on the Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Lecture delivered by the author on December 8, 2025. Views expressed here are the author's own.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN

Every year, the International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on December 9, shortly followed by the International Human Rights Day. Rarely, however, do we realise that corruption and human rights violations are organically linked with each other, creating a vicious cycle of injustice as experienced by Bangladesh during the kleptocratic rule of 2009-2024. Corruption has been causing destructive effects on the state and society for a long time now, but it reached its peak during the Awami League regime that was ousted on August 5, 2024. In addition to economic, social and political costs, it also led to frequent violations of rights throughout this period.

In fact, the transformation of an elected government into an authoritarian regime was primarily an outcome of its design for the unaccountable abuse of power. Corruption was facilitated, promoted, protected, and granted impunity by deeply politicised and dysfunctional state institutions such as law enforcement and security agencies, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the judiciary, and the bureaucracy.

State power was captured through kleptocratic design, and in order to enable and sustain opportunities for abuse of power, various repressive measures were adopted and systems were created, leading to multidimensional, multilevel, and often ruthless violation of rights and deprivation of people's access to justice. As corruption—especially grand corruption—enjoyed impunity, the state soon turned into a kleptocracy, where high-level power was abused to allow a network of corrupt kingpins to capture policies, steal funds, plunder public resources, and launder money.

There have been myriad examples showing mutually reinforcing interlinkages between corruption, human rights violations, and injustice, with state institutions—particularly law enforcement agencies and the judiciary—often taking on the role of protectors and promoters of abuses rather than protectors of victims' rights. The July Uprising witnessed the peak of multidimensional violations of human rights, including the right to life, individual liberty, safety and security, as well as civil and political rights such as freedom of speech and assembly, media freedom, and the right to information. The UN Human Rights Office estimated the number

of protest-related deaths during the movement at 1,400, among whom 12 to 13 percent were children, while the number of injured was 13,529, including 736 with serious eye injuries.

The years since 2009 have witnessed tyrannical abuses of power through the monopolisation of political and governance space and state institutions. Apart from the ruthless violation of civil and political rights, the criminalisation of dissent, media suppression, and even the denial of the right to life



The years since 2009 witnessed tyrannical abuses of power through the monopolisation of political and governance spaces, which ultimately led to the eruption of the July 2024 uprising.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

and personal liberty were used as tools to maintain control. Repressive laws were enacted and constitutional amendments were imposed for the same purpose. The abolition of the constitutional provision for the caretaker government system became the justification for depriving people of their right to vote and political parties of their right to meaningfully participate in three successive elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024. Fifteen years of kleptocracy witnessed at least 4,356 instances of gross human rights violations, including 2,715 extrajudicial killings, 1,132 deaths in custody, and 689 enforced disappearances. Law enforcement, security, intelligence, and surveillance agencies became key pillars of the kleptocracy, acting as both perpetrators and enablers.

The network of secret detention

and torture facilities operated by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) revealed brutal violations, including illegal detention, torture, extrajudicial killing, and enforced disappearance. The number of Aynaghors then operating across the country is estimated at between 700 and 800. There were hardly any crimes that the law enforcement agencies, like Rab were not involved in, ranging from contract killings, as in Narayanganj in 2014, to the elimination of political rivals to extortion, all abusing power and political linkages.

The UN report documents how agencies like Rab, BGB, DGFI, Detective Branch (DB), National Security Intelligence (NSI), and National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) were involved in extrajudicial killings and other violations of rights and freedoms. In addition to specialised detention and

secret that the DGFI enabled the forced takeover of a group of banks by companies that later plundered and laundered billions.

Extreme intolerance and suppression of dissent were evident throughout this authoritarian period, exemplified by numerous fabricated cases brought under draconian laws such as the Digital Security Act (DSA), 2018, the ICT Act, 2006, and the Special Powers Act, 1974. The Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2016, was also used to restrict civic space, particularly to harass rights-based NGOs and create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. The Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010, granted indemnity for systematic violations in procurement and contracting in the energy sector, effectively forfeiting citizens' right to legal remedy.

The triad of corruption, human rights violations, and injustice is an outcome of a political and governance ecosystem that has evolved since independence and reached its most entrenched form during the kleptocratic era. Escaping this triangle is easier to aspire to than to achieve, however. Transforming the governance ecosystem towards de-kleptification is a monumental challenge that demands a whole-of-state and whole-of-society approach.

Much will depend on whether the aspirations of the July National Charter for accountable governance are genuinely realised, particularly in key state institutions, including the judiciary and other rule-of-law institutions. Success will also depend on the fate of other important reform proposals left out of the July charter consensus process, and on whether neglected sectors like education, diversity, private sector, environment, and climate change are included in the transformation agenda. A key question remains about the implementation of the recommendations of the UN fact-finding report, especially regarding law enforcement, security, intelligence, and surveillance agencies.

Will the so-called “reform leaders” and power holders have the capacity to overcome resistance to change? Much will also depend on whether political parties can reform themselves as democratic institutions and develop the ability to manage their appetite for power transparently and accountably, without relying on money, muscle, or religion. The future will further depend on whether the bureaucracy, positioned at the core of the governance system, can develop the will and capacity to support—rather than resist—change.

So, can the forces that emerged as victors after the fall of the kleptocratic regime overcome the “it's our turn now” syndrome that has been clearly visible since August 5, 2024?

Tax education should be part of the school curriculum



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MD MOMINUR RAHMAN

Every year, thousands of young people step into adult life without the faintest idea of how the tax system works. A few specialised university courses may touch on taxation, but for most citizens, the learning comes much later and often the hard way. A new employee receives their first payslip and is shocked to discover deductions they never expected. A small business owner finds out about penalties only after breaking a rule they never knew existed. A freelancer realises too late that income declarations are mandatory. Tax payment is compulsory for every eligible citizen, yet tax education is not. This gap is a major weakness in our education system.

Regardless of what a student studies—arts, science, humanities, or technical subjects—they are all future earners. Just as employment becomes a certainty, so does tax liability above a certain income bracket. Therefore, tax literacy should be viewed as a core part of civic education. It must be taught at school, just as we teach mathematics,

ICT, and science. The logic is simple: society runs on the contributions of its citizens. Our schools, hospitals, roads, public safety services, and digital platforms all operate because of tax revenue. If young people do not understand how taxes work, they may view government processes with suspicion, feel disconnected, or see taxes as a burden rather than a responsibility.

However, once they understand that tax is the price we pay for development, public services, and collective progress, their perception changes. They begin to see themselves as contributors to national growth, not passive beneficiaries. Better financial knowledge leads to better personal decisions and greater civic awareness. Yet many secondary school graduates cannot explain what taxable income is, how a tax return is filed, or why invoices and receipts matter. Terms like VAT, withholding tax, and tax credits are unfamiliar to them.

This lack of understanding exposes young people to real risks:

costly mistakes, misinformation, exploitation, and a general mistrust of public institutions. Whether they enter jobs, freelancing, or small businesses, ignorance of basic tax rules puts them at a disadvantage. A student who knows how income tax is calculated, how deductions work, or how to submit a simple return is better equipped to make smart financial

Our schools, hospitals, roads, public safety services, and digital platforms all operate because of tax revenue. If young people do not understand how taxes work, they may view government processes with suspicion, feel disconnected, or see taxes as a burden rather than a responsibility.

decisions. For young entrepreneurs and self-employed workers, tax literacy is even more important. Many small businesses fail to comply with rules simply because they do not know them. A few hours of tax lessons at school could save them years of confusion and hardship.

Including tax education does not require a dramatic overhaul. Just as ICT gradually built a new generation of

digitally skilled youth, tax education can help build a generation of responsible, revenue-aware citizens. Some argue that students already have too much to study. But consider this: many students spend years learning advanced geometry or trigonometry—knowledge they may never use again if they pursue careers in literature, languages, or social sciences. Yet they invest the time and effort because the curriculum demands it. Therefore, if students can learn abstract equations and complex chemical formulas, they can certainly learn how to read a payslip or calculate taxable income.

Countries that want to increase tax compliance or move towards a modern, citizen-friendly revenue system will need such a tax-literate population. The student who learns about taxes at age 15 will—by age 25—view taxes not as an inconvenience but as a civic duty. No country can strengthen its revenue system if its people do not understand how taxation works. And no citizen can make sound financial decisions without basic tax knowledge. If tax payment is mandatory, then understanding tax must also be mandatory. If we want responsible, informed and active citizens, we must introduce tax education at school. The foundations of national development are built in the classroom, and it is in the classroom that tomorrow's tax-aware, accountable citizens will be shaped.

DREAMS ON CANVAS: the silent worlds of neglected children



PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR

Psychologically, children who face difficult circumstances often use colour to express emotions they cannot verbalise. Dark colours don't only signal sadness; they can represent boundaries, containment, and a sense of control in otherwise chaotic lives. Their choices reflect how they interpret and process their world.

ANIKI TAHSIN HAFSA

Paintings often open doors to worlds we forget how to enter. As adults, our imaginations become layered with pretence and caution, but children create from a place unfiltered and intensely real. Their drawings are the reflections of what they see, fear, love, and hope for. Nowhere was this truth clearer than at *The Catcher in the Rye*, a two-day exhibition held on December 5-6 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, showcasing the artworks of children born and raised in the country's red-light areas. It was organised by Project Pothchola, an initiative of the Give Bangladesh Foundation.

The title draws from J D Salinger's novel, where Holden Caulfield imagines himself as a guardian protecting children from losing their innocence. Similarly, this exhibition becomes a space where the children's art preserves that innocence and asserts their right to dream.

The opening ceremony began at 3:30pm with chief guest cartoonist Ahsan Habib. "Children don't pretend. They draw what they truly feel. Their paintings are honest, almost like looking directly into their eyes," he shared. The ceremony began with a heartfelt group performance of *Amra Korbo Joy* sung by the children themselves—an earnest, hopeful chorus that set the tone for what followed.

The artworks, created by children from the Astha shelter home and the Daulatdia brothel area, were arranged in segments that guided visitors through their worlds. The exhibition included paintings, installations, photographs, videos, and handmade crafts.

One section displayed photographs of Daulatdia, alongside black-and-white blurred

portraits of the children—an artistic way that preserved their dignity while making the starkness of their surroundings unmistakable. Narrow alleys, dim rooms, and minimal study materials told stories of constraint, but never of defeat.

The paintings ranged from whimsical to haunting. Some children filled their canvases with bright blues and balloon-filled skies, like *Up, Up and Away*, which showed a blue sky with colourful hot-air balloons decorated with buttons. Others created abstract pieces using imagined colours. Notably, many children chose darker tones—brown, dark red, dark blue—despite having access to all colours. Dark shades appeared even in skies and trees where



brighter tones are expected.

Psychologically, children who face difficult circumstances often use colour to express emotions they cannot verbalise. Dark colours don't only signal sadness; they can represent boundaries, containment, and a sense of control in otherwise chaotic lives. Their choices reflect how they interpret and process their world.

The installation works included birds made with stones, fingerprint gardens, butterflies, fish in the deep sea, and more. A standout 3D dream house model featured a home, a school, a colorful garden, a playground, a small pond, a rooftop canvas, and two cats—capturing a complete world imagined by the children. Nearby stood the *Tree of Letters*, its branches filled with handwritten notes from the children—some sharing simple wishes, others big dreams.

The exhibition ran from 3pm to 10pm on both days at Gallery 5 of the National Art Gallery, inviting visitors to see how these children imagine home. Ashik Chowdhury, Executive Chairman of BIDA and BEZA, visited with his family and told The Daily Star, "It's very different to see that someone's trying to save the kids and their dreams."

The video screening featured children sharing dreams of becoming teachers, doctors, and army officers. They imagined travelling the world through Doraemon's "Anywhere Door", building nice homes, and living without fear. Ahmed Fahmi, Executive Director of Give Bangladesh Foundation, shared, "Children

'Peakly Blinders: The Immortal Man' release date announced



Netflix has unveiled the release date for *Peakly Blinders: The Immortal Man*, the long-awaited feature film that revives the Birmingham crime saga four years after the series finale.

Written by creator Steven Knight and directed by Tom Harper, the film brings the Shelby family back into a world overshadowed by war and old enemies.

Peakly Blinders: The Immortal Man will release in select cinemas on 6 March 2026, followed by a global Netflix premiere on 20 March 2026.

Raihan Rafi's 'Omimangshito' finally set for release

Raihan Rafi's much-awaited web-film *Omimangshito* is finally set for release on iScreen.

Recently OTT platform iScreen announced that the web-film will be available to viewers on December 15.

In this mystery-driven thriller centred on the murder of a journalist couple, Intiaz Barshom and Tanzika Amin play the lead roles. The trailer also features several well-known actors, including Shahidul Alam Sachchu and Manoj Pramanik.



NEWS

The pen that pierced

FROM PAGE 12
biting clarity, inspiring admiration for her cleverness and making her critique unforgettable. Her sharp humour invites the audience to respect her vision and see the system's flaws with new eyes. She employs satire to pierce the contradictions embedded in purdah.

One of the most striking examples is her critique of the treatment of male doctors. She exposes the absurdity of a system in which women, secluded from all unrelated men, are nonetheless forced in times of grave illness to be examined by these very men. Rokeya highlights this not as devotion but as theatrical contradiction designed to uphold a shallow form of purity while sacrificing actual well-being. Her strategic use of humour is a mark of superior intellect.

By framing her arguments through satire, she undermines the authority of the male guardians (the murubbis)

who enforced these rules, portraying them not as wise protectors but as foolish architects of an unworkable social system. She engages their arguments directly. When they use metaphors to justify purdah, such as comparing a woman to a precious object that must be hidden, Rokeya responds with impeccable reason. She questions why a human being, created with intellect and soul, should be equated with an inanimate object.

This was a high-stakes rhetorical move. By challenging orthodoxy on its own terms, she robbed it of its primary defence. She demonstrated that the system was not only cruel and absurd but also, by its own stated logic, fundamentally flawed. This architectural use of logic gave her work formidable credibility.

The ultimate triumph of Oborodh Bashini is not just as text but as event. In giving voice to the oborodh bashini, she ceased to be one. She implemented the solution she advocated, stepping out of the metaphorical and literary

zenana to claim her place as a public intellectual and leader.

As we commemorate Begum Rokeya Day, and as the 16 Days of Activism near their end, Oborodh Bashini stands not as a relic but as a living blueprint for resistance. The stories she told are specific to a time, but the structures of silencing they represent remain familiar. The veil she sought to step out of was not only cloth but silence, ignorance and intellectual submission.

Her words, the testimony that validates, the satire that humiliates and the logic that dismantles, continue to echo, reminding us that our voices, our stories and our reason remain potent tools against modern forms of confinement that persist in our society.

To honour Begum Rokeya is to pick up the pen she wielded, to continue lifting every veil that dims the light of human potential.

(The writer is an IR graduate and a contributor at The Daily Star.)

Khaleda still unfit to travel: medical board

FROM PAGE 1
said it has asked to cancel its previously approved landing schedule at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

A senior official of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) confirmed that the company submitted a formal withdrawal request through a local coordinating agency yesterday.

Contacted by The Daily Star, the official, seeking anonymity, said, "We'll forward the cancellation request to the foreign ministry for further necessary steps."

CAAB had earlier cleared the aircraft to land at 8:00am today and depart an hour later, according to the operator's initial request submitted on Sunday.

This is the fifth postponement of the BNP chief's planned departure.

The former prime minister's health condition has remained unchanged, with her medical board keeping her under close observation at Evercare

Hospital in the capital.

Her medical board yesterday held a routine review meeting and found that her health has been improving very slowly, though no fresh deterioration was noticed as of yesterday noon.

BNP's media cell, quoting Khaleda's personal physician Dr AZM Zahid Hossain around 8:00pm, said her condition remains the same.

A member of the medical board Dr Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Khaleda's daughter-in-law, was at the hospital from 3:30pm for around eight hours and held several meetings with both local and foreign doctors. She also met Khaleda.

Doctors have not given permission for the former prime minister to travel as her current condition is not well enough for long-haul flights, the medical board said.

On December 6, Zahid, also a member of BNP's Standing

Committee, said preparations for her travel had been made at the highest level, but her condition must be suitable for the journey.

On the advice of her medical board, Khaleda was admitted to the hospital on November 23 after being diagnosed with infections affecting her heart and lungs.

She is also suffering from pneumonia and is currently receiving treatment in the hospital's Coronary Care Unit.

Khaleda, 80, has long been battling multiple health complications, including liver cirrhosis. She has a permanent pacemaker and has previously undergone stent placement for her heart.

Meanwhile, special prayer programmes were held for the BNP chief in different parts of the country.

Party leaders and activists continued to gather outside the hospital yesterday, despite repeated instructions from the party not to crowd the premises.

Nat'l Democratic Front launched

FROM PAGE 12
the chief guest. Ruhul Amin Howlader, secretary general of Anisul-led JP faction, delivered the opening statement.

The announcement of NDF came just a day after National Citizen Party, Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party) and Bangladesh Rastro Songskar Andolan forged another alliance ahead of the national polls.

In mid-July, leaders of four JP

factions appeared on the same stage at a memorial event marking the sixth death anniversary of party founder HM Ershad and called for unifying the Jatiya Party.

On August 9, the JP split again following a council session.

Founded in 1986 by president HM Ershad, the JP has a long history of factionalism, having already split at least six times.

Besides JP factions led by Manju

and Anisul, the four other factions are GM Quader-led Jatiya Party (JaPa), Andaleev Rahman Partho-led Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), MA Mukit-led Bangladesh Jatiya Party, and Mostafa Jamal Haider-led Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar).

Meanwhile, two factions, one led by GM Quader, younger brother of HM Ershad, and the other by Anisul, each claimed ownership of the party's electoral symbol, the plough.

Elite-dominated parliament source

FROM PAGE 12
He said the people elected to power carry out legislation and practise accountability largely within the framework of their interests.

The electoral reforms commission has failed to address how the electoral process can be democratised and how people who are not wealthy can compete and get into parliament.

Bangladesh never had a functioning parliament with a strong opposition holding the ruling party accountable by debating issues that needed to be discussed, said Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"You were never in a position in the democratic period to have a proper discussion on the budget. The

opposition invariably boycotted the budget session, so the whole process of keeping the government accountable for their economic policies, their development practices, their corruption and all these issues were never really discussed in parliament."

As a result, the nation is saddled with misgovernance, Sobhan added.

Democracy is essential though not sufficient, said KAS Murshid, a former DG of BIDS.

Bangladesh's experience shows a persistent failure to ensure credible elections, he said.

"Without resolving this democratic deficit, development will repeatedly suffer, as elites resist genuine democracy while citizens continue

to demand it, creating a cycle of instability and setbacks," he added.

Bangladesh's democratic decline is also rooted in voters not doing due diligence, repeatedly choosing parties over qualified candidates, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

"This empowers winner-takes-all politics, weakens accountability and turns leaders into irreplaceable figures. Intellectuals remain silent, institutions lose moral courage and civil servants obey any order."

Without citizens' careful voting, principled resistance and institutions refusing unconstitutional directives, true democracy cannot emerge, he added.

SYLHET-AKHAURA ROUTE

Encroachment eats up railway land

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Railway land worth around Tk 1,000 crore has been illegally grabbed across 11 stations along the Sylhet-Akhaura route in Moulvibazar. The stations are Sreemangal, Kulaura, Shamshernagar, Bhanugachh, Bhatara, Baramchal, Tilagaon, Sathgaon, Sayestaganj, Manu and Rashidpur.

Numerous illegal establishments and agricultural farms have sprung up on the occupied land. Although the Railway Estate Department carries out occasional eviction drives, it has failed to take decisive action, allowing influential locals to reoccupy the land soon afterwards.

allowed illegal occupants to bypass the rules for decades, alleged locals.

Land prices near the stations, particularly in Shamshernagar, have surged, with some properties valued at several crores. As more sites fall under illegal occupation, the financial stakes continue to rise.

“Grabbers have long been occupying these railway properties in absence of strict vigilance, and renting out the land for different purposes, depriving Railway authorities of revenue,” said Ruhel Ahmed, a resident of Sreemangal.

“Illegal occupation of railway land at Shamshernagar station has pushed prices of nearby properties to Tk 30-50 lakh per 100 decimals. Railway



Of the stations, four are currently operational — Sreemangal, Bhanugachh, Shamshernagar and Kulaura. At these locations, the railway has leased out some land, while a large portion remains illegally occupied for shops, houses and agricultural farms.

The other stations have remained closed for years, and their surrounding land has long been encroached upon.

According to BR, those who take railway land on lease must renew their contracts regularly, and any occupation becomes illegal once a lease expires since no permanent leases are issued.

Construction of permanent structures is prohibited, and agricultural land cannot be used for building. However, lax enforcement has

authorities rarely take action,” said Rajib Ahmed of Shamshernagar Bazar.

Several occupiers who built concrete structures on railway land said anonymously that they constructed the buildings with an understanding with Railway authorities, claiming to have long-term lease agreements.

“The total value of all illegally occupied railway properties in Moulvibazar is around Tk 1,000 crore,” said Ruman Ahmed, station master of Kulaura Railway Station.

Kazi Wali-ul-Haque, deputy director of BR's Asset Department, said action would be taken against the grabbers.

“We will direct the officers concerned to recover the occupied lands and take necessary steps against the offenders,” he said.

Anwara Begum no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Begum, 61, mother of Manabzamin's diplomatic correspondent Mizanur Rahman, breathed her last at a city hospital on Wednesday night after suffering a stroke.

She leaves behind three sons, three daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held in Mahlal union of Rajnagar in Moulvibazar, and she will be buried at the family graveyard on December 9.

Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh President AKM Moynuddin and General Secretary Md Arifuzzaman Mamun condoled her death.

Jabian Club launched for JU alumni

STAR REPORT

Jabian Club Limited, dedicated to graduates of Jahangirnagar University, was officially launched following its inaugural executive committee meeting on December 5.

Founded through the concerted efforts of former JU students, the club is the first organisation of its kind in the university's history. It was formally incorporated with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) on November 6 after completing all necessary regulatory checks.

The inaugural executive committee meeting was held at the club's Dhaka office and chaired by Mohammad Tahiat Hossain, a retired additional secretary to the government and an alumnus of JU's 9th batch. Dr Fahmida Khatun from the 10th batch has been appointed the club's president, while Group Captain Abu Hena Md Ameerul Ahsan (retd) from the 10th batch has been appointed secretary general.

Many major

FROM PAGE 3

Health experts identified over-prescription, failure to complete antibiotic courses, excessive use of antibiotics in livestock and fisheries, poor infection control in hospitals, inadequate hygiene and sanitation, and the absence of new antibiotics as key drivers of AMR.

Presenting the BMU findings, Associate Professor Shaheda Anwar said 11,108 samples — 24 percent of the tested 46,279 samples — contained germs.

The report shows steep increases in multidrug resistance among several Gram-negative bacteria.

Klebsiella, which causes bloodstream infections, saw resistance to Ceftriaxone, Ciprofloxacin, and Gentamicin rise from below 50 percent in 2022 to over 80 percent this year. Acinetobacter showed a similar trend, with resistance to the same drugs rising from below 35 percent to over 60 percent.

In contrast, resistance to Amoxicillin, Ciprofloxacin and Ceftriaxone among E coli, which causes urinary tract infections, fell slightly compared to 2022. The resistance levels currently remain between 55 and 74 percent, the report shows.

Speaking at the programme, BMU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahinul Alam said the university must play a leading role in addressing this public health challenge. He instructed faculty deans to prepare an antibiotic use guideline within three months.

Online abuse taking toll on women's mental

FROM PAGE 3

emeritus scientist at icddr,b's Maternal and Child Health Division, said although relatively few women and girls in Bangladesh use the internet, online violence against them is already high and likely to rise.

“Many victims do not seek help because of fear, stigma and difficult legal processes. Since most women never report violence, prevention and awareness are more important than services alone,” she said, adding that families, schools and communities must play a role in teaching safe online behaviour.

Prof Saria Tasnim of OGSB's Gynaecology and Obstetrics said prevention begins with awareness and healthy relationships between parents and children. She said the government, NGOs and professional bodies must work together for effective prevention and response. Nadia Afroz, assistant professor at the National Institute of Mental Health, described how negative comments online can trigger severe depression and anxiety in children. She called for immediate support, parental guidance on safe social media use, age-appropriate education and timely professional help to prevent long-term trauma.

Kamal Ahmed, consulting editor of The Daily Star, stressed the need for a single, easy-to-remember emergency number, stronger enforcement of laws, better service coordination and pressure on global tech companies to address online harassment.

“The Daily Star continues to take a strong stand against gender-based violence and discrimination and promotes awareness through reporting and campaigns,” he said. Rahat Ara Nur, programme director of Ipas Bangladesh, emphasised the need to strengthen the country's sexual and reproductive health and rights ecosystem.

She also said the CSO Forum's 23 member organisations, including NGOs, academic institutions, legal groups and feminist organisations, play a key role in national advocacy. The session was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star, with representatives from government bodies and NGOs sharing experiences, initiatives and recommendations for creating safer digital spaces for women and girls.

Shaukat Mahmood

FROM PAGE 3

Team, the investigation officer of the case, produced Mahmood before the court yesterday with separate pleas for placing him on remand and keeping him in jail.

According to the forwarding report submitted to the court, “Shaukat Mahmood and other unnamed accused, in collusion with Enayet Karim Chowdhury, created panic among the public on various dates and times to endanger the integrity, solidarity, public safety or sovereignty of Bangladesh.”

The report stated that the accused were “involved in an effort to overthrow the current

government by engaging in conspiracy, providing assistance, and inciting property damage to the Republic through mass protests. This includes holding secret meetings and consultations with leaders of various political parties, high-ranking officials and influential circles to achieve the government's removal.”

Inspector Akther Morshed said, “Sufficient evidence has been found about his involvement in the incident of this case.”

The report concluded that “in the interest of fair investigation and justice in the case, it is necessary to keep the arrested accused detained in the jail”.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার				
ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা				
২০২৬ সনের হজযাত্রীদের জন্য ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রয়ের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
স্মারক নম্বর-১৬.০০.০০০০.০০০০.০৭.০০৬.২৫-১৩২৫		তারিখঃ		২৩ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩২ ০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম	ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়		
২	প্রতিষ্ঠান	ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা		
৩	ক্রয়/সেবাগ্রাহক	সচিব, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা		
৪	স্বাক্ষরকারীর নাম			
৫	কাজের ধরন	পণ্য ক্রয়		
৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	স্মারক নম্বর-১৬.০০.০০০০.০০০০.০৭.০০৬.২৫-১৩২৫; তারিখঃ ০৮.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ		
৭	ক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)		
৮	অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি		
৯	প্যাকেজ এর নাম	১) হজযাত্রীর জন্য ঔষধ ক্রয়; ২) হজযাত্রীর জন্য চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রয়।		
১০	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৯.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ		
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	১০.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ হতে ২৮.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন)		
১২	প্রাক-দরপত্র সভার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২১.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ; বেলাঃ ১১.০০টা, কক্ষ নং-১৫১৫, ভবন নং-৬, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা		
১৩	দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান	(১) হজ-১ শাখা, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং-১৪১৬, ভবন নং-৬, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (২) ইসলামিক মিশন ডায়গনস্টিক সেন্টার, বায়তুল মোকাররম জাতীয় মসজিদ, ঢাকা (৩) হজ অফিস, আশকোনা, বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা		
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৯.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত		
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণের স্থান	(১) হজ-১ শাখা, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং-১৪১৬, ভবন নং-৬, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (২) ইসলামিক মিশন ডায়গনস্টিক সেন্টার, বায়তুল মোকাররম জাতীয় মসজিদ, ঢাকা (৩) হজ অফিস, আশকোনা, বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা		
১৬	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৯.১২.২০২৫খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৩.৩০টা, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের সভাকক্ষ (কক্ষ নং-১৫১৫, ভবন নং-০৬, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা)		
১৭	দরপত্র প্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	ক) ঔষধ সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে ঔষধ উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান খ) চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি/বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের ন্যূনতম ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান		
১৮	দরপত্র দাখিলের পদ্ধতি ও শর্তাবলিঃ	(ক) দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দরদাতার ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি, সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় বিগত ০৫ বছরে একই ধরনের কার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি, ডাট নিবন্ধন সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি, সার্টিফিকেট অব ইনকর্পোরেশন এর সত্যায়িত কপি (যদি থাকে), টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টস ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ, প্রত্নতকারী/আমদানীকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানের অথোরাইজেশন লেটার (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), ক্যাটালগ/গ্রন্থিয়ার এর কপি (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক সক্ষমতার সনদ (ক্রেডিট লাইন) জমা দিতে হবে। গীলমোহরকৃত খামের উপর দরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করতে হবে। (খ) সচিব, ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে জামানত হিসেবে ক্রমিক নং-১৮ এর বর্ণনানুযায়ী পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। (গ) দরদাতার অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা থাকা সাপেক্ষে ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি প্যাকেজ এর উভয়টি অথবা যে কোন একটির জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন। (ঘ) লট (Lot) ও আইটেমভিত্তিক (item-by-item basis) দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন করা হবে। (ঙ) PPA-২০০৬ ও PPR-২০২৫ অনুযায়ী ক্রয় কাজ সম্পন্ন হবে। (চ) সিডিউলে বর্ণিত ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদির সংখ্যা/পরিমাণ কম-বেশি হতে পারে। (ছ) ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি নিজ খরচ ও নিজ দায়িত্বে পরিচালক, হজ অফিস, আশকোনা, ঢাকায় সরবরাহ করতে হবে।		
১৯	কাজের বিবরণ			
২০	বিবরণ	দরপত্র জামানত (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার) (ফেরত/সমন্বয়যোগ্য)	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা (সপ্তাহ/দিন)	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফিসতযোগ্য)
২১	১৪৪৭ হিজরি/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সনে হজযাত্রীদের বাহ্যারের জন্য সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত Specification অনুযায়ী ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে হবে।	৫,৫০,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	Notification of Award প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ৩০ দিন	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র
ক্রয়কারী সংস্থার বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি				
২২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	মোহাম্মদ সফিউজ্জামান ভূইয়া, উপসচিব (হজ-১), ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়		
২৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর কোন নম্বর	+৮৮-০২-৫৫১০১১১৯		
২৪	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।			
২৫	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট	www.mora.gov.bd ও www.haji.gov.bd-এ পাওয়া যাবে।		
০৮/১২/২০২৫ মোহাম্মদ সফিউজ্জামান ভূইয়া উপসচিব				
GD-2688				

Office of the Bandarban Pourashava

Bandarban Hill District

Memo No : বাবৌবি/হকৌবি/পূর্-চার/২০২৫/৭৮


Date : 8/12/2025

e-Tender Notice no (OTM)-01/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under IUGIP Project, LGED. Details are given below.

SL No	Description of the works & package	Tender ID No	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)	Tender Security Submission (Last Date & Time)
1.	Package No- IUGIP/BAND/UT+DR/04/2023 Improvement/Construction of 230.00m Road by RCC in 01 locations, including 01 nos. 2-vent RCC Box Culvert Size (4.5x4.5x5.5m) & Installation of 09 nos. Street Lights and Construction of 1579.00m RCC Drain in 04 Locations, at Bandarban Pourashava, District: Bandarban.	1191831	31/12/2025 Time-14.00	31/12/2025 Time-12.00

- 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.
- The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches as per TDS.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and From e-Gp help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)



(Birat Barua)
Executive Engineer
Bandarban Paurashava.
Bandarban Hill District

GD-2697

Office of the Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-4
Agrabad CGO Building No-1
Agrabad, Chattogram.
Phone- 02-333326161, Fax-031-720329

Memo No-25.36.1500.220.07.264.22.2327


Date- 08/12/2025

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice

It is hereby notified to all concern that the e-Tender invited in the National e-GP System portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> vide this office memo no- 25.36.1500.220.07.264.22.2174 Dated- 11-11-2025 the following Corrigendum has been made :-

Tender ID No	Description of Works	As Published in Tender Notice	As per Amendment
1171130	Construction of 20 storied Tax Building (3 Basement + 20 Storey) (Foundation, Basement, Super structure, Internal water supply and internal Sewerage, internal Electrification) under the project" Construction of Chattogram Tax Building" at Agrabad, Chattogram. (Package W-1).	Last selling Date and Time	Last selling Date and Time
		10-December-2025, 16:00	14- December-2025, 16:00
		Closing Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
		11- December-2025, 12:00	15- December-2025, 12:00


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রাষ্ট্রপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
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বাণী


মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের উদ্যোগে প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় এ বছরও বেগম রোকেয়া দিবস ২০২৫ উদযাপন এবং বেগম রোকেয়া পদক প্রদান করা হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। নারী জাগরণের অগ্রদূত বেগম রোকেয়া সাখাওয়াত হোসেন নারী শিক্ষার বিস্তারের মাধ্যমে সমাজে নারীর সম্মান ও অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় ভূমিকা পালন করেন। আজ ৯ই ডিসেম্বর, এই মহীয়সী নারীর জন্ম ও প্রয়াণ দিবসে আমি তাঁর স্মৃতির প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

বাংলাদেশে নারীর অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠার আন্দোলনের ইতিহাসে বেগম রোকেয়ার অবদান অবিস্মরণীয়। তিনি দেশের নারী সমাজকে শিক্ষিত ও আত্মনির্ভরশীল করে গড়ে তোলার স্বপ্ন দেখেছিলেন। তাঁর সাহিত্যিকর্মে ফুটে ওঠে তৎকালীন সমাজের প্রচলিত কুসংস্কার, নারীদের প্রতি সামাজিক অবমাননা ও বঞ্চনার কথা। বাল্যবিবাহ ও বহুবিবাহের বিরুদ্ধেও তিনি ছিলেন সদা সোচ্চার।

বেগম রোকেয়া ছিলেন দূরদৃষ্টিসম্পন্ন একজন আধুনিক নারী। তিনি উপলব্ধি করেছিলেন সমাজ তথা রাষ্ট্রের সার্বিক উন্নয়নের জন্য পুরুষের পাশাপাশি নারীকেও প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার মাধ্যমে উপযুক্ত করে গড়ে তোলা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। তাঁর এই উপলব্ধি ও আদর্শ আজও আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা জোগায়।

এ বছর যারা 'বেগম রোকেয়া পদক ২০২৫' পেয়েছেন, তাঁদের সবাইকে আমি আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাই। নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন ও আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে আপনাদের অবদান সকলের জন্য অনুসরণীয় হয়ে থাকবে।

নারী-পুরুষের সম্মিলিত সফল অগ্রযাত্রা সমাজ ও জাতিকে আলোকিত করবে এবং দেশকে সমৃদ্ধির পথে এগিয়ে নিতে সহায়ক ভূমিকা রাখবে- বেগম রোকেয়া দিবসে আমি এ প্রত্যাশা করি।



মোঃ সাহাবুদ্দিন



বৈষম্যমুক্ত সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠায় নারী উন্নয়নের
পথিকৃত বেগম রোকেয়া সাখাওয়াত হোসেন

“আমরা সমাজেরই অর্ধাঙ্গ। আমরা পড়িয়া থাকিলে সমাজ উঠিবে কীরূপে? কোনো ব্যক্তির এক পা বাঁধিয়া রাখিলে, সে খোঁড়াইয়া খোঁড়াইয়া কতদূর চলিবে? পুরুষের স্বার্থ এবং আমাদের স্বার্থ ভিন্ন নহে। তাঁহাদের জীবনের উদ্দেশ্য বা লক্ষ্য যাহা, আমাদের লক্ষ্যও তাহাই।” সাহিত্যিক, সমাজ সংস্কারক, সংগঠক, মুক্ত চিন্তাবিদ, শিক্ষা অনুরাগী, জ্ঞানপিপাসু, নারী জাগরণের অগ্রদূত মহীয়সী নারী বেগম রোকেয়া সাখাওয়াত হোসেনের নাম নারী প্রগতির ইতিহাসে অবিস্মরণীয়। বেগম রোকেয়ার সমগ্র জীবনদর্শন ও সাহিত্যিকর্মের মধ্যে প্রতিফলিত হয়েছে সমাজের কুসংস্কার ও অবরোধ প্রথার কুফল, নারী শিক্ষার পক্ষে তাঁর দৃঢ় মতামত এবং নারীর অধিকার ও নারী জাগরণ সম্পর্কে তাঁর প্রগতিশীল ধ্যান-ধারণা। তিনি নারী মুক্তির এক অনন্য দিশারী। বাংলাদেশের সূচনা লক্ষ্যের পূর্ব থেকেই এদেশের পট পরিবর্তন ও ত্রুটিগুলো বেগম রোকেয়ার অনুপ্রেরণা সমাজ সংস্কার ও বৈষম্য দূরীকরণে রক্তচক্ষুকে উপেক্ষা করে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে নারী সমাজ। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে বাংলাদেশ এক নতুন অধ্যায়ে প্রবেশ করেছে, যেখানে বৈষম্যমুক্তির নবজাগরণের ডাক দিকে দিকে। তাই আজকের ফরবহেও বাংলাদেশে বেগম রোকেয়া সব সময়ের মতোই প্রাসঙ্গিক।

বহুমুখী প্রতিভার অধিকারী বেগম রোকেয়া ১৮৮০ সালে ৯ই ডিসেম্বর রংপুরের পায়রাবন্দের একটি জমিদার পরিবারে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। ক্ষণজন্মা এই ব্যক্তিত্ব মাত্র ৫২ বছর বয়সে ১৯৩২ সালের ৯ই ডিসেম্বর তিনি মৃত্যুবরণ করেন। বাংলার অসংখ্য মুসলিম নারী যখন সামাজিক বন্ধন ও অবিচারকে মেনে নিয়ে কঠোর পর্দার আড়ালে ঘরের চার দেয়ালকেই আপন ভুবন মনে করেছে, তখন সংগোপনে জ্ঞানসাধনায় মগ্ন ছিলেন বেগম রোকেয়া। তিনি তৎকালীন পশ্চাৎপদ উপনিবেশিক সমাজের চোখে বারবারই নারী ও পুরুষের মধ্যকার সামাজিক, অর্থনৈতিক বৈষম্য তুলে ধরেছিলেন ও তাঁর চেতনার আলোয় চারিদিক আলোকিত করার উদ্যোগ নেন। এক প্রতিকূল সমাজব্যবস্থার বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ের চির ফুটে উঠেছে তাঁর রচনায়। সমকালীন রাজনীতি-র বিষয়ও তাঁর লেখায় স্থান পেয়েছে। তাঁর রচিত মতিবুর, পথরাপ, সুলতানার স্বপ্ন, অবরোধখাসিনী, মুক্তি প্রভৃতি গ্রন্থ বাংলা সাহিত্যের মূল্যবান সম্পদ। “সুলতানার স্বপ্ন” মেন নারী শক্তির অভূতপূর্ব প্রকাশ, যেখানে নারীরা বিজ্ঞান, স্ব্থ থেকে শুরু করে দেশ পরিচালনার অন্যান্য দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছেন। তাঁর রচনায় প্রকাশিত হয়েছে নারী-পুরুষের যৌথ অবদানের গুরুত্ব। এমনকি কিছু রচনায় নারী-পুরুষের সম্পর্ক ও তার বিভিন্ন মাত্রিকতার বিশ্লেষণে তাঁর গভীর জ্ঞানপ্রবীণতা এবং কুসংস্কারমুক্ত আধুনিক চিন্তার বহিঃপ্রকাশ ঘটেছে। বেগম রোকেয়া সামাজিক সমতার সম্পর্ক বিনিময়ের নারীর সামাজিক, পারিবারিক মর্যাদার গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে নিরলসভাবে বলে গেছেন। তিনি বিশ্বের উন্নত দেশের বিষয়েও তুলে ধরেন- “জগতের যে সকল সমাজের পুরুষেরা সজিনীসহ অস্ত্রের হইতেছেন, তাঁহারা উন্নতির চরমসীমায় উপনীত হইতে চসিয়াছেন”।

অনুপ্রসরতা ও অসমতা দূরীকরণে তিনি নারী শিক্ষার গুণ গুরুত্বারোপ করেন। নারী শিক্ষার বিস্তার ছাড়া অবরুদ্ধ নারীর মুক্তি সম্ভব নয়, তিনি তা অনুধাবন করেন। কোনো প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষা না থাকার পরও সুশিক্ষিত বেগম রোকেয়া মেয়েদের জন্য ছুল প্রতিষ্ঠার স্বপ্ন দেখেছিলেন। আর এ বিষয়ে উৎসাহ যুগিয়েছেন তাঁর মুক্তমনা স্বামী সাখাওয়াত হোসেন। তিনি একটি ছুল প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য অর্থ আশ্রয় করে রাখেন। ১৯০৯ সালে তাঁর স্বামীর মৃত্যুর পর নানা চড়াই-উত-রাই পেরিয়ে ছুল প্রতিষ্ঠায় সফল হয়েছিলেন। মুসলিম মেয়েদের জন্য ছুল প্রতিষ্ঠা, শিক্ষকতা, বাড়ি বাড়ি গিয়ে ছাত্রী সংগ্রহ করা, দাণ্ডারিক কাজ-সব প্রধানত তিনি একাই করেছেন। তবে সময়ের চেয়ে এগিয়ে থাকা রোকেয়া শিক্ষা বলতে কেবল প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষাকে বা ‘পাশ করা বিদ্যা’কে নয়, ঈশ্বর যে স্বাভাবিক জ্ঞান বা দক্ষতা দিয়েছেন সেই ক্ষমতাকে অনুশীলন ঘরা বৃদ্ধি করাকে বুঝিয়ে ছিলেন। নারীদের আত্মমর্যাদাসম্পন্ন করে তুলতে, নারীদের প্রতি সমাজের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি পরিবর্তন করতে বেগম রোকেয়ার এই যে আত্মনিবেদন তা আজও আমাদের জন্য অনুকরণীয়। উপমহাদেশে তিনিই একমাত্র ও অতুলনীয় ব্যক্তি যিনি নারীকে শিক্ষা, সামাজিক, রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক নেতৃত্বে চিহ্নিত করার সাহস দেখিয়েছেন।

বেগম রোকেয়ার এই দিশার আলোকে নারীদের সম্ভাবনা এবং কর্মদক্ষতাকে উৎপাদনমুখী কাজে সঞ্চারিত করে দেশের সুখম উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে নারীদের উন্নয়নের মূল শ্রোতব্যরায় মুক্ত করে অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক ক্ষমতায়নের লক্ষ্যে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় বহুমুখী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। বাস্তবায়িত কার্যক্রমের মধ্যে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেষ্টনীর আওতায় ভালনারেল উইমেন বেনিফিট (ভিডাব্লিউবি)-এর মাধ্যমে ২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য অতি দরিদ্র নারীদের প্রতি মাসে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) কেজি চাল (সাধারণ এবং পুষ্টি) প্রদানের পাশাপাশি তাদের জীবনদক্ষতা উন্নয়নমূলক এবং আয়বর্ধক প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হয়। অপরদিকে মা ও শিশু সহায়তা কর্মসূচির আওতায় গর্ভবতী মায়ের গর্ভকালীন যত্ন ও শিশুর পুষ্টির চাহিদা পূরণে প্রথম ও বছর প্রতি মাসে ভাতা বাবদ ৮৫০/- প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। এটি শিশুর বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক বিকাশকেও ত্বরান্বিত করছে। গ্রামীণ নারীদের আত্মকর্মসংস্থানের মাধ্যমে স্বাবলম্বী করে অর্থনিতির মূল শ্রোতব্যরায় নিয়ে আসতে এবং সামাজিক সচেতনতায় নারীদের আত্মকর্মসংস্থানের জন্য ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হচ্ছে। সুস্থ শিশু মানেই কর্মঠ জাতি। বেগম রোকেয়া তাঁর ‘শিশু পালন’ প্রবন্ধে অত্যন্ত যৌক্তিকভাবে মা ও শিশুর সুস্বাস্থ্য এবং যত্নের প্রয়োজনীয়তা তুলে ধরেছেন। একই প্রবন্ধে তিনি বাল্যবিবাহ ও বহুবিবাহের কুফল সম্পর্কেও তাঁর ক্ষুব্ধতার বক্তব্য উপস্থাপন করেছেন। তিনি লিখেছেন “আমাদের ভবিষ্যৎ বংশ রক্ষার জন্য দুটি বিষয় দরকারী হয়ে পড়েছে, দেখছি। প্রথম স্ত্রী শিক্ষার বহুল প্রচার; দ্বিতীয় বাল্যবিবাহ রহিত করা। অর্থাৎ মেয়েদের লেখাপড়া শিখাতে হবে যাতে তারা নিজেদের শরীরের যত্ন করতে শেখে; আর অল্প বয়সের ছেলে মেয়েদের বিয়ে বন্ধ করতে হবে”। তাঁর ভাষায়, “শিশু রক্ষা করতে হলে আগে শিশুর মায়ের রক্ষা করা দরকার। ভালো ফসল পেতে হলে গাছের সার দেয়া দরকার”। মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের জাতীয় মহিলা স্টেশন ও উন্নয়ন একাডেমির মাধ্যমে নারীদের দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি করতে বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে আবাসিক ও অনাবাসিক প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। এ ছাড়া বিক্রয় ও প্রদর্শনী কেন্দ্র অঙ্গনার মাধ্যমে নারী উদ্যোক্তাদের সহযোগিতা করছে।

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের মাঠ পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তাগণ বাল্যবিদ্যে ও নারী নির্বাচন প্রতিরোধে কাজ করে চলেছে। এছাড়া নারী উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে স্থানীয় নারীদের নেতৃত্ব বিকশিত করার লক্ষ্যে বেঙ্গলদেশী নারী সংগঠনমুখের নিবন্ধন, নির্বাচিত সমিতিসমূহের অনুকূলে অনুদান প্রদান করা ও ০৯টি কর্মজীবী মহিলা হোস্টেল পরিচালনা করা হয়। কর্মজীবী মায়াদের কর্মছলে নিশ্চিত অর্পিত দায়িত্ব পরিচালনার জন্য রয়েছে ‘শিশু দিব্যজ্ঞান কেন্দ্র’। নারী নির্বাচন ড্রাস এবং নারী ও শিশুদের সুরক্ষায় ১০৯ টোলফ্রি ন্যাপনাল হেল্পলাইন কল সেন্টার স্থাপন করে সেবা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। নারী ও শিশু নির্বাচন প্রতিরোধে সমর্থিত সেবা জোরদারকরণ এবং কুইক রেসপন্স টিমের কার্যক্রম (কিউআরটি) প্রকল্প চালু করা হয়েছে। শিশুদের আগামী দিনের সুনামগিক হিসেবে গড়ে তুলতে, বাল্যবিদ্যে প্রতিরোধে তাদের ভূমিকা নিশ্চিত করতে এবং জেভার বেইজড ভায়োলেন্স প্রতিরোধে সারাদেশে ৪ হাজার ৮৮০টি কিশোর-কিশোরী শ্রাব পরিচালিত হচ্ছে। উপকূলীয় জনগোষ্ঠীর বিশেষত নারীদের জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন জনিত লব্ধাভ্যতা মোকাবিলায় অভিযোজন সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকরণ (জিসিএ) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের উপকূলীয় এলাকায় বসবাসরত জনগোষ্ঠীর নারীদের সুপের পানির প্রাপ্যতা নিশ্চিতকরণ এবং জীবিকার মান উন্নয়ন করা হচ্ছে। উপজেলা পর্যায়ে মহিলাদের জন্য আয়বর্ধক (আইজিএ) প্রশিক্ষণ (২য় পর্যায়) প্রকল্প। “বাল্যবিবাহ প্রতিরোধ কল্পে” রয়েছে “নারী ও কন্যাশিশুর অধিকার ও অগ্রগতি নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে জেভার ভিত্তিক সহিসতা প্রতিরোধ সংক্রান্ত প্রকল্প”।

বেগম রোকেয়ার অভ্যন্তরীণ বক্তব্য সকলে সম্মত হয়ে বল, আমরা মানুষ! আর কার্যত দেখাও যে, আমরা সৃষ্টি-জগতের শ্রেষ্ঠ অংশের অর্ধেক। বাস্তবিক পক্ষে আমরাই সৃষ্টি-জগতের মাতা। সৃষ্টি-জগতের এই শ্রেষ্ঠ অংশের অর্ধেককে পিছনে রেখে দেশের উন্নয়ন কোনোভাবেই সম্ভব নয়। বেগম রোকেয়ার প্রদর্শিত পথ অনুসরণ করে, বাংলাদেশ নারী-পুরুষের মধ্যকার বৈষম্যসহ সকল ধরনের বৈষম্য দূর করতে সাহায্য করবে। বিশ্ব দরবারে সুখম উন্নয়নের মাধ্যমে দেশকে উন্নত দেশ হিসেবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করবে। প্রত্যাশা করছি, বৈষম্যহীন আগামী বাংলাদেশে নারী-পুরুষের সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টার মাধ্যমে পরিবার, সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রীয় জীবনে নারীর অবস্থা ও অবস্থানের ইতিবাচক পরিবর্তন ঘটবে এবং দেশের সামগ্রিক উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডে নারীর অংশগ্রহণের মাত্রা পরিমণ্ডিত এবং কার্যকরভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাবে। রোকেয়া দিবস/২০২৫ এ রোকেয়া পদকে ভূষিত সম্মানিত নারীদের আমার আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। সকল বৈষম্য দূর করার জন্য আসুন আমরা সম্মত হয়ে বলি- “আমিই রোকেয়া”।



প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
২৪ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩২
০৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫



বাণী

প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় এবারও ৯ ডিসেম্বর দেশে নারী শিক্ষার অগ্রদূত বেগম রোকেয়া স্মরণে বেগম রোকেয়া দিবস উদযাপিত হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। নারীমুক্তি ও মানবাধিকার নিয়ে ব্যাপক সামাজিক আন্দোলনের মধ্যে দিয়ে নারীসমাজকে অন্ধকার থেকে আলোর পথে নিয়ে এসেছিলেন বেগম রোকেয়া সাখাওয়াত হোসেন। এই অধ্যবসায় নারীসমাজকে যথাযোগ্য মর্যাদার আসনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করার প্রয়াসে তাঁর অসামান্য অবদান জাতি চিরদিন শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করবে। আজ বেগম রোকেয়া দিবস উপলক্ষে আমি এই মহীয়সী নারীর স্মৃতির প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

উনবিংশ শতাব্দীতে রক্ষণশীল সমাজ ব্যবস্থায় পিছিয়ে পড়া নারীদের ভাগ্যোন্নয়নের মূল চাবিকাঠি শিক্ষা। এ উপলব্ধি থেকে বেগম রোকেয়া নারীশিক্ষা বিস্তারের বিরাট সাহসী ভূমিকা পালন করেন। বেগম রোকেয়া নারী উন্নয়নের পথে যে যাত্রা শুরু করেছিলেন, তার ধারাবাহিকতায় নারীর ক্ষমতায়নকে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে অন্তর্ভুক্তিকালীন সরকার।


এ লক্ষ্যে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় নানাবিধ পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করেছে। এর মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হচ্ছে, গ্রামীণ অসচ্ছল নারীদের আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে ভালনারেল উইমেন বেনিফিট (VWB) কর্মসূচি, গ্রামীণ এলাকায় দরিদ্র গর্ভবতী মায়ের এবং শহর এলাকায় স্বল্প আয়ের কর্মজীবী মায়ের জন্য আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদান, দেশব্যাপী তৃণমূল পর্যায়ে নারীদের আত্ম-কর্মসংস্থানের লক্ষ্যে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা। এছাড়াও প্রান্তিক নারীদের উদ্যোক্তা তৈরিতে সহায়তা প্রদান করা সহ কর্মজীবী নারীদের নিরাপদ আবাসনের লক্ষ্যে কর্মজীবী মহিলা হোস্টেল পরিচালিত হচ্ছে। নারী ও শিশু নির্বাচন প্রতিরোধ ও প্রতিরোধে সমর্থিত সেবা জোরদারকরণ এবং কুইক রেসপন্স টিমের কার্যক্রম প্রকল্পের আওতায় টোল ফ্রি (৭/২৪ ঘণ্টা) Hot Line সেবা ১০৯ চালু আছে।

বেগম রোকেয়ার আদর্শ অনুসরণে নারী অধিকার ও আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে অবদানের জন্য যারা বেগম রোকেয়া পদক পেয়েছেন আমি তাঁদের অভিনন্দন জানাই।


আমি 'বেগম রোকেয়া দিবস ২০২৫'- উপলক্ষ্যে আয়োজিত সকল কর্মসূচির সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।



প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



উপদেষ্টা
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



বাণী

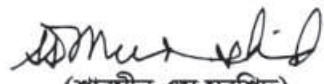
৯ই ডিসেম্বর বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাসের উজ্জ্বলতম চরিত্র, বিপ্লবী চিন্তার প্রতীক, বাংলার নবজাগরণের অগ্রদূত বেগম রোকেয়ার জন্ম ও মৃত্যু দিবসে তাঁকে বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা এবং ভালোবাসায় স্মরণ করছি। বহুমুখী প্রতিভার অধিকারী, স্ব শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত রোকেয়া কেবল নারী শিক্ষার অগ্রদূত নন; বরং তিনি ছিলেন একাধারে একজন লেখক, সংগঠক এবং সর্বোপরি নারী মুক্তির অগ্রদূত লড়াই।

বিংশ শতকের প্রথমার্ধে সমাজ যখন হাজারো বিধিনিষেধের ঘেরাটোপে নারীকে গার্হস্থ-জীবনে আটকে রেখেছিল। সে সময় বেগম রোকেয়া তাঁর ক্ষুদ্রখার লেখায় যৌক্তিকভাবে বলেছিলেন, “আমরা সমাজেরই অর্ধাঙ্গ। আমরা পড়িয়া থাকিলে সমাজ উঠিবে কি রূপে? কোন ব্যক্তির এক পা বাঁধিয়া রাখিলে সে খোঁড়াইয়া খোঁড়াইয়া কতদূর চলিবে? পুরুষের স্বার্থ এবং আমাদের স্বার্থ ভিন্ন নহে-একই। তাঁহাদের জীবনের উদ্দেশ্য বা লক্ষ্য যাহা আমাদের জীবনের লক্ষ্যও তাহাই।” এমন সাহসী উচ্চারণের মধ্য দিয়ে তিনি নারীর জন্য সমাজ নির্ধারিত গৃহী জীবনের সীমানা ডিঙিয়ে পুরুষের পাশাপাশি নারীকে সহ-নাগরিক চিহ্নিত করেছেন, নারীর ভূমিকাকে সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রের জন্য অপরিহার্য বলে ঘোষণা করেছেন। তাঁর ভাষায়, “যে শকটের এক চক্র বড়(পতি) এবং এক চক্র ছোট (পত্নী), সে শকট অধিক দূরে অগ্রসর হইতে পারে না; সে কেবল একই স্থানে (গৃহকোণেই) ঘুরিতে থাকিবে”।

বেগম রোকেয়ার সেই দর্শনের ধারাবাহিকতা বহন করার প্রয়াসে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় নারীর সার্বিক ক্ষমতায়ন, অর্থনৈতিক অংশগ্রহণ, নেতৃত্ব বিকাশ, সহিংসতা প্রতিরোধ এবং শিশুদের নিরাপদ ও স্নেহময় পরিবেশ নিশ্চিতকরণে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

আমরা রোকেয়ার প্রেরণায় উদ্বীণ হয়ে এমন এক বাংলাদেশ গড়তে প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ, যেখানে প্রতিটি নারী মর্যাদা, অধিকার ও সম্ভাবনা নিয়ে বিকশিত হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে প্রতি বছরের মতো এবারও নারী ও সমাজ উন্নয়নে বিশেষ অবদানের জন্য বেগম রোকেয়া পদক ২০২৫ প্রদান করা হয়েছে। যাঁরা মর্যাদাপূর্ণ এ পদকে ভূষিত হয়েছেন তাঁদের প্রতি আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। আমি প্রত্যাশা করি, বেগম রোকেয়ার যোগ্য উত্তরসূরি হিসেবে তাঁদের মতো অন্য নারীরাও বহিঃশিখা হয়ে ছড়িয়ে যাবেন, সামাজিক গণ্ডি ভেঙে বেরিয়ে আসবেন।

আজকের দিনে এ কথা অনবীকার্য যে, বেগম রোকেয়ার মৃত্যুর ৯৩ বছর পরেও একটি বৈষম্যমুক্ত, নারী ও শিশুর প্রতি সহিংসতামুক্ত, সকল নাগরিকের সমমর্যাদা ও সম-সুযোগের বাংলাদেশ গড়ার স্বপ্ন সফল করতে তাঁর চিন্তা, দর্শন, একপ্রতা, অটুট সাহস আমাদের আলোকবর্তিকা হয়ে দিশা দেখাচ্ছে।



(শারমীন এস মুরশিদ)




জিনাত আরা
মহাপরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)
মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়





সিনিয়র সচিব
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



বাণী

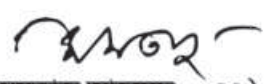
নারী-পুরুষের সমতাভিত্তিক সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠায় এক উজ্জ্বল নক্ষত্রের নাম বেগম রোকেয়া সাখাওয়াত হোসেন। বেগম রোকেয়া তাঁর লেখনীর মাধ্যমে অন্ধকারাচ্ছন্ন সমাজের মূর্ত্ত ভাবনায় আঘাত করেছিলেন, এ জন্য তিনি একজন সমাজসংস্কারক। মহীয়সী এ নারীর জন্ম এবং প্রয়াণ দিবসে (৯ই ডিসেম্বর ১৯৮০- ৯ই ডিসেম্বর ১৯৩২) তাঁর স্মৃতির প্রতি জানাই বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

নারী শিক্ষা এবং নারী মুক্তি পরম্পরের পরিপূরক। শিক্ষার অভাবে নারী জীত-সংকুচিত হয়ে পড়ে, মাধানত করে নিজেদের পরাধীন ভাবতে শুরু করে, অন্যায়ের প্রতিবাদ করার শক্তি খুঁজে পায় না। বেগম রোকেয়া বারবার স্পষ্ট করে বলেছেন শিক্ষা ব্যতীত নারী-পুরুষ কেউই মানুষ হিসেবে নিজে থেকে বিকশিত করতে পারে না। বহুমুখ ধরে গৌড়মি এবং ধর্মাত্মা দিয়ে সমাজের যে অচলায়তন বানিয়ে রাখা হয়েছে তা যদি সম্পূর্ণরূপে ভাঙতে হয় তাহলে নারীকে হতে হবে সুশিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত, লক্ষ্য অর্জনে দৃঢ় সঙ্কল্পবদ্ধ।

বেগম রোকেয়া উপলব্ধি করেছিলেন, সমাজে নারীকে মর্যাদার সঙ্গে বাচার জন্য প্রয়োজন অর্থনৈতিক স্বাধীনতা অর্জন। নারীর অর্থনৈতিক মুক্তির চিন্তায় তিনি ‘আজ্জামাই-ই-খাওয়াতিন-ই-ইসলাম’ প্রতিষ্ঠা করে মেয়েদের কুটিরশিল্পে নিয়োজিত করেছিলেন। তিনি স্পষ্ট ভাষায় বলেছিলেন, ‘আমরা অকর্মণ্য পুতুল জীবন বহন করিবার জন্য সৃষ্টি হই নাই’। এ কথা নিশ্চিত এখন থেকে একশত বছরেরও বেশি সময় পূর্বে শিক্ষা এবং অর্থনৈতিক স্বনির্ভরতার জায়গায় নারী-পুরুষের সমান অংশীদারিত্ব যে কতটা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তা তিনি অনুধাবন করেছিলেন এবং আজকের পৃথিবীতে তাঁর সেই ভাবনাই জেভার সমতা বিশ্লেষণের মৌলিক সূত্র। এই মৌলিক সূত্রকে সামনে রেখে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় নারী ও শিশুর উন্নয়নে বহুবিধ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। উল্লেখযোগ্য কার্যক্রমগুলো হলো: ভালনারেল উইমেন বেনিফিট (ভিডাব্লিউবি), মা ও শিশু সহায়তা কর্মসূচি, মহিলাদের আত্মকর্মসংস্থানে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম, বিভিন্ন ট্রেড প্রশিক্ষণ, নির্বাচিত নারী ও শিশুদের আবাসিক শেটার হাউজ ও আইনি সহায়তা প্রদান, টোলফ্রি ন্যাপনাল হটলাইন ১০৯ এবং ওয়ানস্টপ ট্রাইসিস সেন্টার (সেল) স্থাপন, ডিএনএ প্রোফাইলিং ও ক্রিমিনেল, ন্যাপনাল ও রিজিওনাল ট্রমা কাউন্সেলিং সেন্টার ল্যাবরেটরি স্থাপন, মহিলা সমিতি রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও অনুদান বিতরণ, ইনকাম জেনারেশন একটিভিটিস (IGA) প্রকল্প, নারী উদ্যোক্তা সৃষ্টি, মহিলা সহায়তা কর্মসূচি, উপকূলীয় জনগোষ্ঠীর বিশেষত নারীদের জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনজনিত লব্ধাভ্যতা মোকাবিলায় অভিযোজন সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকরণ (জিসিএ) শীর্ষক প্রকল্প, নারী ও শিশু নির্বাচন প্রতিরোধ ও প্রতিকারের সমর্থিত সেবা জোরদারকরণ এবং কুইক রেসপন্স টিমের কার্যক্রম শীর্ষক প্রকল্প, ডে-কেয়ার স্থাপন, কর্মজীবী নারীর হোস্টেল সেবা ইত্যাদি।

এই সকল কার্যক্রম ও কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে একটি সমতা, মর্যাদা ও ন্যায়ভিত্তিক সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করার ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের যে প্রতিশ্রুতি তা দেনেকাশে সফল হবে বলে আমার বিশ্বাস। তবে বেগম রোকেয়ার আদর্শকে বাস্তব রূপ দিতে আমাদের আরও অনেকটা পথ অতিক্রম করতে হবে। সমাজের প্রতিটি স্তরে নারীর সাইবারসহ সকল ধরনের নিরাপত্তা, মর্যাদা ও সমান সুযোগ নিশ্চিত করা, এটাই হোক বেগম রোকেয়া দিবসের প্রতিশ্রুতি।

আমি বেগম রোকেয়া দিবস-২০২৫-এ তাঁর আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং বাংলাদেশসহ বিশ্বের সকল নারী-পুরুষকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি।



(মমতাজ আহমেদ, এনএলি)

A memorable Junior Hockey World Cup debut

- Bangladesh played six matches in the tournament, finishing with three wins, two losses and one draw.
- Dutch coach Siegfried Aikman's team scored 31 goals and conceded 18 in the tournament.
- Currently at the top of the scorers' list, Amirul Islam finished the World Cup with 18 goals, scoring in all six games, including five hattricks. He also bagged four player-of-the-match awards.
- Bangladesh's biggest win in the competition was a 13-0 drubbing of Oman while their biggest defeat was a 5-3 defeat against Australia.

I want to thank my teammates. I achieved this because of them. They always try to play good hockey. They win the penalty corners, and then I score.



Tournament's top-scorer
Amirul Islam



Jubilant Bangladesh fly the national flag after clinching the Challenger Trophy following a 5-4 win against Austria in a thrilling fixture of the FIH Junior Men's World Cup at the Madurai International Hockey Stadium yesterday. Siegfried Aikman's charges may have only finished top of the third-tier of the 24-team event, but the performances from the debutants against mighty opponents right from the opening game has earned massive praise from all and sundry.

PHOTO: AHF

Rangpur on verge of NCL double

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur moved closer to a domestic double with a commanding seven-wicket win over Khulna on the third and penultimate day of their final-round National Cricket League (NCL) fixture in Bogura yesterday.

Chasing a modest target, Iqbal Hosen's unbeaten 114, supported by Naeem Islam (45) and skipper Akbar Ali (32 not out), guided Rangpur to 231 for three. Earlier, Mukidul Islam Mugdho (5-22) and Shoriful Islam (3-47) helped bowl Khulna out for 96.

The victory propelled Rangpur to the top of the eight-team standings with 31 points from seven matches. With defending champions Sylhet (26 points) drawing against Barishal and Mymensingh (24) needing an improbable 201 runs with one wicket in hand against Rajshahi, Rangpur are all but certain to claim the four-day title for the first time since 2022-23.

In Rajshahi, Barishal finished on 212 for four against Sylhet, extending their lead to 237. Iftekhar Hossain Ifti remained unbeaten on 93, while veteran Shamsur Rahman Shuvo scored 17 in his final first-class innings. Sylhet earlier made 287 thanks to Zakir Hasan's 130, but Ruyel Miah's 5-84 kept them under pressure.

Meanwhile, Mymensingh fought back in Sylhet with Abu Hider Rony unbeaten on 97, ending the day at 227 for nine while chasing 428 against Rajshahi. Sunzamul Islam (4 wickets) and Nihad Uz Zaman (3) starred for Rajshahi, who had earlier posted 345 in their second innings with Shakir Hossain Shuvo (94) and Rahim Ahmed (57).

Elsewhere, Dhaka finished the season on a high, crushing Chattogram by an innings and 192 runs in Mirpur. Chattogram were dismissed for 158 and 191 despite Hasan Murad's 52-ball 52.

Tanzid's quest to find the missing impact

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite being Bangladesh's most prolific scorer in T20s over the course of the last 12 months, the jury is still out on Tanzid Hasan Tamim as an impactful performer.

Tanzid has 792 runs in 30 innings at a strike-rate of 132.66 and average of 29.3 with eight fifties. However, his performance on losing causes have been significantly better than on winning occasions.

Over this period, he averaged 28.78 at a strike rate of 122.12 in matches Bangladesh won, whereas, in losing causes, he produced a better average, 29.92, and score at a significantly higher strike rate, 145.29.

In fact, since January 2024, nobody has scored more runs in losing causes in T20Is for Bangladesh than Tanzid -- 463 in 20 defeats.

"If I score runs but the team doesn't win, those runs have no value," said Tanzid, who is part of the ongoing training camp for national team batters in Mirpur.

During this period, Tanzid has averaged just shy of 40 while chasing, however, when the target is above 140, his average has slumped down to around 17 at an abysmal strike rate of 70.

Asked if he gets a better understanding of his approach

when chasing, he said: "When you have a target in front, it becomes much easier... If I can apply the same approach batting first, I think I can succeed there too," he said.

In the two ICC events he has featured so far, sparks flew but



there was more smoke than fire. In the 2023 ODI World, he appeared in all nine matches but scored 145 at an average of 16.11 with a lone fifty against India. In the 2024 T20 World Cup, he averaged just above 10 in seven innings.

Tanzid is well aware of his failings

in ICC events and is hopeful that the mantra of low-risk run-scoring will fix his issues.

"Sometimes we take high risks in low-risk situations," he spoke about how the coaches are trying to instill the idea of playing low risk shots in the ongoing skill camp.

"Earlier, you saw that I would get good starts in almost every match but couldn't carry on and play a long innings. I would get out midway. Now I'm working on staying mentally fitter and stronger so I can convert good starts into big scores and maybe even finish games.

"It's a bit better now, but there's still room for improvement. I'm trying step by step," he said.

He is currently working in the skill camp to find the gaps with grounded shots, which could significantly help him convert his starts more as an opener.

The one problem, however, is the lack of stability in the opening pair in T20Is for Bangladesh, with the management mixing and changing it to accommodate four opening options in the top-order.

"Honestly, no one is settled here [in the opening role]. Whoever the team needs in whichever position, he will play there," he said and it is one of the issues the team management must now address to get the best out of the individuals.

RITU PORNA thrilled with Rokeya Padak

SPORTS REPORTER

Ritu Porna Chakma expressed her overwhelming joy and profound sense of honour after being named one of the recipients of this year's prestigious Rokeya Padak. Speaking to The Daily Star, the poster girl of Bangladesh women's football said the recognition stood among the most significant achievements of her career.

Ritu Porna, who played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's maiden qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup earlier this year, has been selected in the Women's Awakening (Sports) category. The government on Sunday announced four laureates for the 2025 edition of the award, which honours women for their groundbreaking contributions across various fields.

"Any award or recognition is a big achievement for me, and it inspires me a lot," Ritu Porna said. "Since this is the first time a footballer is receiving the Rokeya Padak, it feels like a huge achievement. I'm very, very happy."

The ceremony will be held on Tuesday at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus attending as chief guest.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmin Murshid will chair the programme. Named after Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain -- a trailblazer of women's education and equality -- the award is presented every December 9 to mark Begum Rokeya Day.

Ritu Porna said she was particularly excited about receiving the honour directly from the Chief Adviser. "I'm extremely excited," she said. "This is a state award, so it feels especially meaningful."

Ritu Porna stressed that the recognition extends far beyond her personal accomplishment. "This award is not just mine -- it is an inspiration for all women in Bangladesh and will have a positive impact on the next generation."

Reflecting on the challenges athletes face, she added, "In life, everyone encounters obstacles -- boys and girls alike. We must all overcome these hurdles and keep moving forward."

Currently in camp at the BFF ahead of the upcoming Women's Football League, the left-winger hopes to continue using her growing platform for broader impact. "I'm representing Unicef, and if I get more opportunities in the future, I will take them."

Nasrin hold Karachi to draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Nasrin Sports Academy earned their first point in the SAFF Women's Club Championship after playing out a goalless draw against Karachi City FC in their second match in Kathmandu yesterday.

Still reeling from a 4-0 defeat to APF Women's FC in their opening fixture, the Bangladesh women's football league champions -- largely comprising players from the U-17 and U-20 national squads -- put in a spirited effort but struggled to trouble Karachi City's backline.

With one point from two games, Nasrin remain at the bottom of the five-team table, two points behind joint leaders APF and East Bengal FC, both of whom have played one match fewer.

Nasrin SA will face East Bengal FC on December 14 in their third match.



Rundown Bandarban Stadium gears up for Gold Cup

MONG SING HAI MARMA, Bandarban

The Parbatya Zila Parishad Gold Cup Football Tournament 2025 is set to kick off today at the Bandarban District Stadium, a venue that is in urgent need of repairs after years of neglect.

Ahead of the week-long tournament, the rundown stadium is undergoing some last-minute renovations -- the first in recent memory -- but the extent of the decay remains evident.

A day before the tournament, a worker was seen operating a grass-cutting machine at the ground under the midday sun. However, the iron-grilled gallery remained draped in vines, with knee-high grass in various spots.

A waterlogged pit lied on the southern side, and the bush growing along the inner fence was yet to be cleared. Parts of the



gallery appeared severely dilapidated, in need of immediate fixing.

According to District Sports Education Officer Md Rezaul Karim, the stadium is managed by the local District Sports Association (DSA).

Deputy Commissioner Shamim Ara Reeni, president of the Bandarban DSA, acknowledged the longstanding neglect of the stadium.

"The gates used to remain locked. Some even built makeshift homes under the gallery. After taking charge, we removed the illegal occupants. We have now taken initiatives to renovate the entire field," she said.

"This is the only major sports ground in Bandarban. Once the renovation is completed, children, youths, and adults will again have access to sports and physical activities," she hoped.

A total of eight teams -- including seven upazila teams and the Bandarban Sadar team -- will compete in the tournament.

"Our aim is to keep the youth away from drugs, inspire the next generation to engage in sports, and promote athletic activities," Bandarban Parbatya Zila Parishad Chairman Prof. Thanzama Lushai said at the press conference on Sunday ahead of the event.



Real Madrid suffered a shock 2-0 defeat to Celta Vigo in LaLiga on Sunday, finishing with nine men after Williot Swedberg scored a cheeky back-heel opener and added another in stoppage time, leaving the hosts four points behind leaders Barcelona. Defenders Álvaro Carreras and Fran Garcia were both sent off after receiving second yellow cards in the second half. The result gave Celta their first win at the Santiago Bernabeu in 19 years, while Real remain on 36 points from 16 games.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Inter await chaos-ridden Liverpool

STAR SPORTS DESK

Liverpool's season of chaos, on and off the pitch, takes them to the intimidating San Siro on Tuesday night, where Inter Milan await in the Champions League. The Reds sit 13th in the league-phase table with nine points from their opening five games, while the Nerazzurri, beaten for the first time on matchday five, are fourth.

Liverpool's turbulent campaign worsened at the weekend as they squandered a two-goal lead in a 3-3 Premier League draw at Leeds United. Ao Tanaka's 96th-minute strike left Arne Slot's side with just one win in six across all competitions, a run that includes a surprise 4-1 home defeat to PSV in Europe.

Adding to the unrest, Mohamed Salah -- benched for a third straight match -- cast doubt over his future with scathing post-game comments about the club and his manager. The Egyptian, who signed a new two-year contract in April, has managed only five goals this season. With Brighton visiting Anfield on Saturday, these two fixtures may see the end of his future on Merseyside.

Inter, meanwhile, have conceded only three goals in the competition this term, two of which came in a 2-1 loss to Atlético Madrid last time out. They sit among four

teams three points behind leaders Arsenal. Serie A title contenders Inter are unbeaten in 18 Champions League home games (W15 D3), the longest active run in the competition. Cristian Chivu's men have responded to their Madrid defeat with three consecutive wins, scoring 11 times, including a 4-0 rout of Como on Saturday.

Lautaro Martínez, who scored three times in his last two appearances, has found the net in all five of his 2025 Champions League matches at San Siro, tallying eight goals. Another strike on Tuesday would see him join Andriy Shevchenko as the only players to score in six consecutive home UCL games for an Italian club.

Elsewhere, Atalanta and Chelsea -- both on 10 points from five matchdays -- meet in Bergamo. Chelsea sit three places higher thanks to superior goal difference, yet consistency remains elusive. After an impressive 3-1 win over Barcelona and a resilient 1-1 draw with Arsenal, Enzo Maresca's young side slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Leeds and a dull 0-0 draw with Bournemouth.

Atalanta, 12th in Serie A, also arrive on the back of a setback -- Saturday's shock 3-1 loss to Hellas Verona -- though the Champions League has offered them welcome respite this season.



Nat'l Democratic Front launched with 18 parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party factions led by Anisul Islam Mahmud and Anwar Hossain Manju, and 16 other parties yesterday launched a new alliance called National Democratic Front (NDF).

Announcing the launch at a convention centre in the capital, Anisul, who has been made NDF president, said six registered and 12 unregistered parties are in the alliance.

He added that this alliance would advance Bangladesh's genuine democratic transformation, build a national consensus to overcome the prevailing political crisis, uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, and carry forward the aspirations of the July uprising.

"The alliance aims to push for necessary state reforms, end fascism, and amplify the weak voices of people yearning for good governance."

JP faction led by Manju, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Sanskritik Mukti, Bangladesh Nationalist Movement, and Bangladesh Muslim League were among the registered parties.

Golam Sarwar Milon, acting chairman of Janata Party Bangladesh, has been given the charge of combine's chief coordinator while Ruhul Amin Howlader will serve as its chief spokesperson.

In a statement at the press conference, Anisul placed a seven-point demand on behalf of the alliance.

The demands include the interim government be transformed into a neutral election-time administration in the next two months; harassment cases be withdrawn to ensure equal opportunity for all to participate in the election; national aspirations for reform initiatives be implemented based on national consensus; legal action be taken against criminals, armed groups, extortionists, and land grabbers, regardless of their political affiliation; and prices of essential commodities be reduced.

At the briefing, Manju, who was made

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The pen that pierced the purdah

Rereading Begum Rokeya's 'Oborodh Bashini'

NAZMUN AFRAD SHEETOL

On Begum Rokeya Day, we do more than remember a historical figure; we associate with the spirit of a revolutionary writer. We celebrate a woman who, more than a century ago, stared down the twin fortresses of religious dogma and social norms, armed not with a sword but with a pen.

Her seminal work, "Oborodh Bashini", published in 1931, is often read as a critique of the oppressive purdah system. Yet, to confine it to that alone would miss its literary depth and strategic genius.

Oborodh Bashini is a monumental work in which the act of writing itself becomes an act of liberation.

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain weaponised language, using testimony, satire and logic not just to critique confinement but to shatter its foundation by celebrating the voices it sought to silence, turning writing into a masterful act of defiance.

Begum Rokeya's primary weapon for this book was testimony. Oborodh Bashini is a chorus of voices, a collection of stories that bring the private sufferings of the "zenana" into the public sphere, making readers feel compassion for these women's silent pain. She fills her pages with accounts of women wasting away in airless rooms, denied sunlight, education, sometimes food and dignity. This radical choice aimed to stir empathy and show the human cost of social injustice.



One story recounts a woman so intellectually starved that she secretly read scraps of paper used to wrap groceries. This image is not just a personal tragedy; it is a devastating indictment of a culture that snatched away women's freedom of intellect. In another powerful testimony, Rokeya writes of a young girl confined within her home whose only wish was to see a circus outside her window, only to be punished and have the window sealed with bamboo blinds. The story captures the absurd cruelty of the system: a child's innocent curiosity becomes a punishable crime, and her world grows physically darker as a consequence.

By documenting such claustrophobia, intellectual deprivation and casual cruelty,

Begum Rokeya forces the reader to see and feel and recognise their own complicity. She was not merely describing a prison; she was [handing] its inmates a megaphone. Each story, each testimony, removed a brick from the wall of silence that upheld the complexity of purdah.

On this day, we celebrate Rokeya not just as a writer but as a pioneer who taught us that the personal is political and that lived experience is a powerful tool for social critique.

But how does one ensure these heartfelt testimonies are not dismissed as sentimental complaints? Begum Rokeya's satirical layout of stories appeals so sharply that it cuts through the veneer of social order. Her satire dissects patriarchal absurdities with

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Elite-dominated parliament source of many ills

Says Rehman Sobhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without representatives from varied backgrounds in parliament, the democratic system risks remaining elite-dominated, which is a key source of many longstanding problems, said eminent economist Rehman Sobhan yesterday.

"At the end of the day, unless you change the equality of the parliamentarians, unless you ensure people from all backgrounds, you are going to get an elite-dominated democratic system – that has been the source of many of our problems."

"Unless we can democratise the nature of electoral contestation in which people from all social backgrounds and with limited resources can actually contest and hope to win elections, you are going to get a particular class of people occupying the legislatures."

CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan



His comments came at a session titled "Democracy and Development" at the Annual BIDS Conference on Development 2025.

In the election in 1970, most candidates commuted in buses and rickshaws for their campaigning, according to Sobhan, also a former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

"That was the level of income and resources at their disposal back then. Today, no one can imagine contesting an election unless they actually own a Pajero. This essentially means you have got a parliament of the elite by the elite for the elite."

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Without any safety harness, two workers are painting a 17-storey building, hanging precariously from a makeshift ladder, in Barishal city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

DNA study reveals when first house cats reached China



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The earliest domestic cat arrived in China during the Tang dynasty's rule between 618AD and 907AD, likely through the Eurasian trade routes connected to the Silk Road, according to a new DNA study.

Feline bones found at archaeological sites were long believed to show that cats lived alongside Chinese farming communities in the Stone Age. But a new DNA analysis of remains spanning over 5,000 years reveals that the early felines were native leopard cats rather than house cats.

The analysis showed that house cats, descended from the Near Eastern African Wildcat, arrived in China much later.

Power sector officials resistant to renewable expansion

Says Adviser Fouzul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The major barrier to renewable energy expansion is the people in the power and energy sector themselves, said Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, power, energy and mineral resources adviser.

Many government officials in the sector have engaged with businesses and would lose their transactional benefits if a transparent and competitive system is introduced, he said.

"We are trying to transition from such a system and it is not being liked by most of them. They want to continue the previous system of dealings, negotiations and under-the-table transactions," he said at the closing ceremony of Bangladesh Energy Conference 2025 yesterday.

The adviser said they also want to get rid of fossil fuel usage but their dependence is by compulsion and not by choice.

"If we had the opportunity, we would stop purchasing LNG (liquefied natural gas) and would shut down the coal-based power plants," he added.

The conference has announced a 22-point Dhaka Declaration towards Net Zero carbon emission and a 13-point Citizen Manifesto.

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