



Clamp down now, ensure security

EC asks law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid worries over deteriorating law and order ahead of the national polls, the Election Commission yesterday ordered law enforcers to set up more checkpoints, crack down on organised crime, and recover illegal or missing firearms and ammunition.

The instructions came in the wake of Friday's attempt on the life of Dhaka-8 aspirant Sharif Osman Hadi. The attack on the Inqilab Mondho spokesperson, a day after the EC unveiled the polls schedule, has further stoked fears among the public and political leaders.

At an emergency meeting with top law enforcement officials yesterday afternoon, the EC discussed plans to neutralise security threats in the run-up to the February 12 election.

After the meeting, held at its Agargaon headquarters, the commission said it was not ruling out the possibility

of further "covert attacks" but stressed that there were no concerns about the election itself and that it would be held as scheduled.

Referring to the shooting of Hadi, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin told the meeting that it "felt like a bolt of lightning striking my head."

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Young school students paying tribute to martyred intellectuals killed during the 1971 Liberation War at the Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital, as people from all walks of life observed Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Country pays tribute to martyred intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday observed Martyred Intellectuals Day, paying tribute to the eminent citizens who were brutally killed during the 1971 Liberation War.

On December 14, 1971, the Pakistan army and its local collaborators abducted and murdered leading academics, writers, journalists, doctors and professionals in an apparent bid to cripple the intellectual backbone of the emerging nation, just days before Bangladesh achieved independence.

The government and various political, social and cultural organisations marked the day with programmes across the country.

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'Anti-Bangladesh activities from India must stop'

Dhaka summons Indian envoy; Delhi refutes claim

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry yesterday summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to convey Bangladesh's strong concerns over India allowing deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to continue making "incendiary" statements while on Indian soil.

In a statement, the ministry said Hasina, a fugitive, has been calling on her supporters to engage in terrorist activities aimed at destabilising the country and derailing the upcoming national elections.

It also drew the Indian envoy's attention to "anti-Bangladesh activities" by fugitive Awami League members currently based in India. "These activities include planning, organising and facilitating terrorist acts inside Bangladesh with the objective of disrupting the forthcoming elections."

"The Indian government was called upon to expeditiously act to end the criminal actions by these fascist terrorists and extradite them to Bangladesh as soon as possible," the statement said.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has, however, "rejected" the assertions made in the statement.

The Bangladesh foreign ministry's statement reiterated its demand for the immediate extradition of Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal so they can face the

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Hadi to be flown to Singapore today

8 held; prime suspects still at large

TOUSIF KAUUM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Sharif Osman Hadi, an independent MP aspirant for Dhaka-8 who was shot in broad daylight in the capital's Paltan area on Friday, will be flown to Singapore today by air ambulance for advanced treatment.

The decision was taken last night following an emergency meeting held virtually at the instruction of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, said the CA's Press Wing.

Over the past two days, the government contacted several hospitals in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia regarding Hadi's treatment.

After consultations with Evercare Hospital's specialist team and discussions with family members, the matter was placed before the chief adviser.

Prof Dr Sayedur Rahman of Evercare Hospital said Hadi's condition is currently stable and unchanged.

Three days after the shooting, law enforcement agencies yesterday arrested eight people but had yet to apprehend the prime suspect, Faisal Karim Masud, and his associate, Alamgir Sheikh, while sources say the two may have already fled to India.

The Chief Adviser's Office said it has requested the Indian High Commissioner to seek cooperation from the Indian government to prevent the suspects from crossing the border and to take immediate action to arrest and extradite them if they enter Indian territory.

To block their escape, photographs and details of the suspects were circulated to all immigration checkpoints. Patrols by BGB and Rab have also been intensified along the border areas.

According to Detective Branch (DB) sources, Faisal and Alamgir may have left Bangladesh early Saturday via the Garo Palli and Dhobaura border points in Mymensingh, just hours after the shooting.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, three DB officers said the suspects first went to Savar and stayed there till around 8:30pm.

Police conducted a drive in Savar, including a resort where they had previously stayed, but the suspects left before police arrived.

They then hired a private car, proceeded to Haluaghat in



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Reform commission chiefs frustrated over inaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs and members of several reform commissions expressed frustration yesterday over the government's failure to implement the proposals they had submitted.

They said that a unique opportunity was created after the July uprising, but the government did

the progress of various reform initiatives across different sectors and monitor implementation over time.

Iftikharuzzaman, head of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Reform Commission, said that his commission had proposed a simple yet crucial reform: forming a committee to review the ACC's activities every three months and

recommendation we made."

However, Iftikharuzzaman expressed disappointment that this provision was later removed.

Although most of the proposals had broad support from political parties, including key oversight mechanisms, many were not enforced.

"I did not get a clear answer when I

BANGLADESH REFORM TRACKER	STATE OF REFORMS				
	STAGE-1 Reform proposed	STAGE-2 Reform initiated	STAGE-3 Legal & policy formulation	STAGE-4 Operationalisation	STAGE-5 Action implementation
Anti-corruption	24	23	0	0	0
Electoral process	13	3	8	5	2
Labour	11	1	11	0	0
Media	14	11	1	1	0

not take advantage of it, leaving many key reforms unaddressed.

The comments came during the inauguration of the Bangladesh Reform Tracker by the Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre.

The platform is designed to track

present a public accountability report.

"Currently, complaints are reviewed internally and reported annually to the president. This process does not ensure transparency. Our proposal for quarterly public reviews was the most important

asked who the forces resisting reform are -- I am saying it clearly now. The resistance exists among us. It is present in politics, bureaucracy, civil society, media and business. But the biggest resistance, without hesitation, comes from political forces."

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The call that never came

Laments wife of peacekeeper killed in Sudan; grief sweeps families as news reaches home

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

On Saturday afternoon, 30-year-old corporal Masud Rana had told his wife that he would call again after a short rest before heading back to work.

But that conversation turned out to be their last.

Later in the evening, his family in

down as she recalled speaking to her son just the day before. "When I asked about his duty, he said, 'Maa, you know it's not so difficult these days.' He told me to stay well. That was the last thing he said."

Masud's wife, Asmaul Husna Ankhi, was still stunned by the news.

"I just spoke to him yesterday

EC adds ICT charge-based disqualification for elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday issued a circular on candidate eligibility and disqualification for the next national polls, adding a provision barring anyone from contesting if a formal charge has been filed against them at the International Crimes Tribunals.

According to the circular, if a formal charge is submitted against any person under Section 9(1) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, that individual will be disqualified under Section 20 of the same law from being elected as a member of parliament or from continuing in office as an MP.

The EC also issued a letter on maintaining the electoral environment during the pre-election period, stating that, as per the announced schedule, the election will be held on February 12.

In this context, under



Masud Rana Mominul Islam Shamim Reza Santo Mondal Jahangir Alam Sabuj Miya

Natore learnt that Masud was among six peacekeepers from the Bangladesh Army killed in a drone attack on a United Nations base in Sudan.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations, the attack was carried out by a separatist armed group between 3:40pm and 3:50pm (local time), while the peacekeepers were on duty at the base.

A pall of grief has since fallen over Boaliapara village in Natore's Lalpur upazila, where Masud's family lives.

His mother, Marjin Begum, broke

[Saturday] afternoon. He said he would call me again after resting for half an hour before going on duty. I waited. That half hour never passed," she said.

Masud joined the army in 2006. His two brothers are also serving in the army. He left for Sudan on November 7, leaving behind his wife and eight-year-old daughter.

The ISPR said the six peacekeepers were killed and eight others injured in a drone attack on the Kadugli Logistics Base in Sudan's Abyei region on Saturday.

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Journo Anis Alamgir taken to DB custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Anis Alamgir was taken into custody by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch yesterday evening.



DB Chief Shafiqul Islam confirmed the development to The Daily Star, saying they would question him over some matters.

Further details would be provided later, he added.

Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhanmondi in the evening and taken to the DB office on Minto Road around 7:30pm, according to sources.

Anis has worked at several media outlets, including print and electronic media. In recent times, he has drawn attention for his active presence on television talk shows.



Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, noted economist and intellectual Prof Rehman Sobhan and political scientist Navine Murshid speaking at the "The Global History of Liberation War", organised by The Daily Star yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Jamaat's spin on intellectual killings in '71

The party blames India for the massacre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar has claimed that it was India who carried out the conspiracy to kill the country's intellectuals during the Liberation War.

He said the murders of intellectuals were "part of a well-planned plot by the Indian army and Indian intelligence agencies."

Porwar made the remarks at a discussion organised by the party's Dhaka north unit at the Krishibid Institution auditorium, marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.

He also claimed that Indian forces had already taken control of Dhaka by December 14, while Pakistan soldiers, Razakars, and Al-Badr members were busy saving their own lives rather than searching for people to kill.

"Those from outside the political arena who manipulate and create new political narratives for Bangladesh – the Delhi loyalists of this country – have conventionally and contemptibly tried to place all the responsibility for the killings of intellectuals on Jamaat-e-Islami."

Referring to an interview of Pakistan General Rao Farman Ali, Porwar said the general had stated that the Pakistan army wanted to surrender on December 14.

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said it would heighten security and provide police protocol to party leaders, July uprising frontliners, and potential candidates.

"Under the protocol, clear guidelines will be given on how security will be ensured at houses and offices of political leaders and potential candidates in the upcoming election and during their movement and public rallies and in cyberspace," the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said in a statement.

Initiatives have also been taken to provide enhanced security to frontline leaders of the July uprising and other key political figures, it added.

Separately, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) SN Nazrul Islam yesterday said the police were working on security arrangements for high-profile individuals like Hadi who face specific threats.

Briefing journalists at the DMP Media Centre, he said the police would provide personal security to those assessed to face high threat levels. However, he stressed that arranging individual security for everyone would not be possible.

Since Friday's assassination attempt on Hadi, a frontliner in the July uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina, leaders of the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and National Citizen Party have been voicing concerns over safety and security at different public programmes.

Talking to reporters at Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial in Mirpur yesterday morning, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said incidents like the shooting of Hadi could repeat, as "enemies of Bangladesh" are resorting to targeted killings to destabilise the country, reports UNB.

"When Bangladesh is moving towards a new chapter, and when the

people of Bangladesh are dreaming of building a democratic country through a fair election, at that very time its enemies have once again indulged in a killing spree," he added.

Jamaat's Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar echoed his view while speaking at a programme marking the Martyred Intellectuals' Day, organised by Dhaka north city unit of the party at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

"For some time now, a section of journalists and so-called civil society members, acting as Delhi's loyalists, have been writing and speaking on talk shows in a way that suggests there will be no election unless the Awami League participates. Under the pretext of ensuring an inclusive election, they are trying to bring the Awami League into the polls," he said.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam said fear is palpable among the public as the election draws near.

Talking to reporters at the Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital, he said vested quarters are out to derail the polls.

About the attack on Hadi, he said attempts are underway to erase the legacy of the July uprising and "target its heroes".

He also called for a national unity, saying, "We must not give the fascist Awami League the chance to break our unity."

EC-LAW ENFORCERS MEET

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said the message from the EC is very clear: there are no concerns about the election, and it will be held on time.

"The commission is aware of the obstacles being created to disrupt the electoral process, and so is the government."

Sanaullah said the meeting discussed in detail the "covert attack"

on Hadi.

He added that attempts had been made to set fire to two field offices of the EC, and the commission is not dismissing the possibility of further covert attacks.

"A unified message has come from all the forces. Whoever tries to sabotage, obstruct, or damage this election will fail. Wherever firmness is required, all forces will demonstrate that firmness."

He noted that the EC is satisfied with the actions taken so far by law enforcement agencies, though there are areas where more work can be done.

He said discussions also covered whether the covert attacks were part of a larger plan or isolated incidents, whether law enforcement could have acted at the planning stage, and whether there were failures in apprehending those who carried out the attacks.

The election commissioner stressed that law enforcement agencies are active on the ground, investigating the nature of the incidents, and that effective measures will be taken to prevent such attacks in the future.

"Particular attention was given to the country's border regions, including the southeast and areas with Rohingya settlements, where certain recent trends have been observed. It was suggested that law enforcers see whether they are linked to larger events."

Home Secretary Nasimul Gani; Lt Gen SM Kamrul Hasan, principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division; Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam; BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui; Ansar and VDP Director General Maj Gen Abdul Motalab Sajjad Mahmud; and DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sajjat Ali attended the meeting.

to Alamgir, who was driving the motorcycle used in the shooting, and that Alamgir communicated with them multiple times before and after the incident.

Besides, the National Board of Revenue's intelligence wing has frozen the bank accounts of Faisal Karim Masud, his company Apple Soft IT Limited, and all his family members on suspicion of involvement in the attack, said Ahsan Habib, director general of the Central Intelligence Cell.

Investigators believe at least five people were involved and that they had been surveilling Hadi for at least a week prior.

CCTV footage shows Faisal entering the Inqilab Cultural Centre with three others on December 4, speaking with Hadi, and later attending a meeting with him on December 9. Photos also show Faisal and Alamgir campaigning with Hadi near the Shilpakala Academy.

Originally from Patuakhali, Faisal lived in the capital's Adabor area with his family. He became a member of the Chhatra League's central committee on May 11, 2019.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) Vice-President Abu Shadik Kayem called to besiege the home adviser's office at the Secretariat today, pressing a set of demands, including the arrest of those involved in the shooting.

In a post from his verified Facebook account, Kayem urged students to gather in front of the Ducusu building at 12:00pm today to join the programme.

Reform commission chiefs frustrated

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In at least ten ordinances with which he was directly involved, resistance initially came from the bureaucracy, said Itekhazuzzaman, also the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

"Only after pressure, persuasion and firm decisions did these reforms move forward. Most draft laws were not shared publicly. Only under pressure were they uploaded to websites for a short period. Civil society never knew which recommendations were finally accepted or rejected."

He further criticised a later amendment to the National Human Rights Commission law that reintroduced bureaucratic dominance in the selection committee.

Badiul Alam Majumder, head of the Election Reform Commission, expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of his commission's proposals.

"Many reform proposals were made to clean up the political arena, but most were not implemented."

He said that his commission clearly proposed internal democracy within political parties.

"Party leaders should be elected from the grassroots level to the national level. Wealthy individuals should be kept away from party leadership. Political parties should come under the Right to Information Act."

None of these proposals was adopted.

Although laws require political parties to form nomination panels based on grassroots opinions and to avoid maintaining affiliated organisations, these requirements are not being implemented, he said.

"Unfortunately, these legal provisions exist only on paper."

The commission's proposals for unconditional verification of candidate affidavits, measures against loan defaulters, habitual defaulters, unchecked election expenditure and enhanced accountability mechanisms have also been ignored, Badiul added.

Reforms take time and cannot be achieved overnight, said Shipping Adviser M Sakhawat Hussain.

He went on to express disappointment with the Election Commission.

"I am disappointed that many reform proposals have not been implemented. For example, the 'no vote' option was rejected. I think the Election Commission has an allergy to this suggestion."

While no government can fulfil all expectations, some key reforms could have been implemented through routine office orders of the Election Commission.

"The commission can ensure candidates submit expense accounts through routine orders. We have done this before, but many of our proposed restrictions were dropped," said Sakhawat, also adviser for the Labour and Employment and Jute and Textile ministries.

'Anti-Bangladesh activities from India must stop'

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sentences already handed down by Bangladesh's judicial authorities.

Additionally, Bangladesh sought India's cooperation in preventing suspects involved in the recent attempted assassination of independent Dhaka-8 aspirant Sharif Osman Hadi from fleeing to India. It urged New Delhi to ensure their immediate arrest and extradition should they enter Indian territory.

Emphasising regional responsibility, the ministry said that as a neighbouring country, India is

expected to stand with the people of Bangladesh in upholding justice and protecting democratic processes.

Responding to the concerns, High Commissioner Verma said India looks forward to peaceful and inclusive elections in Bangladesh and reaffirmed New Delhi's readiness to extend all necessary cooperation in this regard.

In a separate statement, India's external affairs ministry categorically rejected the assertions made by the interim government in its press note.

"We have consistently reiterated

have not been implemented," he said.

Successful reforms depend not only on good proposals but also on proper implementation under an accountable government, said Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Historical experience shows many reforms fail due to weak implementation rather than poor laws or bad intentions.

Sobhan praised the CPD's new reform tracking platform, calling it a sophisticated tool to monitor proposals from inception through implementation.

"The platform alone is not enough. Civil society must actively monitor and hold both the government and parliament accountable for reform progress."

He urged building a broad coalition within civil society, working closely with the media and other stakeholders to ensure reforms are implemented effectively.

"This is a deeply political act and demonstrates that civil society can move beyond dialogue to take real responsibility for governance and democracy," he said.

The current debate stems from Bangladesh's experience of democratic decline, said CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya.

An alliance of politicians, bureaucrats and large businesses had weakened competitive politics, creating a non-competitive economy, crony capitalism and an oligarchic system where policy-making independence was lost.

"Reform is not just about plans or enthusiasm. Citizens must remain consciously involved if reforms are to be implemented," said Debapriya, also the convener of Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

EC adds ICT charge-based

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the Political Parties and Candidates' Code of Conduct 2025 for parliamentary elections, election campaigning may be conducted from three weeks before polling until 48 hours before the start of voting, the letter said.

On Thursday, the EC issued another circular following the announcement of the election schedule and the referendum. It included a gazette notification of the twin votes, the appointment of returning officers and assistant returning officers, and other election-related matters.

The circular cited candidate qualifications and disqualifications as laid out in Article 66 of the Constitution and Article 12 of the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

However, it did not mention Section 20(C) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. This provision was added through an ordinance issued in October.

"We expect that the interim government of Bangladesh will take all necessary measures for ensuring internal law and order, including for the purpose of holding peaceful elections."

Hadi to be flown to Singapore today

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Mymensingh, and finally travelled by motorcycle to Garo Palli, crossing into India around 3:30am with the help of a local involved in human trafficking.

Sources in Mymensingh police said that around 11:00pm, the deputy commissioner of DMP's Ramna Division, along with officers and Haluaghat police, conducted coordinated raids in Haluaghat, Dhobaura, and Nalitabari to arrest Faisal and Alamgir.

During the raids, suspected human traffickers Philip Snaal and Sanjay Chisim were identified. Sanjay and four others were detained, but Philip was not found despite a separate operation.

During interrogation, Sanjay said he helped two Bangladeshis cross into India in the early hours of Saturday. He also told police that Philip and his associates have more information.

Police detained Sanjay Chisim, 25, and Sibirano Dio, 36, and brought them to Dhaka. Philip Snaal's wife, father-in-law, and a local Awami League leader were handed over to Nalitabari police for investigation.

At a press briefing in Dhaka, DMP's Additional Commissioner (Crime and Ops) SN Md Nazrul Islam, however, said there is no confirmed information that they have left the country.

A case was registered with Paltan Police Station late last night against one named and several unnamed accused.

PRIME SUSPECT'S WIFE, BROTHER-IN-LAW HELD

Meanwhile, Rab detained three people during separate raids conducted in different parts of Dhaka and Narayanganj over the last 24 hours.

The detainees are Faisal's wife Samia, his friend Monika, and his brother-in-law Shipu, Wing Commander MZM Entekhab Chowdhury of the Rab Media Wing told The Daily Star last night.

A large number of cheque books bearing Faisal's signature, along with several electronic devices, were recovered from the arrestees, he added.

The Rab official said Faisal had been in contact with all three before and after the shooting, adding that Faisal stayed with his wife in Narayanganj on the night before the incident and left for Dhaka at dawn, where he went to his friend Monika's residence.

Rab also arrested Abdul Hannan, 40, the registered owner of the motorcycle used by the assailants. The motorcycle has been seized for fingerprint analysis.

Later in the day, a Dhaka court placed Hannan on a three-day remand.

At the court, Hannan said he bought the motorcycle from Mirpur, but it remained unused at home, adding that he later sold it but could not complete the ownership transfer because he was ill.

The DB picked up two more people from Savar and took them into custody.

A DB officer said the two had links

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PHOTO: PID, STAR

President Mohammed Shahabuddin, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, leaders and activists of the BNP and National Citizen Party, and people from all walks of life pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals of 1971 by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Mirpur, marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.



Bombs or gravel?

Defence challenges ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul's earlier claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence lawyer yesterday challenged the chief prosecutor's earlier claim that bombs were planted inside a secret Rab-run detention centre to kill investigators.

During a charge hearing in an enforced disappearance case involving 17 accused, defence counsel Tabarak Hossain Bhuiyan told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) that forensic findings showed no explosives were recovered from the site.

On April 6, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told journalists that investigators had found three secret detention centres, known as Aynaghar, including the semi underground Taskforce Interrogation (TFI) cell, and alleged that timer-fitted bombs had been planted there to target the investigation team.

"The chief prosecutor's statement does not reflect reality. What was found resembled gravel, not bombs," Tabarak told the tribunal. Later, he told The Daily Star that a forensic report - allegedly prepared by the prosecution - confirmed no explosives were present, though he could not immediately produce the document.

Contacted, ICT prosecutor Shyikh Mahdi maintained that bombs were found and defused by Rab's bomb disposal unit. He shared two videos showing officials removing an object from a building and disposing of it, but the newspaper could not independently verify whether the object was an explosive.

Mahdi said the prosecution does not conduct forensic tests and suggested the report may have been prepared by Rab.

Tabarak, who represents seven army officers in the case, also told ICT-1 that the prosecution had wrongly framed charges against his clients.

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Tarique vows to ensure law and order, if voted to power

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said his party will prioritise ensuring law and order and tackling corruption if voted to power.

"Those who will form the government after winning the election must first ensure one thing, and that is the rule of law. I think our foremost effort should be to ensure this with all our strength," he said while virtually addressing a discussion programme organised by BNP to exchange views with professionals and noted citizens.

The programme was

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Prioritise women, children's rights in polls manifestos

Civil society orgs urge parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A coalition of civil society organisations has urged political parties to place women's and children's rights at the centre of their election manifestos.

They warned that ignoring these issues could undermine Bangladesh's democratic transition, social stability and long-term economic growth.

The call was made during the presentation of a position paper, titled "Advancing Women's and Children's Rights: A Civil Society Push for Inclusive Election Manifestos", at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

Plan International Bangladesh and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) jointly prepared the position paper.

The coalition - comprising Manusher Jonno Foundation, Breaking the Silence, JAAGO Foundation, Save the Children in Bangladesh, WaterAid Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, and Oxfam in Bangladesh - said it was formed to ensure that the lived experiences, needs, and aspirations of women and children are reflected in political commitments.

It said Bangladesh's political transition under an interim government presents a key opportunity to incorporate inclusive and evidence-based commitments on education, health, protection, climate resilience, and social inclusion in party agendas.

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THAILAND-CAMBODIA Clashes displace 150 Bangladeshi migrant workers

Many detained by Cambodian immigration

PORIMOL PARMA

More than 150 Bangladeshi migrant workers have been displaced by the Thailand-Cambodia conflict, which has entered its second week.

The migrants said they had been working at a construction site close to the Thai-Cambodian border but fled the area on December 9 following bombings.

"We were absolutely terrified as part of the site we were working at was damaged by bombing," said Ronju Mia, 37, now sheltered at an immigration detention centre in Cambodia, speaking to The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

The conflict, rooted in a long-standing dispute over colonial-era demarcations along the countries' 800-kilometre frontier, has already claimed at least 25 lives and forced more than half a million residents on both sides to flee their homes, according to an Al Jazeera report.

The migrant community has not been spared.

Ronju said he and other Bangladeshi workers had been working at the site for more than two months, having previously stayed in Phnom Penh.

"We had no idea our site could be the target of bombing," he said.

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Defeated fascist forces trying to derail polls

Says Fakhru Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said defeated fascist forces are trying to derail the upcoming national election, while another force is attempting to create divisions among people by using religion.

He said the force that opposed Bangladesh's independence in 1971 has now changed its appearance and is claiming to build a "new country".

"This election will be a contest between two forces. One stands for Bangladesh, liberal democracy and the true establishment of democracy," Fakhru said at a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal and Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Projonmo at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, in the capital.

Saying the country is facing deep polarisation, he asked whether people would choose independence, sovereignty and democracy, or

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



সরকারি
সব শিক্ষা উপবৃত্তির টাকা
সহজেই নিন
বুকটে-এ

নিরাপদে নিশ্চিত্তে ঘরে বসে উপবৃত্তির টাকা
পাওয়ার জন্য আজই নিজ নিজ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে
আপনার বুকটে নাম্বারটি নিবন্ধন করুন।

Kazi Fazlur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, an educationist, administrator, and social worker, died on December 13, aged 93, said a press release.



He was an adviser to the first caretaker government. He held the positions of secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Education. He also worked as the chairperson of the Radda MCH-FP Centre from its inception.

3 martyred brothers' death anniv today



Badiuzzaman Shahjahan Mullukjahan
CITY DESK

Today is the 54th death anniversary of three martyred freedom fighter brothers - Badiuzzaman, Shahjahan, and Mullukjahan, said a press release.

The three, who took part in the guerrilla war during the 1971 Liberation War, were detained by the Pakistani occupation army and killed on December 15. Their bodies were later found at the Rayer Bazar killing field in Dhaka.

Quazi Azher Ali's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Quazi Azher Ali, an educationist, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University and founder of Mohammadpur Preparatory School and College, said a press release.



A milad and doa mahfil will be held, and food will be distributed among orphans. Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be arranged at the university.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The 23rd convocation of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) was held on December 13 at the university's permanent campus. Eminent scientist Dr Abed Chaudhury presided over the ceremony. Prof Mohammad Anwar Hossen, a member of the University Grants Commission, was the special guest. Nadia Anwar, chairman and founder member of the AIUB Board of Trustees; AIUB Vice-Chancellor Prof Saiful Islam; and Pro-VC Prof Md Abdur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. Prof Habib Fardoun, executive committee member of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, Brussels, delivered convocation speech.

Rangpur sees 13 murders, 37 rapes in last 3 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Concern is growing over the law-and-order situation in Rangpur, where 13 murders and at least 37 rape cases were reported over the last three months.

In total, 899 criminal incidents were recorded across the Rangpur metropolitan area and different upazilas of the district during the period.

The figures were presented at a district law and order meeting held at the conference hall of the deputy commissioner's office yesterday noon. Additional District Magistrate Khristopher Himel Rishil shared the data at the meeting.

He said a significant portion of the crimes took place outside the metropolitan area, particularly at upazila and rural levels, creating added challenges for the administration.

According to the information presented, six murders were

recorded in Rangpur district in September. During the same month, police documented 35 thefts, four abductions and nine rape cases. Twenty-eight people were victims of violence against women. A total of 304 criminal incidents were reported that month.

In October, five people were killed in the district. During the period, 32 thefts and three incidents of house-breaking were reported, along with three abductions.

Forty-one women and children were victims of violence. Of the 21 rape cases recorded that month, 20 occurred at the upazila level outside the city. One robbery incident was also reported in October. The total number of crimes during the month stood at 313.

In November, the number of murders dropped to two while the month saw 20 thefts and two incidents of house-breaking, along with three abductions.

Thirty-five women and children were victims of violence, of which 33 incidents took place outside the metropolitan area. Seven rape cases were recorded. In total, 282 criminal incidents were reported in November.

The meeting was chaired by Rangpur Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Enamul Ahsan. Among those present were Superintendent of Police Md Marulat Hossain, Civil Surgeon Dr Shaheen Sultana, senior officials of various law enforcement agencies, political leaders and representatives of civil society.

Speakers at the meeting stressed further strengthening law enforcement activities to curb crime and increase social awareness to prevent violence against women and children.

They also called for identifying crime-prone areas, ensuring special surveillance and guaranteeing speedy trials.

66.57% pass MBBS, BDS entry tests

BSS, Dhaka

The results of the admission tests for public and private medical and dental colleges for the 2025-26 academic year were published yesterday.

A total of 81,642 candidates have passed the admission test. The total pass rate is 66.57 percent.

Prof Nazmul Hossain, director general of the Directorate General of Medical Education, said the results are available on the websites of the Directorate of Medical Education (www.dgme.gov.bd), and the Directorate General of Health Services (www.dghs.gov.bd) and <https://result.dghs.gov.bd>.

A Directorate General of Medical Education press release said 5,645 candidates were initially selected based on merit and preference, calculated from admission test scores combined with SSC/equivalent and HSC/equivalent GPAs.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 2165/2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND
In the matter of: IFAD MOTORS LIMITED.....Petitioner
Versus.....Respondent

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and others-Respondent. Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for obtaining permission for addition of the clauses 31, 32 and 33 along with amendment of Object Clause of the Memorandum of Association of the petitioner company, the matter has been amended admitted by Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel, the Hon'ble Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by an order dated 4th December 2025 and the same has been fixed for filing affidavit-in-compliance on 8th January 2026.

Any person interested in the aforesaid matter and/or desirous of supporting/opposing the same, may appear on the date fixed for hearing either in person or by a duly appointed Advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of usual charges.

(Muhammad Ahsan Habib)
On behalf of the Petitioner: Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Room no.402(old) Mobile:01912311608
Supreme Court Bar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

SENA KALYAN SANGSTHA

Business Division-1, SKS Tower (level -5), 7VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1206, Contact: 01769-056316.

Tender Invitation Notice

Sealed tenders from reputed and experienced suppliers for the supply of raw materials in Bulk required for cement production. Eligible bidders are requested to participate under the terms and conditions stated below:

User / Importer	Mongla Cement Factory, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
Items for Cement Production	Clinker in Bulk 45,000 MT (+/-10%) Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GBFS) in Bulk : 6,000 MT (+/-10%)
Price (CFR) up to Mongla, Factory Jetty	To be quoted in USD per MT basis. LC and Local separately
ETA	By 15 January 2026 up to factory Jetty
Origin	Clinker : Middle East, East Asia (Vietnam is preferable) GBFS : China/ Negotiable
Tender Submission	By 21 Dec 2025 at 10:00 AM
Tender Opening	Same day at 10:05 AM in presence of bidder (if any)
Tender Schedule :	Clinker : TK 5,000 /- GBFS : TK 2,000 /- (In cash, non-refundable), available at the above office.
Performance Guarantee :	2.5% of contract value to be submitted before LC opening from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh
LC opening and Bank	By 30 Dec 2025, from The Trust Bank PLC
Authority Rights :	Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever

The call that never came

FROM PAGE 1

Last night, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to express his condolences. "I am calling to express my deep condolences. I am devastated," Guterres told Yunus, according to a release from the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

Prof Yunus said he was also deeply saddened by the loss and urged the UN to facilitate the evacuation of the injured soldiers to top medical facilities, as well as to ensure the swift repatriation of the bodies.

The ISPR identified the other deceased as private Mominul Islam, from Kurigram; private Shamim Reza, from Rajbari; private Santo Mondal, from Kurigram; mess waiter private Jahangir Alam, from Kishoreganj; and laundry employee private Sabuj Miya, from Gaibandha.

It was also a day of mourning in Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj, where the family of Jahangir Alam, 30, is struggling to cope with the loss.

Jahangir was the son of Hazrat Ali, a farmer from Tarakandi village in Jangalia union. He joined the army on October 14, 2014. He also left for Sudan on November 7.

Family members said Hazrat received the news of his son's death shortly after midnight on Saturday from Jahangir's elder brother, who lives in Saudi Arabia. The next morning, an army officer confirmed the news over the phone.

Inside their small tin-roofed house, Jahangir's wife, Rubaiya Akhtar, was found inconsolable. Their three-year-old child looked on helplessly.

In Gaibandha's Palashbari upazila, the death of Sabuj Miya, 27, has cast a shadow over Chhoto Bhagabanpur village.

His mother, Sakina Begum, 65, broke down upon hearing the news as villagers gathered at their home.

His cousin Palash Miya said Sabuj joined the army in 2010. He married in 2023 and was the sole earning member of the family, having lost his father in 2002.

He also went to Sudan on November 7.

Sabuj's wife, Nupur Akhtar, said she last spoke to her husband around 3:00pm on the day of the attack. "He told me to always be safe wherever I am. Now, he is the one who is gone," she said.

Shamim Reza, 28, from Hogladangi village in Rajbari's Kalukhali upazila, was the eldest son of Alam Fakir and Champa Khatun. Among his siblings, one brother works in Saudi Arabia, another remains unemployed at home, and their only sister studies at a madrasa. He married Arifa Khatun about a year and a half ago.

He also left for Sudan on November 7.

Shamim's father, Alam Fakir, a farmer, said, "I last spoke to him on a video call on Friday. He told me, 'Abba, stay well. I'm going on duty.' Those were his last words. My son went on duty and never returned."

Santo, 26, and Mominul, 38, were from Kurigram. Santo's father, late Nur Islam Mondal, was a former army member.

Santo joined the army in 2018.

His elder brother, Sohel Mondal, a lance corporal currently serving at Cumilla Cantonment, said Santo had married a year ago, and his wife is five months pregnant.

"He spoke to us on a video call on Saturday evening. Later that night, we learnt he had been killed in the attack."

Mominul is survived by

his parents, wife and two daughters. Family members said he left for Sudan around a month ago and spoke to them for the last time on a video call on Saturday afternoon. "My son was a good man and loved by everyone," his father said.

The ISPR statement reads that the attack has left eight other peacekeepers injured, who are receiving necessary medical treatment.

The injured are Lt Col Khondaker Khalekuzzaman, Sergeant Md Mostakim Hossain, Corporal Afroza Parvin Eti, Lance Corporal Mohibul Islam, Private Md Mezbaut Kabir, Private Umme Hani Akter, Private Chumki Akter, and Private Manazir Ahsan.

Among the injured, Mezbaut underwent successful surgery after his condition was reported as critical. He is currently under close observation.

The remaining seven have been evacuated by helicopter for advanced treatment and are now out of danger.

The Bangladesh Army strongly condemned what it described as a "brutal terrorist attack", saying that the sacrifice of the fallen peacekeepers would remain a proud testament to Bangladesh's commitment to global peace.

Earlier, in a statement on May 28, the ISPR said over the course of four decades of peacekeeping, Bangladeshi peacekeepers have successfully participated in 63 UN missions.

As of May this year, 5,818 Bangladeshi peacekeepers, including 444 women, are deployed in 10 UN missions and operations. With Saturday's casualties, a total of 174 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have laid down their lives in the line of duty to date.

[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat, Bogura, Faridpur, and Kishoreganj contributed to this report.]

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
www.mod.gov.bd
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন বাংলাদেশ সমরাত্র কারখানা (বিওএফ)-এর ১০ম শ্রেণীভুক্ত অসামরিক শূন্যপদসমূহ সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পুরনের লক্ষ্যে ০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখে 'দৈনিক যুগান্তর' ও 'দি ডেইলি স্টার' পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে নিম্নলিখিত অফিস স্মারক ও তারিখ অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে:

নম্বর-২৩.০০.০০০০.২৫০.১১.০৫৬.২২.২২৫	তারিখ: ১৫ অক্টোবর ১৪৩২ ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫
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এছাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল বিষয় ও শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ কমিটি

GD-2737

The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh (IBB)
DR Tower (Level- 12)
65/2/2, Bir Protik Gazi Golam Dastagir Road, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000
Web: www.ibt.org.bd, Phone: 02-55112857-60 (Ex-133)

Invitation for Proposals for Dedicated Virtual Cloud Hosting Service

The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh (IBB), a national professional body dedicated to the development of human resources in the banking sector, invites proposals from eligible and experienced firms for providing Dedicated Virtual Cloud Hosting Services for IBB server management. Details of the proposal requirements, terms and conditions, and submission guidelines are available on the IBB official website: www.ibt.org.bd or email us bpexam@ibt.org.bd. Interested organizations are requested to submit their proposals within the stipulated deadline on 24 December 2025 at 2:30pm.

Additional Director General, IBB

GD-2740

UNITED POWER GENERATION & DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
United House, Madani Avenue, United City, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh,
Tel:+880 9666 700 900, Web: www.unitedpowerbd.com, E-mail: info@unitedpowerbd.com

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) notification No. BSEC/CMRRC/2009-193/37/Admin/132 dated 12th May 2022, we are pleased to inform you that the Emerging Credit Rating Limited (ECL) has assigned the rating of United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited (UPGDCL) for the year 2025-26 (up to December 06, 2026) as "AAA" for long term and "ST-1" for short term in consideration of financials of the company.

Thanking You,

For United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Date: 14 December, 2025

Elias Howladar, ACS
Company Secretary

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
www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.১১.০০০০.৪৪২.০৭.০০৭.২৫.৮৫৪
তারিখ: ১০/১২/২০২৫খিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1192446	27.21.0000.449.07.007.25.850; Date: 08/12/2025	Repair Work of Chhatak Grid Substation Switchyard Cable Trench, Drain, Store Yard Repair and Mortaring, Grass Cleaning, Gravel Water Wash And Re-Laying Under GMD, Power Grid, Sylhet.	05 Jan 2026 at 15:00

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

সোহাগ মশিউর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, সিলেট

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the District Controller of Stores (Stores Section), Pahartali
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram
E-mail: dcospht@railway.gov.bd
No. 54.01.1543.122.07.006.25
Date: 14.12.2025

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-26

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

Tender ID	Package No.	Description of goods and tender method	Tender publication date and time	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender/ proposal closing and opening date and time
1191987	54.01.154 3.122.07. 006.25	Procurement of Desktop Computer and Laptop. OTM (NCT)	15.12.2025 11:00	30.12.2025 16:00	31.12.2025 11:00	31.12.2025 12:00
1188674	54.01.154 3.122.07. 008.25	Procurement of Offset Paper and Gala. OTM (NCT)	15.12.2025 11:00	30.12.2025 16:00	31.12.2025 11:00	31.12.2025 12:30

These are online tenders, 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 the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches.

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

৫৯(২৫)(১১৮)

Md. Al-Amin
District Controller of Stores (Stores Section), Pahartali
Bangladesh Railway, Chattogram

GD-2748

Thailand, Cambodia clashes hit coastal areas

Toll rises to 26

AGENCIES

Thailand announced a curfew in its southeastern Trat province yesterday as fighting with Cambodia spread to coastal areas of a disputed border region, two days after US President and would-be peacemaker Donald Trump said the sides had agreed to stop.

"Overall, there have been clashes continuously" since Cambodia again reiterated its openness to a ceasefire on Saturday, Thai Defence Ministry spokesman Rear Admiral Surasant Kongsiri told a press conference in Bangkok after announcing the curfew.

Thailand is open to a diplomatic solution but "Cambodia has to cease



Israeli security forces move a blue body bag after a Palestinian man was shot and killed at the northern entrance to the occupied West Bank city of Hebron yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli strikes on south Lebanon kill two people

AFP, Beirut

The Israeli military said it targeted three members of the "Iran-backed Hezbollah group" in strikes on southern Lebanon yesterday.

The Lebanese health ministry said that two people had been killed in separate Israeli strikes in the south of the country, which came despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

"Since this morning (yesterday), the IDF (military) has struck three Hezbollah terrorists in several areas in southern Lebanon," the Israeli military said in a statement.

The deal sought to end fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

MIDTERM POLLS

Trump hints at possible Republican loss

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump hinted that Republicans could lose the 2026 midterm elections, despite touting the "greatest economy in history," in an interview with the Wall Street Journal published Saturday.

The Republican, who returned to the White House in January, has regularly insisted that the US economy is now booming, as he continues to blame inflation on his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden.

"I've created the greatest economy in history. But it may take people a while to figure all these things out," Trump said in the interview, which the Journal said was conducted Friday in the Oval Office.

"All this money that's pouring into our country is building things right now—car plants, AI, lots of stuff. I cannot tell you how that's going to equate to the voter, all I can do is do my job."

With the 2026 midterm elections looming, Trump stressed that "prices are in good shape."

Syrian who killed Americans was part of security forces

Says Syrian ministry

AFP, Damascus

Syria's interior ministry said yesterday the gunman who killed three Americans in the central Palmyra region the previous day was a member of the security forces who was to have been fired for extremism.

Two US troops and a civilian interpreter died in what the Syrian government described as a "terrorist attack" on Saturday, while Washington said it had been carried out by an Islamic State group (IS) militant who was then killed.

The Syrian authorities "had decided to fire him" from the security forces before the attack for holding "extremist Islamist ideas" and had planned to do so yesterday, interior ministry spokesman Nouredine al Baba said.

A Syrian security official told AFP yesterday that "11 members of the general security forces were arrested and brought in for questioning after the attack". The gunman had belonged to the security forces "for more than 10 months."

Ukraine strikes Russian refinery, fuel depot

Zelensky calls for 'dignified' peace during talks in Berlin

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine's military hit the Afipsky oil refinery in Russia's Krasnodar region and an oil depot in the Russian Volgograd region, the Ukrainian General Staff said yesterday.

It also said in a statement that Kyiv troops struck several military targets in the Russian-occupied Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions and Crimea.

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday that air defence systems intercepted and destroyed 235 Ukrainian drones overnight.

An oil depot caught fire in Uryupinsk in Volgograd region due to fallen drone debris, a regional governor said.

At least ten Russian airports, including in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, imposed temporary flight restrictions during the night, according to the aviation regulator.

Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday called for a "dignified" peace and guarantees that Russia would not attack Ukraine again as he prepared to meet US envoys and European allies in Berlin to end

Russian air defence systems down 235 Ukrainian drones

10 Russian airports imposed temporary flight restrictions

Zelensky ditches Nato ambition

Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two.

Ukraine has also relinquished its ambition of joining the Nato military alliance in exchange for Western security guarantees as a compromise to end the war with Russia, he said.

Under pressure from US President Donald Trump to sign a peace deal that initially backed Moscow's demands, Zelensky accused Russia of dragging out the war through deadly bombings of cities and Ukraine's power and water supplies.

Although the exact make-up of the meetings have not been made public, a US

official said Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner were travelling to Germany for talks involving Ukrainians and Europeans.

The choice to send Witkoff, who has led negotiations with Ukraine and Russia on a US peace proposal, appeared to be a signal that Washington saw a chance of progress nearly four years after Russia's 2022 invasion.

"Ukraine needs peace on dignified terms, and we are ready to work as constructively as possible. The coming days will be filled with diplomacy. It is critically important that it delivers results," Zelensky said on X.

One of Zelensky's negotiators, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya, announced "a day of meetings ahead" and posted a picture of himself in Berlin, but gave no further details.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is hosting Zelensky and European leaders for a summit in the German capital today, the latest in a series of public shows of support for the Ukrainian leader from allies across Europe.



hostility first before we can negotiate," he said.

Thailand's health ministry told AFP a civilian had been killed yesterday during border clashes with Cambodia, the country's first non-military death since the long-standing conflict reignited in fighting this month.

At least 26 people have been killed, including 14 Thai soldiers, one civilian and 11 Cambodian civilians, officials said.

Thai forces on Saturday said they had destroyed a bridge that Cambodia used to deliver heavy weapons and other equipment to the region and launched an operation targeting pre-positioned artillery in Cambodia's coastal Koh Kong province.



An "America's study is at stake" sign is attached to a pole at the site of Saturday's mass shooting at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, US, yesterday. Providence police have detained a "person of interest" in connection with the university shooting that left two students dead and another nine people wounded at the US Ivy League school.

PHOTO: REUTERS



জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান

চামড়া গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BCSIR
Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR)

Ref no. 39.02.2672.039.26.382.25/725 Date: 14.12.2025

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by office of the Officer-in-charge of LRI, BCSIR for the Procurement of following package.

Sl. No.	e-Tender ID	Name of Tender Package	Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1188192	Repair, maintenance, Renovation and construction of Non-Residential Building (the Laboratory cum Office Building) (GR-7)	28-Dec-2025 11:00 AM	28-Dec-2025 12:00 PM
02	1193903	Procurement of Service for Rented Vehicles (One Microbus) under the Office of the Officer-in-Charge, Leather Research Institute, BCSIR, Nayarhat, Savar, Dhaka-1350	28-Dec-2025 11:00 AM	28-Dec-2025 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).


 Dr. Tasnim Farzana
 Officer-in-charge
 LRI, BCSIR
 Mobile: 01622-370105

GD-2747

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Food
Inspection, Development & Technical Services Division
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
Web: www.dgfood.gov.bd


Corrigendum Notice

Memo No. 13.01.0000.112.38.010.24.517 Date: 14/12/2025

SI No	Tender ID/Package No	Field Name	Old Date	New Date
1	Tender ID: 1169323	Opening Date & Time	11/12/2025; 13:00 PM	18/12/2025; 13:00 PM
		Last Date & Time for Tender/Proposal Security submission	11/12/2025; 12:00 PM	18/12/2025; 12:00 PM
		Closing Date & Time	11/12/2025; 13:00 PM	18/12/2025; 13:00 PM


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GD-2741



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Office of the Executive Engineer
Waste Management Department
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Ref No: 46.207.000.12.05.8174.2025 Date: 11.12.2025

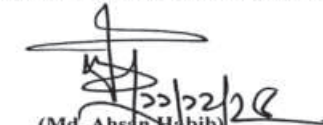
"Corrigendum Notice No.-1"

This is for kind information to all concerned that the tender Memo no- 46.207.000.12.05.8156.2025; Dated: 30.11.2025 has been made following amended for Tender ID: 1179006. All concerned are requested to take necessary actions accordingly.

SL No	Tender ID & Package No Name of the works	Amended Subject	As per Tender Notice published on e-GP	As per Corrigendum published on e-GP
01	1179006 WR03/WMD: Beautification/FY2025-26 Renovation works with Preservation, Beautification and health awareness Graffiti/Art works on the footpath adjacent to the road in front of Dhaka Medical College & Hospital under Dhaka South City Corporation.	Document last selling date & time	11/12/2025 13.00	21/12/2025 11.00
		Opening Date & Time	11/12/2025 17.00	21/12/2025 11.30
		Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	11/12/2025 15.20	21/12/2025 11.20
		Closing Date & Time	11/12/2025 17.00	21/12/2025 11.30

Correction in TDS & IFT Notice

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum is a part and parcel of the Tenders.


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GD-2746

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Martyred intellectuals are our guiding lights

We must uphold intellectual freedom to honour their sacrifice

December 14 reminds us of the great sacrifices our intellectuals made for the nation's freedom. On this day in 1971, many of the brightest minds of the country—academics, journalists, doctors, writers, and artists—were systematically targeted and killed by the Pakistani army with the help of local collaborators. These murders were not random acts of violence; they were a calculated attempt to paralyse a nation at its birth. By eliminating the intellectuals who could guide, inspire, and critique, the perpetrators sought to destroy the conscience of an emerging nation.

Intellectuals serve as a society's moral compass. They hold power accountable, challenge injustice, and inspire change. Understanding their importance, Pakistan targeted these intellectuals from the very beginning of our Liberation War. Their loss has indeed left an irreplaceable void in the intellectual sphere of the country. Today, as we reflect on their sacrifice, it is sad to see that freedom of expression in our society still remains fragile and dissent is often suppressed. The struggle for truth and critical thought continues. This reminds us that honouring the martyred intellectuals is not only about remembering the past but also defending their values in the present.

During the period of Pakistani oppression, our writers, journalists, artists, and intellectuals stood as the nation's conscience, bravely opposing injustice. With their knowledge and wisdom, they guided the nation. From the night of March 25 up until the final hours of the war, we lost eminent intellectuals, including Professor Govinda Chandra Dev, Munier Choudhury, Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, Dr Mofazzal Haider Choudhury, Rashidul Hasan, Selina Parvin, Anwar Pasha, Dr Mohammed Fazle Rabbee, Dr Alim Chowdhury and others. The mass killing of so many intellectuals in such a brief period is rare in world history.

The horror of the events of 1971 is evident in accounts from across the country. In Saidpur, for instance, the Pakistani army and local collaborators systematically abducted, tortured, and executed the town's leading intellectuals between March and June 1971, months before the December 14 massacre. Victims included physicians, educators, businessmen, and cultural figures, who were brutally held in cantonments and later executed at Balarkhail. Survivors and eyewitnesses describe the coordinated nature of the killings and the extreme suffering endured by those taken. Such accounts remind us of the calculated cruelty inflicted upon the nation's brightest minds and the depth of their sacrifice.

Yet, even 54 years after independence, we have yet to complete the task of properly commemorating these heroes. Efforts to compile a comprehensive list of martyred intellectuals have remained incomplete. While several gazettes and research works have recorded hundreds of names, a definitive and verified list still does not exist. Ensuring transparency and completeness in documenting their contributions is our moral obligation.

Only by fostering a society founded on justice, equality, human dignity and intellectual freedom and one that holds power accountable, can we realise the cherished dreams of our martyred intellectuals.

No bureaucratic control of NHRC

This was the main cause of past failures

We demand that the government withdraw the current amended version of the ordinance of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), made public on December 8, 2025. The reason is most obvious. The earlier version, published as a gazette on November 9, was the result of wide-ranging stakeholders' discussions that included ones held in several districts with UNDP's assistance. In fact, not too many ordinances were produced with such public participation.

Without any discussion with the original participants, an amended version of the gazette was published that included two vital changes, one dealing with the setting up of a body to look into cases of torture, which we welcome, and the second, the inclusion of the cabinet secretary as a member of the committee that will select the new NHRC, which we strongly oppose. Through this inclusion, the very beginning of setting up the NHRC is weakened. Bureaucratic control of this vital body—intended to strengthen the fundamental rights of individuals—prevented it from delivering meaningful improvements to the overall human rights situation. Past NHRCs repeatedly failed to act when intervention was most needed, largely because bureaucrats seldom, if ever, permitted decisive action, especially in cases involving government institutions and officials. In fact, the NHRC's operational culture has been dominated by behind-the-scenes string-pulling bureaucracy.

It is an undeniable fact that most human rights violations occur because of government actions, especially when it tries to suppress dissent. The pattern is very simple. Since the government suppresses the opposition and victimises its leaders and activists through bureaucratic institutions, including the police, the intelligence agencies and government functionaries, the administration is never comfortable about the investigation of these rights violations. We consider the inclusion of the cabinet secretary in the selection committee of the NHRC to be a direct threat to its independent functioning. The Cabinet Division is the epicentre of bureaucracy and the main executive office of the council of ministers. As its head, the cabinet secretary has the power to greatly influence the functioning of any institution, especially those set up to hold the government—especially bureaucracy—accountable.

One of the main complaints against the past regime was its severe violations of human rights. The instances of forced disappearances, extra-judicial killings and the phenomenon of "Aynaghar" would never have occurred, or at least their functioning could have been stopped if the NHRC performed its duties. We in the media repeatedly brought out these facts, wrote editorials urging the NHRC to act, yet the commissioners never did. The area where the interim government has a chance to make a true difference from the past is to guarantee the independence of the NHRC, for which bureaucratic control or interference must totally stop.

Custodial torture remains business as usual



Monorom Polok
is a member of the editorial team
at The Daily Star.

MONOROM POLOK

In a just society with a properly functioning justice system, law enforcement is tasked with enforcing established laws to safeguard citizens and hold those who violate them accountable, without infringing on their rights. In Bangladesh, however, there is an anomaly. Our law enforcement, in the name of justice and the blanket protection granted under their uniform, continues to violate the rights of those they are supposed to bring to justice—the suspects and the accused. While custodial torture is not new in Bangladesh or even in South Asia, we must sincerely confront this predicament if we are to become a civil and just nation.

On November 21, 2025, two men died in police custody on the same day. Their deaths followed a familiar and chilling script: a person taken in alive, declared "ill" or "unresponsive," and then returned to the family as a dead body. Their families insist they were tortured; the police insist they were

Our constitution repeats these same promises in even clearer language. Article 35(5) outright prohibits torture and cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment. Articles 33, 27, 31 and 32 guarantee rights, such as the right to counsel, protection from arbitrary arrest, equality before the law, and the right to life and liberty. These are not abstract clauses; they are supposed to prevent custodial violence. They are what a frightened person should be able to rely on when police knock on his door at two in the morning.

not. And as always, the responsibility for investigating these deaths rests with the very institution accused of being responsible for them. It is an irrational arrangement. One that prevents truth from ever surfacing.

These incidents are far from isolated. According to a recent Odhikar report, 40 people have been victims of extrajudicial killings in the 14 months since the interim government took office in August 2024. These citizens died under the state's watch under a government that promised



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

accountability. While the chief adviser condemned such killings and ordered an investigation, such declarations rarely lead anywhere. Which leads to the questions: of the 40 custodial deaths that have occurred under this interim government, how many have gone to trial? How many officers have been suspended, let alone prosecuted? The laws are not what hold us back. It is our refusal to hold the police accountable.

It is not that legal proceedings do not move fast in Bangladesh at all. In fact, we have seen what the government can do when it decides to pursue a case with urgency as in the case of Asia—the eight-year-old child raped and murdered earlier this year. Yet, of the 40 citizens whose deaths occurred during the government's own tenure, under its direct responsibility, not a single case has been pursued with similar resolve. The difference: in Asia's case the perpetrator was a civilian while in case of these 40 victims, the suspects are law enforcers. It then leads to an uncomfortable question: is the law not equal for everyone?

The interim government has taken some institutional steps, such as

forming a Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances. But even this historic initiative fell short. Of nearly 2,000 complaints the commission received—where law enforcers were often involved—punitive actions have not been taken yet against even a small number of law enforcement officials. Victims' families expected truth and justice served; what they received was hesitation and silence.

Meanwhile, the newly gazetted Police Commission Ordinance, 2025, created with the promise of ushering in accountability, was weakened before it even drew breath. Many who hoped for a bold, independent oversight body now describe it as a toothless tiger. Essential powers were

either trimmed or never included at all. It cannot control recruitment, transfers, or promotions. It cannot direct police operations. All it can do is draft recommendations. The decision to approve the recommendations lies entirely with the government. The Police Commission can receive complaints from the public, offer advice, and make recommendations—but the government is under no obligation to act on any of them. Therefore, the very political structure the commission was meant to provide a buffer against would continue to exercise control over it.

Of course, the laws and formal structures of public institutions were never the primary issue with regard to custodial torture. It is the utter disrespect for the laws and human rights of civilians that enables torture and violence in police custody. Bangladesh has already committed to rejecting torture in all its forms in its constitution, its domestic laws and by signing international conventions. Bangladesh acceded to the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 1998. Recently, Bangladesh's proposed accession to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture

was approved, meaning Bangladesh has pledged to prevent torture, to investigate allegations promptly and impartially, and to ensure victims receive redress and rehabilitation. The UN Committee against Torture has repeatedly raised concerns about widespread torture, disappearances, remand abuses, and extrajudicial killings. Even follow-up reports on these issues were never submitted by Bangladesh. The country is signatory to several other international conventions that prohibit torture, arbitrary detention, and inhumane treatment. Our governments proudly cite these commitments abroad, while failing to uphold them at home.

Our constitution repeats these same promises in even clearer language. Article 35(5) outright prohibits torture and cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment. Articles 33, 27, 31 and 32 guarantee rights, such as the right to counsel, protection from arbitrary arrest, equality before the law, and the right to life and liberty. These are not abstract clauses; they are supposed to prevent custodial violence. They are what a frightened person should be able to rely on when police knock on his door at two in the morning. They are what the families of the two men who died in custody believed they had until the system betrayed them. Even the 2,699 individuals who became victims of extrajudicial killings during the Awami League tenure could have been protected under these clauses if laws and basic rights were respected in Bangladesh.

Our constitutional guarantees, like our international commitments, remain largely aspirational. Together, they should have formed a protective shield around every citizen. Instead, they resemble a list of promises we repeat on global platforms but rarely honour in our police stations, courtrooms, and interrogation rooms. Even the law designed specifically to prevent custodial torture, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, exists only on paper. Between 2014 and 2024, only one case filed under this law saw a conviction—only one case in a country where 29 people died in custody just in the last 11 months.

If Bangladesh truly wishes to become a democracy, then torture, death in custody, and state-sanctioned impunity for perpetrators cannot continue. Custodial and extrajudicial deaths cannot remain footnotes. The weakened commissions, the ignored UN recommendations, the hollow constitutional promises—all must change. To move towards justice, we must ensure accountability for torture by law enforcers.

Across the world, I found myself trying to explain the scale of suffering. I often felt frustrated that the discussion turned into an argument about statistics rather than an acknowledgement of the brutality our nation endured, as if the exact figures could decide whether the pain was real.

What troubles me most today is how little the world truly knows about our Liberation War. The story of 1971 has never been told internationally with the clarity and seriousness it deserves. The global understanding of that period is scattered, incomplete, and often distorted. During my years working across Africa and Asia, I encountered people who believed the number of casualties in 1971 was exaggerated. Others insisted it was merely a confrontation between regional powers. Some viewed it as an inevitable outcome of long-standing tensions, shaped entirely by intelligence agencies and old rivalries. Very few understood a simple truth—that it was a people's war, not a proxy conflict or an extension of someone else's agenda. It was an uprising of ordinary men and women who refused to live without dignity.

Across the world, I found myself trying to explain the scale of suffering. I often felt frustrated that the discussion turned into an argument about statistics rather than an acknowledgement of the brutality our nation endured, as if the exact figures could decide whether the pain was real. In recent years, I revisited some

shortage of facts, but a shortage of attention. And that has consequences for how the world perceives us today. Some analyses correctly discuss the geopolitical shifts of that era and the decisions made by powerful nations. Those elements are part of the story, but they are not the heart of it. The heart was elsewhere: In refugee camps, where mothers clutched their children, unsure if they had a home to return to. In villages where farmers took up makeshift arms. In classrooms where students exchanged books for barricades. In hidden shelters, where doctors worked through the night with barely any tools.

What pains me most is how invisible

this human story remains beyond our borders. I have spoken to colleagues abroad who had never heard of the massacres of 1971. Most of them knew little of the suffering, even less of the resilience, and almost nothing of the sacrifices that ordinary Bangladeshis made. When films or documentaries talk about the war, they often do so through the perspectives of other nations, shaped by their interests rather than ours. Our voice rarely makes it to global platforms in its authentic, unfiltered form.

Winning the war gave us a nation. Giving that nation's story its rightful place in global memory is a task we have yet to accomplish. The tragedy is that half a century later, the world still struggles to see us clearly, and our suffering is often dismissed as regional, political, or too complicated to grasp. But the truth is simple. A nation paid an unimaginable price to claim its freedom.

Today, when I think about that small pebble I once threw, I no longer see it as a childish impulse. I see it as a symbol of instinctive resistance, the refusal to bow even when one is powerless, and the quiet courage that lives inside millions of Bangladeshis. Our war did not begin with trained armies. It began with ordinary people deciding that they had suffered enough.

If the world still struggles to understand 1971, then it becomes our responsibility to tell the story again and again until it is finally heard. Bangladesh was born from courage—not dramatic, not glamorous, but humble, relentless, and shared across every corner of the country.

The unfinished story of our liberation



Mamun Rashid,
an economic analyst, is chairman at Financial
Excellence Ltd and former managing partner
of PwC Bangladesh.

MAMUN RASHID

I was caught off guard when someone asked about my memories of the 1971 Liberation War. I was not prepared for the question, nor did I ever imagine speaking publicly about something so deeply personal. For most of my life, I kept those memories tucked away and offered quiet respect to the brave souls of that time—the commanders who led from the front, the uniformed fighters who risked everything, and the countless civilian freedom fighters who came from classrooms, fields, clinics, courtrooms, factories, and homes. I never felt my own story mattered beside theirs. I was only a child. Yet childhood carries its own kind of truth.

My own act of resistance was small. It came in the form of a tiny pebble thrown at a military jeep passing through our town. A second later, I was already underwater in a nearby pond, trembling in fear yet unwilling to let go of whatever courage had pushed me to do it. I was about ten years old. I was naive, reckless, and almost humorous when I look back. But at the time, it was the only language of defiance I understood. That memory returned to me unexpectedly, carrying with it everything that childhood could not articulate about war, dignity, and the

cost of freedom.

What troubles me most today is how little the world truly knows about our Liberation War. The story of 1971 has never been told internationally with the clarity and seriousness it deserves. The global understanding of that period is scattered, incomplete, and often distorted. During my years working across Africa and Asia, I encountered people who believed the number of casualties in 1971 was exaggerated. Others insisted it was merely a confrontation between regional powers. Some viewed it as an inevitable outcome of long-standing tensions, shaped entirely by intelligence agencies and old rivalries. Very few understood a simple truth—that it was a people's war, not a proxy conflict or an extension of someone else's agenda. It was an uprising of ordinary men and women who refused to live without dignity.

Across the world, I found myself trying to explain the scale of suffering. I often felt frustrated that the discussion turned into an argument about statistics rather than an acknowledgement of the brutality our nation endured, as if the exact figures could decide whether the pain was real.

In recent years, I revisited some

of the literature that attempts to document that period. What struck me most was the lack of rigorous global scholarship on our war. The world has extensive documentation on World War II, Vietnam, Rwanda, and so many other tragedies. Yet the atrocities of 1971 remain underexamined in global academic and historical discourse. There is no

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The NHRC ordinance saga: One step forward, two steps back



Mohammad Golam Sarwar, a Chevening and Commonwealth scholar, is PhD researcher in law and alternative development at SOAS, University of London. He is also an assistant professor (on study leave) in the Department of Law at the University of Dhaka.

MOHAMMAD GOLAM SARWAR

Bangladesh's rights watchdog, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has been toothless and ineffective since its formation. Despite the violations of human rights at an alarming rate, ranging from extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances to arbitrary detentions, custodial torture, and widespread suppression of dissent, the commission remained inactive and dysfunctional during the previous regimes. The legal loopholes, lack of independence and autonomy, limited mandate, and lack of enforcing authority, coupled with bureaucratic and political manipulations, made the body structurally weak and performative. The structural weakness and deliberate inaction of this rights watchdog helped the ousted regime to downplay the cases of human rights violations and to perpetuate oppressive rule while remaining unaccountable.

Last month, the interim government reformed the NHRC Act through an ordinance. The new law brings significant changes to make NHRC a strong, independent, and effective body. The updated law acknowledges Bangladesh's obligations under international human rights laws, broadens the legal mandate of NHRC, expands its investigative authority, stipulates remedial measures against human rights violations, introduces a national preventive mechanism to prevent cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, guarantees financial autonomy, and improves alignment with international standards like Paris Principles.

While the interim government could be lauded for laying out a strong legislative framework for the NHRC, it is disappointing to note that within one month of passing the new law, the government has amended the ordinance to reinstate bureaucratic control on the selection committee. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) expressed deep concern that including the cabinet secretary on the selection committee of the NHRC undermines the commission's independence and credibility.

The law also widened the definition of human rights by including any human rights guaranteed under the constitution and laws of Bangladesh, and international human rights instruments ratified by Bangladesh, and those recognised by customary international human rights law consistent with the laws of



FILE VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Bangladesh. Under the ordinance, the commission shall be formed by one chairperson and four full-time members, out of whom one shall be from ethnic minorities or disadvantaged communities, and at least two will be women. The ordinance reformed the selection

committee, which is entrusted to make recommendations on the appointment of the chairman and members of the NHRC. The committee shall be headed by an appellate division judge, nominated by the chief justice of Bangladesh. The other members of the committee will include two members of parliament, one from the ruling party and the other from the opposition party; one university professor with expertise in

the NHRC undermines the commission's independence and credibility. The presence of a top-tier bureaucrat shall allow the government to exert undue influence over the formation of the commission, which is the same reason the commission has remained ineffective over the years.

The amended ordinance also replaces mandatory reporting of non-compliance with a permissive "may be informed" clause,

indicating that the country witnessed a grim picture in terms of child abuse, violence against women, rising moral policing, arbitrary detentions, and mob violence this year. NHRC could play a significant role by addressing the above allegations of custodial death, cyber violence, disinformation, and increasing election-related human rights concerns and insecurities.

Apart from addressing human rights violations, NHRC, being inactive and dysfunctional, remains unable to perform its role in promoting compliance with international human rights obligations, including the implementation of UN treaty body recommendations and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) commitments. During the last UPR cycle (2023), Bangladesh received 301 UPR recommendations to improve its human rights record and comply with international obligations. However, the country fails to implement most of these recommendations, where NHRC could intervene.

The leadership vacuum in the NHRC not only indicates a strategy of inaction but also reinforces the need for an integrated roadmap for its institutional capacity development. While the interim government revised the NHRC law, it failed to provide a roadmap to implement it through a coherent institutional capacity development programme. A law may create pathways for a transformative beginning, but without accompanying strong institutional structure, capacity, and financial and administrative autonomy, the law remains performative. Frustratingly, this institutional paralysis, along with governance inertia, has continued even during the tenure of the interim government. A functional NHRC during the interim government could set a precedent on how an independent and effective watchdog body acts without influence and holds authorities accountable, and how the government responds democratically and lawfully. Unfortunately, this opportunity has been wasted.

The failure of NHRC is deeply rooted in systematic institutional weakness, bureaucratic inertia, and political instrumentalisation. In a political regime that does not fully internalise democratic and rights-based norms, institutional design and practice are highly influenced by the imperative of regime stability. This dominant logic of governance that prioritises regime stability over institutional accountability needs to be challenged and reoriented.

The July uprising created an opportunity for political reimagining and institutional renewal. The reenvisioned political compulsions centred on democratic accountability, rights, and institutional autonomy, as inspired by the reform agenda of the July National Charter, are instrumental in making NHRC an effective rights watchdog, capable of transcending political and bureaucratic manipulations.

one human rights expert from civil society; one representative of ethnic minorities or underprivileged communities, and the president of the National Press Club. The inclusion of human rights experts, civil society members, and representatives from ethnic and disadvantaged communities makes a significant departure from the earlier selection committee.

While the interim government could be lauded for laying out a strong legislative framework for the NHRC, it is disappointing to note that within one month of passing the new law, the government has amended the ordinance to reinstate bureaucratic control on the selection committee. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) expressed deep concern that including the cabinet secretary on the selection committee of

jeopardising the potential this law aimed to deliver. This new arrangement not only implies dominant practices of reform-resistant bureaucrats but also weakens institutional autonomy and erodes public trust in the reform process.

It is equally frustrating that this rights watchdog body has remained dysfunctional for more than a year since the resignation of its chairman and members last year. This institutional vacuum allegedly enables the present government to claim compliance with reform while avoiding substantive scrutiny of recurring human rights violations. As per Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 29 people fell victim to extrajudicial killings and deaths due to torture in custody from January to November this year. During the period, 28 convicts and 55 under-trial prisoners died in jail. Reports

How RTI activists keep the law alive

Shamsul Bari and Ruhi Naz are chairman and deputy director (RTI), respectively, at Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB). They can be reached at rib@citech-bd.com.

SHAMSUL BARI and RUHI NAZ

The absence of Bangladesh's three information commissioners—vacancies that, almost a year and a half on—have left the Right to Information (RTI) regime severely debilitated, with replacements still inexplicably pending. However, instead of lamenting about it today, let's learn how the country's dedicated RTI activists—our "RTI warriors"—are coping with the situation. Trained over the years by a handful of committed NGOs, these individuals are locally recognised for helping people use the law to promote transparency and oversight in governance. In the absence of a functioning information commission, their work has become riskier and more complex, demanding greater perseverance and strategic acuity.

Encouragingly, although some have grown disheartened and stepped back, a significant number continue with remarkable determination and tenacity. Rather than retreating in the face of bureaucratic inertia, these RTI warriors have adopted a strategy of persistence: signalling to public officials that—even without formal oversight—citizens remain vigilant, committed to monitoring public services, and prepared to demand accountability.

The experiences they shared—several of which will be mentioned later—show how ordinary citizens have continued to use the RTI Act not only to resolve immediate problems but also to signal

institutional scrutiny, promote transparency, and sustain civic pressure on authorities. These examples demonstrate the power of citizen engagement, even when institutional support is temporarily lacking, and offer critical insights into the resilience, strategies and impact of Bangladesh's RTI movement.

The following case studies highlight how RTI has been used to ensure public health accountability, protect infrastructure, and safeguard citizens' rights despite the challenges posed by a dormant information commission.

Ensuring public health accountability

In June 2025, Mukta Akter used the RTI Act to address the denial of free medicines to her sick brother at Jaldhaka Sadar Hospital in Nilphamari district. Despite entitlement under government policy, hospital staff told her to buy medicines privately and responded dismissively when questioned.

Mukta, trained in RTI law by an NGO, filed an RTI application requesting (i) lists of medicines provided by the hospital and those purchased externally, and (ii) the hospital's annual government allocation for medicines for FY2024-2025.

Fearing scrutiny, the hospital immediately provided all required medicines free of cost, corrected staff behaviour, and improved procedures—demonstrating RTI's power to secure services, enforce transparency, and catalyse institutional reform while strengthening public trust.

Protecting public infrastructure

In Sarkar Para, Nilphamari Sadar upazila, residents were isolated after a private landowner illegally

excavated a pond beside an unpaved road, which then collapsed during heavy rain. Trespass over adjoining private land by the neighbouring population became impossible when the owner blocked access. The excavation violated buffer requirements and provisions of the Penal Code, 1860, and the Land-related Offences Prevention and Remedy Act (LCPRA), 2021.

On November 26, 2025, RTI-savvy residents filed applications with the Nilphamari Settlement Office and the assistant commissioner (Land), seeking mouza maps and khatiyani records to establish the road's legal status. Confirmation of the land as public triggered the AC (Land)'s obligations under the LCPRA to investigate, issue recovery orders, and complete remedial action within three months. The case illustrates RTI's value as a non-judicial tool for evidence-gathering and administrative accountability, enabling communities to protect infrastructure and enforce legal remedies efficiently.

The deterrent power of RTI

On September 29, 2025, following a severe accidental electrocution, Dayal Chandra Roy's son was admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital. Although entitled to free treatment, the attending doctor demanded that the father supply a required utensil and purchase medicines externally. After an altercation on the matter, the doctor abruptly referred the child elsewhere for treatment.

Aggrieved by the doctor's decision, the father, with support from a local RTI advocate, threatened to file an RTI application, signalling scrutiny of the denial of treatment, the availability of medicines, and the doctor's administrative conduct.

The hospital superintendent intervened immediately: care continued uninterrupted, regular updates were ordered, and the doctor and nurse apologised. The episode demonstrates RTI's deterrent effect—compelling responsible conduct and reinforcing transparency under the prospect of legal oversight.

These cases show the continuing, practical power of the RTI Act, 2009—even without a fully

operational information commission. Strategically invoked, RTI enables citizens to secure essential services, correct administrative failures, protect public assets, and hold officials to account. They also testify to the resilience, creativity and impact of Bangladesh's RTI activists in promoting transparency, safeguarding rights, and reinforcing institutional accountability.

We hope the interim government—

now preparing for a free and fair general election—will heed citizens' aspirations for transparent, accountable governance, as illustrated earlier, and promptly revitalise the RTI regime and advance a more robust, citizen-friendly RTI law. It is equally fundamental that all political parties seeking a mandate to govern uphold and promote the RTI Act as a cornerstone of good governance and participatory democracy.

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Ref. No. 57.03.2224.301.00.001.25-1297 Date: 10/12/2025

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal

Tender ID	Package No.	Package description	Publishing date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1178865	CBPI/ASSET/E-GP/OTM/25-26/GD-03	Supply and installation of furniture	15-Dec-2025 16:00:00	05-Jan-2026 16:00:00
1178894	CBPI/ASSET/E-GP/OTM/25-26/GD-04	Supply and installation of laboratory equipment of Civil Technology	15-Dec-2025 16:15:00	05-Jan-2026 16:15:00
1183877	CBPI/ASSET/E-GP/OTM/25-26/GD-02	Supply and installation of laboratory equipment of Food Technology	15-Dec-2025 16:10:00	05-Jan-2026 16:10:00
1194960	CBPI/ASSET/E-GP/OTM/25-26/GD-01	Supply and installation of laboratory equipment of RAC Technology	15-Dec-2025 16:10:00	05-Jan-2026 16:20:00

N.B: This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline or hard copies will be accepted.

Mohammed Jahangir Alam
Principal
Cox's Bazar Polytechnic Institute

GD-2739

'BONOLOTA EXPRESS' TAKES OFF: Cast reveal elevates expectations



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Adapted from Humayun Ahmed's novel *Kichukkhon*, director Tanim Noor's *Bonolota Express* is all set for shooting from December 15 onwards.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

At a private event on Saturday, December 14, the film revealed its lineup of performers, which includes Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Azmeri Haque Badhan, Sariful Razz, Sabila Nur, Shamol Mawla, Zakia Bari Mamo, and Intekhab Dinar.

Keeping the mystery around the movie intact, the cast chose not to reveal much about their characters.

For now, audiences only know the names of the passengers boarding this train journey are Aziz, Afia, Ashab, Chitra, Abul Khayer, Surma, Rashid Uddin, and Boro Chacha.

Speaking about the film, Tanim Noor shared his excitement and gratitude. "It's a huge achievement for me to make a film based on Humayun Ahmed's

novel. I am also thrilled to work with such a brilliant cast. For a long time, I had a desire to work with both Chanchal Chowdhury and Mosharraf Karim."

Mosharraf Karim expressed his admiration for the director. "I fell in love with the character. Tanim Noor can tell a melancholic story and still make you smile. Another big reason I agreed to this film was *Utshob*. I have rarely seen such presentation in Bangladeshi cinema. I would also like to give a special shout-out to Shadhin and Samiul, the scriptwriters of the movie. I genuinely loved the script."

Chanchal Chowdhury, who reunites with Tanim Noor after *Utshob*, shared his joy at being part of the project. "It feels great to work with Tanim again. After the success of *Utshob*, he told me he wanted to collaborate once more. What pulled me to this film was Humayun Ahmed's story and my co-artists. It feels like a reunion. Going on this beautiful journey aboard a train—I truly hope we can

take the audience along with us."

Bonolota Express will also introduce a fresh on-screen pairing of Sariful Razz and Sabila Nur.

"The script by Shadhin and Samiul was fantastic, with such beautiful dialogues. I instantly felt this would be an exciting journey, and I'm truly looking forward to it," said Sabila.

After previously acting in a film based on Humayun Ahmed's novel *Daruchini Dwip*, Zakia Bari Mamo is once again returning to the author's literary world. "For me, the ultimate destination is reaching the audience's heart. I feel fortunate to be working with such wonderful co-artists in this film."

An interesting moment from the press conference was Azmeri Haque Badhan recalling how she had once missed working on *Daruchini Dwip* due to her exams.

"Because of my exams, I couldn't work with Mosharraf Karim back then," she said. "When the offer for *Bonolota Express* came, my daughter insisted that I do this film. She told me I often play serious or frustrating characters and that I should do something like *Utshob*. She really likes Tanim, and everyone knows how big a fan I am. It was because of him that I participated in Lux Channel i Superstar.



I'm extremely excited to work with Tanim Noor and such fabulous co-actors."

With a multi-starrer cast aboard and Tanim Noor steering the journey, it's safe to say audiences are in for a beautiful ride filled with love, emotion, nostalgia, and togetherness as *Bonolota Express* prepares to get on board in theatres on Eid.

Mass resistance

FROM PAGE 12 maintained the war was an internal affair.

As the independence struggle reached its climax, West Pakistan decided to internationalise the issue, realising that India might become more actively involved and that defeat was likely.

"So, their view essentially was that Bangladesh was eventually going to be liberated, but it should not be liberated through the Muktiyoddhas, but through the process of a bilateral international war between India and Pakistan."

Pakistan's decision to initiate an open war with India on December 3 by bombing Indian airfields, he said, changed the international dynamics of the conflict.

Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman said the Soviet Union was initially non-committal to the war, but later altered its strategic positioning after the crucial mutual defence treaty with

India. "The independence of Bangladesh was a unique event during that time, achieved at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives, the killing of intellectuals, and through the violation of women."

He questioned why Bangladesh, after 54 years of liberation, continues to face coups, killings and the absence of stable democratic governance. He said, "It's high time our young researchers and academics now do the proper research and write a complete history of the Liberation War with a global perspective."

Prof Navine Murshid of North South University's political science department said the West Pakistanis, knowing they were losing the war, killed Bangalee intellectuals. "It has left a damaging legacy of mediocrity in education in Bangladesh."

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam also spoke.

Country pays tribute

FROM PAGE 1 Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus paid tribute by placing a wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Mirpur around 7:20am and observed a minute of silence.

Earlier, around 7:00am, President Mohammed Shahabuddin placed a wreath at the memorial.

After the state observances, the memorial was opened to the public.

BNP leaders, led by Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, laid wreaths at the memorial.

Speaking to reporters, Fakhrul said as the nation strives to build a democratic Bangladesh, hostile forces are once again engaging in violence and killings to obstruct the country's democratic journey.

National Citizen Party leaders, led by its Convener Nahid Islam, also paid

tribute. Nahid said the systematic killing of pro-Liberation War intellectuals on December 14, 1971, was aimed at preventing Bangladesh from standing on its own feet.

Meanwhile, people from all walks of life paid tributes at the Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital from early morning.

DU ADMIN ERASES WAR CRIMINAL CARICATURES
Dhaka University authorities removed caricatures of war criminals painted on campus roads by students of Jagannath Hall. The artwork, created under a programme titled "Tul'ir Achore Droho" (Defiance Through Brushstrokes) on Saturday night, depicted Matur Rahman Nizami, Ghulam Azam and Abdul Quader Mollah. The caricatures were erased yesterday following instructions from the university administration.

NEWS

Jamaat's spin on intellectual killings in '71

FROM PAGE 2 "However, dialogue was taking place between Jagjit Singh Aurora, the chief of the Bangladesh-India joint command, and the surrendering General Niazi to set the date of surrender. At the will of the Indian army, the date was deferred by two days to December 16," he claimed.

On December 14, university teachers, journalists, artists, writers, and other intellectuals were hunted down and killed one by one.

"Had they lived, they could have played an extraordinary role in building a newly independent Bangladesh with their knowledge," the Jamaat leader said.

Explaining his remarks, he said the question was why they were killed. "To rebuild a war-ravaged Bangladesh after victory, the intellect, thinking, creativity, and innovation required were possessed by the nation's best sons — the intellectuals. They [India] did this so that Bangladesh would remain forever subservient to them and under their dominance."

"Bangladesh would exist in name only, with its borders remaining those of 1947. It would appear to be an independent country, but its economy, politics, foreign policy — everything — would be controlled from Delhi."

Porwar opined that India did not help Bangladesh with good intentions but to avenge its defeat by Pakistan in the 1965 war.

At another event, Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Chattogram city Jamaat ameer, said, "Killing one innocent person is like killing all humanity. There are no words strong enough to condemn such crimes."

Speaking at a discussion in Jamaat's Dewanbazar office, he demanded an inquiry commission to identify the culprits and initiate judicial proceedings to settle the debt of history.

He added that fabricating narratives to hide the killers and shift blame was also a crime. "Over the past decade and a half, false cases were filed, evidence was ignored, and leaders were eliminated through politically motivated judicial killings."

Nazrul also claimed that many of the slain intellectuals supported the then government or Pakistan's unity.

He said neutral researchers and intellectuals have expressed similar views, noting that many of those killed were pro-Pakistan and that none had gone to India.

"Why would Pakistan soldiers kill loyal intellectuals? Anyone with military experience would suspect that someone else used the name of the Pakistan army to carry out the killings. India's name comes up first among the suspects. Those who did not go to India incurred India's wrath."

At another programme, Prof Mohammad Shamim Uddin Khan, pro-VC (academic) of Chattogram University, said it was "absurd" to think Pakistan forces — busy fleeing and surrendering — killed intellectuals at that time.

At a discussion on Martyred Intellectuals Day at the Vice-Chancellor's office, he described the killings as part of an international conspiracy to subjugate Bangladesh. "To this day, we have not found Zahir Raihan. If he had been traced, we would have known the true history."

Speaking on the number of Liberation War martyrs, Prof Shamim said, "We do not want to hear rhetorical statements before the nation. We truly want to know what happened in Bangladesh in 1971, who were martyred, and who carried out the killings. That is still unknown to us."

He said, "In Bangladesh, the blame for killings is first placed on one group, but years later the real culprit emerges.

One narrative replaces another..."

Shamim also called for the formation of an independent and neutral commission to find out what happened on December 14, 1971.

For perspective, it is widely documented that Al-Badr Bahini, formed with members of Islami Chhatra Sangha — the then student wing of Jamaat — is responsible for the intellectual killings.

How Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan occupation army, was formed and its links with Chhatra Sangha were detailed in a report of Dainik Sangram, Jamaat's mouthpiece.

The report, published on September 14, 1971, says the Al-Badr force was formed under the leadership of Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, the then president of Momenshahi (Mymensingh) Islami Chhatra Sangha, immediately after the Pakistan army entered Jamalpur on April 22, 1971.

The report was presented as evidence at the International Crimes Tribunal.

The International Crimes Tribunal 2, in its verdict in a case filed against Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan in 2013, said Jamaat played "a culpable role in liquidating the notable pro-liberation intellectuals, the best sons and daughters of the soil, by providing express and active approval to the killing squad formed of Al-Badr men who in fact belonged to ICS [Islami Chhatra Sangha]."

The tribunal handed down the death penalty to Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman for their role in the intellectual killings in 1971.

Terming Al-Badr a brainchild of Jamaat, the tribunal observed, "It is now settled that the Al-Badr, the 'action section' of JEI [Jamaat-e-Islami], was formed of the workers of ICS [Islami Chhatra Sangha]."

The funding network of 1971

FROM PAGE 12 Between March and May, freedom fighters carried out planned operations to collect funds from treasuries and banks across districts and subdivisions, most of which were sent to the Mujibnagar fund.

Details of these operations appear in "Purono Shei Diner Kotha", the autobiography of former adviser Akbar Ali Khan, who served as the subdivisional officer of Habiganj in early 1971.

According to his account, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Mahub Uddin Ahmed of Jhamaidah and Sub-Divisional Officer Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury of Meherpur collected Tk 4 crore 40 lakh from their respective treasuries. Nurul Kader Khan, deputy commissioner of Pabna, deposited Tk 2 crore, while Captain Anuddin deposited Tk 1 crore 14 lakh obtained from banks in Brahmanbaria. Akbar himself also contributed a large sum.

On April 18, freedom fighters led by Kurigram Provincial Council member Abul Hossain recovered Tk 1 crore 40 lakh and 29 boxes of gold from the local treasury, which were sent to India and later deposited into the Mujibnagar fund.

Akbar estimated that roughly Tk 20-25 crore was transferred to the Mujibnagar treasury through the BSF.

According to "Bangladesh Sarkar 1971", Cabinet Secretary Colonel M A G Osman presented a plan at the April 16 cabinet meeting on swiftly collecting treasury funds.

Initially, currency was exchanged in India. Later, most funds were sent through Marwari traders to Afghanistan, converted to Indian currency and returned. At least three officials oversaw each exchange.

The book also notes that the Pakistan government announced the demonetisation of Tk 100 and 500 notes on June 8. Anticipating the move, the Mujibnagar authorities managed to exchange most notes beforehand.

According to "Bangladesher Shadhinota Juddho Dolil Potro Volume III", the government in May 1971 issued a seven-point directive urging people to deposit rents, taxes and duties into government treasuries. That same month, an Industrial and Commerce Board was established to facilitate the export of jute, tea and hides.

In India, more than 15 organisations raised funds and deposited them into the freedom fighters' fund. The Swadhin Bangla Football Team played

16 exhibition matches and donated over Tk 5 lakh. Indian artists, writers, intellectuals, doctors and industrialists also contributed, Fayequzzaman wrote in "Mujibnagar Government 1971".

FOREIGN AID
Foreign support, particularly from expatriate Bangalees, foreign citizens and international charities, became a major funding source.

According to "Spring: 1971", around 30 organisations were formed in New York and Chicago in the United States to raise funds.

"Muktijuddher Chikitsa Itihash" notes that in the United Kingdom, over 450 Bangalee doctors and medical students formed the Bangladesh Medical Association UK, each contributing at least £10 per month.

"Bangladesh Sarkar 1971" states that between April and June, Action

charitable organisations operating in different countries, although there were major obstacles even in those cases. Overall, it was a very difficult situation, but through collective efforts we were able to cope with it."

EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET

According to "Bangladesher Shadhinota Juddho Dolil Potro Volume III", the finance department on June 18 issued a salary directive for regional administrators and staff. On July 19, Finance Minister M Mansur Ali announced a three-month budget for July-September, proposing an expenditure of Tk 2 crore 15 lakh 64 thousand against projected annual revenue of Tk 7,74,18,998.

The budget note stated, "We now need a budget to meet the necessary and unavoidable expenses required for the war of independence. This budget



Meeting of the Mujibnagar Government's all-party advisory committee during the Liberation War.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangladesh sent Tk 58 lakh 40 thousand to the provisional government. Proceeds from global concerts, including the Concert for Bangladesh held in New York on August 1, also flowed into the fund. UNICEF transferred USD 243,418 from ticket sales.

During the war, Professor Rehman Sobhan served as a special envoy for the Mujibnagar Government's financial affairs, working to mobilise international support.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said, "Raising funds for the Mujibnagar Government was always a challenge. Apart from India, no foreign country came forward to provide us with financial assistance. Expatriate Bangalees were our greatest source of hope; they contributed a significant portion to the Mujibnagar Government's fund."

"We also received some funds from

is prepared for the three months of July to September."

In this first wartime budget, Tk 1,93 crore was allocated for defence, with additional allocations for health, youth camps, administration and information.

According to "Mujibnagar Government 1971", the monthly salary for acting president Syed Nazrul Islam was fixed at Tk 2,000, for Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad at Tk 1,500, and for other cabinet members at Tk 1,200.

"Muktijuddher Purbapor Kothopokothon" says that P N Haksar, principal secretary to the Indian prime minister, informed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1972 that Tk 17 crore of the funds sent to the Mujibnagar Government during the war remained in Indian banks. The money was later handed over to the Government of Bangladesh the same year.

12 killed, 29 hurt in Australia beach shooting

FROM PAGE 12 on synagogues, buildings and cars in Australia since the beginning of Israel's war in Gaza in October 2023.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese convened a meeting of the country's national security council and condemned the attack, saying the evil that was unleashed was "beyond comprehension".

"These acts of violence and crimes have no place in our society. Those responsible must be held fully accountable and face the full force of the law," the Australian National Imams

Council, the Council of Imams NSW and the Australian Muslim community said in a statement.

"Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and all those who witnessed or were affected by this deeply traumatic attack."

Witnesses said the shooting at the famed beach on a hot summer's evening lasted about 10 minutes, sending hundreds of people scattering along the sand and into nearby streets and parks. Police said around 1,000 people had attended the Hanukkah

event alone.

"I was just getting ready to go home, and, like, I was packing my bag, got my flip-flops, was ready to catch my bus, and then I started hearing the shots," said Bondi Junction resident Marcos Carvalho, 38.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said Jewish people who had gone to light the first candle of the Hanukkah holiday on the beach had been attacked by "vile terrorists".

One of the world's most famous beaches, Bondi is typically crowded with locals and tourists.

Defeated fascist forces

FROM PAGE 3
“backward forces that opposed our independence and tried to block our progress”.
“Democracy means tolerance of differing opinions. I may not believe what you say, I may not agree with your opinion, but I will protect your freedom of expression with my last drop of blood – that is democracy,” he said.
The Liberation War of 1971 cannot be forgotten. “This country, where we now live, became independent through the Liberation War. Will we stand by that, or by those who wanted to destroy it?” he asked.
“This question is coming up today because that force has once again raised its head. Today, that force is again misleading people in the name of religion. They tried to mislead people in the name of religion in 1971 as well,” he said.
Fakhrul said fascist rule was ousted and democracy restored through the July uprising, but warned against replacing one fascist force with another.
“We will not bring any force that wants to take the country backwards,” he said.
At another programme organised by the BNP at the same venue, Fakhrul said the force that opposed

the Pakistan movement in 1947 and Bangladesh's independence in 1971 is now claiming it alone can build a new Bangladesh.
“But the people of Bangladesh cannot believe this,” he said.
Fakhrul said immediately after the announcement of the election schedule, there was an attack on Osman Hadi, who had stood up against fascist forces.
“There will be conspiracies and plots from all sides. Even then, we believe BNP will emerge victorious. BNP is a liberal democratic party and believes in democracy,” he added.
Fakhrul said BNP knows which political forces were responsible for killing intellectuals in 1971 and who are now conspiring to derail the election.
BNP is on the right path and will continue to work to establish democracy through a liberal democratic course, he said.
BNP Standing Committee members Nazrul Islam Khan, Mirza Abbas, and Salahuddin Ahmed, among others, spoke at the programme.
BNP observed Martyred Intellectuals Day across the country yesterday, paying tribute to the fallen intellectuals.

Tarique vows to ensure

FROM PAGE 3
held at a city hotel, with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir presiding.
Tarique said if the next government can ensure the rule of law and maintain the law and order, there will be a strong possibility that many problems will start to ease, and then it will be possible to move forward with other necessary work.
Referring to the long period of what he described as autocratic rule in the past, Tarique said unhealthy practices had developed in different sectors of society, where people received benefits and privileges they did not deserve.
“This has almost become a habit over time. So this situation and this mindset must be changed. In simple words, corruption must be firmly brought under control,” he said.
The seven officers, who previously served in Rab, are among the 17 accused in the case, which also names former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Hasina's former military adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique. Ten army officers are currently in custody.
The case concerns the alleged enforced disappearance, secret detention and torture of 14 individuals between 2016 and 2024 at the TFI cell operated under Rab.
Tabarak also argued that only army officers were named as accused, despite DIG-rank police officers allegedly overseeing the centre at times when four Rab additional directors general (operations) – now

Bombs or gravel?

FROM PAGE 3
accused – were either on leave or abroad during the alleged incidents. He sought three months to review more than 1,600 pages of case documents.
Opposing the plea, Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said there was prima facie evidence linking the accused to abduction, confinement, torture and enforced disappearance, and urged the tribunal to frame charges.
Defence counsels for three other detained army officers are scheduled to present discharge arguments on December 21.
Lawyers for Sheikh Hasina and other absconding accused also sought discharge, with Hasina's lawyer Amir Hossain saying the prosecution failed to produce any written or audio-visual evidence of her directives.
After hearing both sides, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder set December 21 for its order on charge framing.

Clashes displace 150

FROM PAGE 3
Ronju, from Mymensingh district in Bangladesh, said they walked for miles through forested areas to reach a nearby town. At one point, they found buses and hired them to continue their journey.
On the way, immigration police stopped and detained all of them, although they said they had valid visas and work permits, except for a few. “We were divided into two groups – one group detained in a camp and the other in a temple,” he said.
After checking their passports, about 50 of them were released, while the rest remain detained as of yesterday, Ronju told this correspondent.
“The immigration police have asked us to bring 800 dollars in two days from home for sending us back. We don't want to go home,” he said.
Another migrant worker, Jobaer Ahmed, alleged that immigration police took away their mobile phones

and passports. “We were even slapped and humiliated by them,” he said.
Jobaer said he had travelled to Cambodia a year ago after spending Tk 5 lakh, and returning at this point was not feasible.
Anisur Rahman Khan, executive director of migrant rights body IMA Research Foundation, wrote to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) offices in Dhaka and Thailand on Saturday, seeking support for the migrants.
Bangladesh does not have a diplomatic mission in Cambodia, but its mission in Thailand oversees the country.
Contacted, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Fayaz Murshid Kazi told this correspondent yesterday that he had already written to the Cambodian foreign ministry seeking safe shelter for the Bangladeshi migrants.
“I think they can stay there until the situation stabilises,” he said.

Rise above politics

FROM PAGE 3
He said this moral deviation by judges, along with failures in other state institutions, became one of the key factors that forced people to take to the streets during the July uprising.
“At a moment of extreme crisis, I took oath as the 25th chief justice on August 11, 2024. The responsibility of the judiciary was entrusted to me at that time,” he added.
Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, who is set to retire on December 27, made the remarks in his farewell address to district judges, metropolitan sessions judges, chief judicial magistrates, and chief metropolitan magistrates at the Supreme Court auditorium yesterday.
The chief justice said strict action must be taken against dishonest and

corrupt judges.
“From now on, blaming others for injustices committed by judges must stop,” he said.
He stressed that a separate judicial secretariat and full judicial independence must be ensured to protect constitutional rights.
He also called for full accountability to deliver justice within a reasonable time and warned against political appeasement in postings.
“Although law is part of broader politics, judges must rise above politics. If the judiciary only serves the interests of the ruling elite, there is no need for a separate judicial institution, as the executive and police could perform that role,” he said, urging judges to act with integrity and prudence.

Nearly 70 percent of ever married women have experienced intimate partner violence, while 51.4 percent of women aged 20–24 were married before the age of 18, the highest rate in Asia, it also said.
The coalition also highlighted rising child labour, high dropout rates among girls, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and children through displacement, water scarcity, and increased risks of exploitation.
It called for education spending to be increased to at least 4 percent of GDP, stronger enforcement of child protection laws,

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 15
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:45 3:45 5:22 7:00
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪২
২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে প্রথম বর্ষ মাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে
ভর্তি পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি ও নির্দেশিকা

তারিখ/বার	ইউনিট/অনুষদ	শিফট	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার রোল নম্বর (E=English, B=Bangla)	পরীক্ষার সময়	
২১-১২-২০২৫ রবিবার	C Unit কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ, আইন অনুষদ এবং তুলনামূলক সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতি ইনস্টিটিউট	১ম (ছাত্রী)	3200001 (E) - 3200442 (E) 3210001 (B) - 3218591 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০	
		২য় (ছাত্রী)	3218592 (B) - 3227624 (B)	সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫	
		৩য় (ছাত্রী)	3227625 (B) - 3236656 (B)	সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০	
		৪র্থ (ছাত্র)	3100001 (E) - 3100336 (E) 3110001 (B) - 3116464 (B)	বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০	
		৫ম (ছাত্র)	3116465 (B) - 3123264 (B)	বেলা ০৩:১৫ থেকে ০৪:১৫	
		৬ষ্ঠ (ছাত্র)	3123265 (B) - 3130064 (B)	বেলা ০৪:৪০ থেকে ০৫:৪০	
২২-১২-২০২৫ সোমবার	B Unit সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ	১ম (ছাত্রী)	2200001 (E) - 2200231 (E) 2210001 (B) - 2215661 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০	
		২য় (ছাত্রী)	2215662 (B) - 2221553 (B)	সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫	
		৩য় (ছাত্র)	2100001 (E) - 2100213 (E) 2110001 (B) - 2118588 (B)	সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০	
		E Unit বিজনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদ	৪র্থ (ছাত্রী)	5230001 [Business] (E) - 5230177 [Business] (E) 5240001 [Non-Business] (E) - 5240117 [Non-Business] (E) 5210001 (B) - 5214240 (B)	বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০
			৫ম (ছাত্র)	5130001 [Business] (E) - 5130176 [Business] (E) 5140001 [Non-Business] (E) - 5140202 [Non-Business] (E)	বেলা ০৩:১৫ থেকে ০৪:১৫
			৬ষ্ঠ (ছাত্র)	5120001 (B) - 5121524 (B)	
২৩-১২-২০২৫ মঙ্গলবার	C1 Unit কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ (নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব বিভাগ এবং চারুকলা বিভাগ)	১ম (ছাত্রী ও ছাত্র)	7200001 (E) - 7200032 (E) 7210001 (B) - 7212124 (B) 7100001 (E) - 7100032 (E) 7110001 (B) - 7111537 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০	
		D Unit জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ	২য় (ছাত্র)	4100001 (E) - 4100545 (E) 4110001 (B) - 4116813 (B)	সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫
			৩য় (ছাত্র)	4116814 (B) - 4124170 (B)	সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০
			৪র্থ (ছাত্র)	4124171 (B) - 4131527 (B)	বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০
			৫ম (ছাত্র)	4131528 (B) - 4138884 (B)	বেলা ০৩:১৫ থেকে ০৪:১৫
			৬ষ্ঠ (ছাত্র)	4200001 (E) - 4200940 (E) 4210001 (B) - 4217219 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০
২৪-১২-২০২৫ বুধবার	D Unit জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ	১ম (ছাত্রী)	4200001 (E) - 4200940 (E) 4210001 (B) - 4217219 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০	
		২য় (ছাত্রী)	4217220 (B) - 4225378 (B)	সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫	
		৩য় (ছাত্রী)	4225379 (B) - 4233536 (B)	সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০	
		৪র্থ (ছাত্রী)	4233537 (B) - 4241694 (B)	বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০	
		৫ম (ছাত্রী)	4241695 (B) - 4249852 (B)	বেলা ০৩:১৫ থেকে ০৪:১৫	
		২৬-১২-২০২৫ রবিবার	A Unit গাণিতিক ও পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ এবং ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি	১ম (ছাত্রী ও ছাত্র)	6100001 (E) - 6103312 (E) 6200001 (E) - 6202100 (E)
২য় (ছাত্রী)	1200001 (E) - 1200729 (E) 1210001 (B) - 1216718 (B)			সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫	
৩য় (ছাত্রী)	1216719 (B) - 1224165 (B)			সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০	
৪র্থ (ছাত্রী)	1224166 (B) - 1231611 (B)			বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০	
A Unit গাণিতিক ও পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ এবং ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি	১ম (ছাত্র)			1100001 (E) - 1101211 (E) 1110001 (B) - 1118292 (B)	সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০
	২য় (ছাত্র)			1118293 (B) - 1127795 (B)	সকাল ১০:২৫ থেকে ১১:২৫
	৩য় (ছাত্র)	1127796 (B) - 1137298 (B)	সকাল ১১:৫০ থেকে ১২:৫০		
৪র্থ (ছাত্র)	1137299 (B) - 1146800 (B)	বেলা ০২:৫০ থেকে ০২:৫০			
৩০-১২-২০২৫, ৩১-১২-২০২৫ ও ০১-০১-২০২৬ তারিখ (৩ দিন)	C1 Unit কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা (নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব বিভাগ)		MCQ পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য সকাল ১০:০০ টায় নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব বিভাগে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে।		
৩১-১২-২০২৫ তারিখ বুধবার	C1 Unit কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা (চারুকলা বিভাগ)		MCQ পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বেলা ১১:০০ টা থেকে দুপুর ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত।		

বিঃদ্র: C1 Unit (কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ)-এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব বিভাগ এবং চারুকলা বিভাগের MCQ পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের বর্ণিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রয়োজনীয় সরঞ্জামাদি সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। কোনো প্রার্থীর দু'টি বিভাগে একই সময়ে ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হলে প্রার্থী সংশ্লিষ্ট সভাপতির কাছে লিখিতভাবে আবেদন করে তারিখ ও সময় সমন্বয় করে নিতে পারবে।

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য:

- OMR ফরমের বৃত্ত সাধারণ কালো বলপেন দ্বারা পূরণ করতে হবে। OMR ফরম পূরণে ভুল হলে উত্তরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। যৌক্তিক কারণ ছাড়া পরীক্ষার্থীকে অতিরিক্ত OMR ফরম দেয়া হবে না। OMR ফরম ভাঁজ করা, কাটাকাটি করা, অব্যাহিত দাগ দেয়া, স্টেপলার বা Pin-up করা এবং ফরমের উপর পানি ফেলা যাবে না।
- ভর্তি পরীক্ষার রোল নম্বর, দিনের শিফট ও প্রশ্নপত্রের সেট কোড অবশ্যই ইংরেজিতে লিখতে হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ঘর খাখাথভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষা শেষে OMR Sheet ও প্রশ্নপত্র পরিদর্শনের কাছে জমা দিতে হবে।
- পরীক্ষার্থী কর্তৃক ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রশ্নপত্রের মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার আসন সম্পর্কে বিবরণিত জানতে পারবে।
- পরীক্ষা শুরু হওয়ার নির্ধারিত সময়ের ন্যূনতম ১০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের নির্ধারিত কক্ষে আসন গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- পরীক্ষার্থীরা পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে ব্যাগ, বইপত্র, মোবাইল ফোন, ঘড়ি, ক্যালকুলেটর কিংবা অন্য কোন ইলেকট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ করতে পারবে না। সময় দেয়ার জন্য পরীক্ষার হলে ঘড়ির ব্যবস্থা থাকবে।
- পরীক্ষার্থী ও পরীক্ষার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি/ব্যক্তিকর্মী ভিন্ন অন্য কেউ পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে পারবেন না।
- ভর্তি পরীক্ষার কমান্ড পরীক্ষা শেষ হওয়ার পর থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে ju-admission.org থেকে জানা যাবে।
- ভর্তি পরীক্ষার সময় পরীক্ষার্থীকে মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার মূল রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড এবং ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র অবশ্যই সঙ্গে আনতে হবে।
- ঢাকা শহর থেকে জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাস ৩০ কিলোমিটার দূরে অবস্থিত। এজন্য যে সব পরীক্ষার্থী ঢাকা শহর বা দূরবর্তী অন্য কোনো স্থান থেকে এসে পরীক্ষা দেবে তাদেরকে যানজটসহ অপ্রত্যাশিত দুর্ভোগ এড়াবার জন্য পর্যাপ্ত সময় হাতে নিয়ে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে আসার পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কোনো বাসে পরীক্ষার্থী বা তাদের অভিভাবকরা আসা-যাওয়া করতে পারবেন না।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-সৈয়দ মোহাম্মদ আলী রেজা)
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (শিক্ষা)
এবং সচিব, কেন্দ্রীয় ভর্তি পরিচালনা কমিটি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
সিলেট
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রকৌশল: ৩৫৭/৭(ক)/২০২৫-২৮৮৩ তারিখ: ১০/১২/২০২৫

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট অফিসের অফিস ভবন ও কর্মচারী নিবাসের বিভিন্ন ধরনের ব্যাংক সম্পদের ক্রয়/মেরামত/পরিবর্তন, ব্যাংক ভবন ও বিভিন্ন স্থাপনা রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ/সংস্কার প্রকৃতি কাজের জন্য আপাদী ০১/০১/২০২৬ থেকে ৩১/১২/২০২৬ পর্যন্ত মেয়াদের জন্য অনূর্ধ্ব ১০.০০ লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত ০২ (দুইটি) শ্রেণিভুক্ত কাজের জন্য পৃথকভাবে ঠিকাদারের তালিকা প্রণয়ন করা হবে:

১. ব্যাংকের অফিস ও আবাস ভবনের পূর্ত কাজ।
২. ব্যাংকের অফিস ও আবাসিক ভবনের বৈদ্যুতিক ও যান্ত্রিক সরঞ্জাম সরবরাহ, স্থাপন ও মেরামত কাজ।

শর্তাবলি:

১. সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্বশাসিত যেকোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার হিসাবে অন্তর্ভুক্তি চিঠির কপি/লাইসেন্স কপি/নবায়ন রসিদ এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
২. যে শ্রেণির জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত হতে ইচ্ছুক সে ধরনের কাজ অর্থাৎ বিগত ০৩ (তিন) বৎসরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ১টি কাজ [পূর্ত কাজের ক্ষেত্রে ১০.০০,০০০.০০ (দশ লক্ষ টাকা) এবং বৈদ্যুতিক ও যান্ত্রিক কাজের ক্ষেত্রে ৬৪.০০,০০০.০০ (চার লক্ষ টাকা) এর নীচে না] সন্তোষজনকভাবে সম্পন্ন করে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং এ বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগের নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী অথবা সমমানের কর্মকর্তার কার্য সম্পাদন সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
৩. বৈদ্যুতিক কাজের ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে এ/বি/সি কাটাগরীভুক্ত বৈদ্য বৈদ্যুতিক লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদার হতে হবে।
৪. আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে পূর্ত কাজের ক্ষেত্রে ১০.০০,০০০.০০ (দশ লক্ষ টাকা) পর্যন্ত এবং বৈদ্যুতিক ও যান্ত্রিক ক্ষেত্রে ৬৪.০০,০০০.০০ (চার লক্ষ টাকা) পর্যন্ত (এক ক্ষেত্রে) কাজ করার সামর্থ্য থাকতে হবে এবং এর সপক্ষে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের নিকট থেকে পৃথক পৃথক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সার্টিফিকেট জমা দিতে হবে।
৫. হালনাগাদ ড্রেন্ড লাইসেন্স, টি,আই,এন সার্টিফিকেট ও মূল্য সহযোগিতা কর নিবন্ধনপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
৬. ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/পাসপোর্ট/ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি, নাগরিকত্ব সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
৭. এছাড়াও তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি প্রচলিত নিয়মানুসারে তালিকাভুক্তি ফি ও তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন ফি প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৮. একাদিক্রমে ০৩ (তিন) বার দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণে ব্যর্থ হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম তালিকা হতে বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে।
৯. তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কাজ করতে বাধ্য থাকবে না।
১০. বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম তালিকা হতে বাদ দেয়ার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
১১. ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি/সমূহ যাচাইয়ের জন্য মূলকপি অবশ্যই সৈন্যতে হবে।
১২. আবেদনপত্র সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং নামের উপরে যে গ্রুপের তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদন করা হচ্ছে, তার উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।
১৩. আবেদন প্রাপ্তির পর্যায়ে আবেদন সাপেক্ষে তালিকাভুক্তির নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম অফিস চলাকালীন প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট থেকে অফিসসময় ১০.০০.০০ (একশত টাকা) মাত্র নগদ প্রদানপূর্বক ২৪/১২/২০২৫ তারিখ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সন্ধ্যা করা যাবে এবং নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র ৩০/১২/২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে একই স্থানে জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট অফিসে বর্তমানে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের পুনঃ আবেদনের প্রয়োজন নেই। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে তালিকাভুক্তির যে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার এবং তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম তালিকা হতে বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। এ ব্যাপারে কোনরূপ আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

DCP: 48/2025-3353
Date: 14-12-2025

আব্দুল সালাম মাহমুদ
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
ফোন: ৩৪-৪৪০০২

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়ারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে কোন স্কল।

GD-2738

Chittagong, before Chittagong

AN EARLY HISTORY



Image 1: Detail from a seventeenth-century European map of Bengal (c. 1640), attributed to Joan Blaeu, showing the Ganges delta and the Bay of Bengal. The star marks Chittagong, depicted as a key coastal node linking Bengal's riverine networks with the wider Indian Ocean world, reflecting European perceptions of the region's strategic maritime importance.

RILA MUKHERJEE

In the remote east of a region once called Harikela lies Chittagong, an upper Bay of Bengal port city at the juncture of the medieval Bengal, Arakan and Tripura kingdoms. Once central to Portuguese and French expansion, it later became marginal to British rule. Independence in 1947 and liberation in 1971 then imposed state and district boundaries bearing little relation to Chittagong's once expansive surroundings. The US-led post-Second World War Area Studies programme conducted the final surgery by bifurcating the region between South and mainland Southeast Asia.

In historical writings, Chittagong is both a place name and a sub-region within the larger geographic-cultural unit of Harikela. The place name 'Chittagong' refers to both the port and the city. But since decisions about geographic framework or regionalisation are rarely as explicit as those involving chronological framework, or periodisation, the contours of the Chittagong sub-region remain unclear. It includes the area lying east of the Karnaphuli River. This area neighbours Arakan, with which Chittagong has had a long association.

their waters to tidal actions. To its north-west, waterbodies (*haor* in the local dialect, from the Sanskrit *sagar* [sagaranupa], or sea) supplement the Meghna-Brahmaputra waterway as the 'Eastern Sea'. In this water frontier, many looked to the sea and to maritime trade, smuggling, raiding, or even piracy for survival.

My late mother, who came from the adjacent Noakhali district, spoke nostalgically of the floating markets and waterborne passageways she saw as a child. Instead of bullock carts, people travelled by boat, for this was a marine land.

The waterbodies underwent continuous evolution. As they expanded, lands were submerged; as they receded, new lands sprang up. Although what happened earlier is unknown, we have some records from the sixteenth century onwards. The Ottoman navigational treatise *Muhit* (1554) speaks of extensive level alterations and alludes to navigational dangers among islands that have since disappeared. Maheshkhali Island, separated from Chittagong by the Maheshkhali Channel, originated from a severe cyclone and tidal bore (1559). The merchant Cesare Federici (August 1569), the traveller Ralph Fitch (March 1588), and the adventurer Gleanius (October 1661) all mentioned severe cyclones in the region.

Seismic disturbances also rocked this coast. An earthquake in 1678 affected Arakan; the one of April 2, 1762 saw the submergence of 60 square miles near Chittagong. A tsunami elevated Arakan's coast by some three to six metres, raising Foul Island by nine feet and Cheduba Island's north-west coast by 22 feet above sea level.

II. Marginocentric space
 Straddling Indic, Buddhist, and Islamic realms—neither wholly South Asian nor entirely Southeast Asian in nature—the political borders of both city and sub-region were always weak compared with the strength of their economic and cultural relations. Yet because border social dynamics can affect the formation and territorialisation of states, marginocentric cities like Chittagong have sometimes exerted profound influence on continental histories.

'Marginocentrism' is a term coined by Marcel Cornis-Pope in 2006 to explain the evolution of cities in East-Central Europe. These cities, by driving historical change, can challenge mainstream paradigms. But unlike Fernand Braudel's primate cities, they lead a solitary existence. While Braudel's cities assume a role in the market economy by virtue of their relationship with the surrounding rural area, a patchwork of urban-rural interactions forms the basis of the marginocentric city's market-economy exchanges.

III. Early market economy
 When the decline of the Later Chandra dynasty in Arakan in c. 957 presented an opportunity for Chittagong to declare autonomy from Arakan, it could connect rural industrial

production with trading networks in an entrepôt, becoming a coordination and communication centre for long-distance bulk trade supplying non-agricultural populations.

As a port, it simultaneously assumed importance in a growing commercial economy as a relay point within regional trading networks, including bulk shipping and the

Despite its strategic location when compared to Samatata, Harikela emerges late in the historical record. It was seen as an extension of King Sanjaya's Hinduised Java, since seas did not constitute natural frontiers as they do now, and the notion of borders was then fluid. Rachel Midura points out that events and perceptions generated a spatial 'othering' through the influence of factors other than geographic proximity; journeys by sea or through mountain passes could appear as a single route in a traveller's narrative, and instead of emphasising sovereign states, as cartography does, itineraries linked distant places through commercial and cultural pathways.

The names Jambudvīpa and Yavadvīpa were used interchangeably for Java and Chittagong. In c. 413, returning to Guangzhou from Bengal, the Chinese Buddhist cleric Fa Xian stopped at an unspecified port in Yavadvīpa which practised a blend of Brahmanism and animism. He noted that 'heretic Brahmins flourish there, and the Buddha dharma hardly deserves mentioning'. Was this perhaps Chittagong?

Records indicate that Samatata had links with the Buddhist polity of Srivijaya and perhaps with China as well. Sources reference pilgrim circulation and the collection of Indic religious texts there; it was a rich region marked by a gold coinage and a flourishing commerce. Yet, as historian Suchandra Ghosh reminds us, while Chittagong supposedly adopted Buddhism late compared to Samatata, when Xuanzang mentioned, c. 635, Samatata's relations with Southeast Asian polities, these must have occurred through Harikela, as Samatata had only the fluvial port of Devaparvata. Even so, early notices, including Xuanzang's, ignore ports in the region. It was only c. 675 that Yijing saw this easternmost region emerging as a political frontier (the early Harikela coins appeared c. 665). His contemporary Wu Hing disembarked at an unnamed port here; possibly this was Chittagong, which had appeared as both place and port by then.



Image 2: The Cantino Planisphere, completed by an unknown Portuguese cartographer in 1502, is one of the most significant cartographic documents of the early modern world. It depicts European geographical knowledge following the great voyages of exploration to the Americas, Africa, and India at the turn of the sixteenth century.

trade in staples such as rice, salt, and cottons, as well as the aloes and eunuch trades. David Ludden has noted that Chittagong port historically operated as a hinge between two commodity circuits: the Indian Ocean circuit and the upstream/downstream, river-borne Brahmaputra-Himalaya-Tibet-Yunnan circuit. This second circuit also linked it to Persia via Magadha, through a region to its north-west called Pundravardhana. A third circuit carried cowries across the seas from the Maldives, through Bengal's rivers and across the tropical mountains of Yunnan and Burma, connecting Chittagong's agrarian frontier with India, China, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and larger oceanic networks.

A degree of control over provisioning is evident in Chittagong's progressively large trade portfolio, which reveals its expanding reach: gold, silver, rubies, cowries, iron, steel, tin, timber, pepper, spices, salt, sugarcane, cottons, muslin, linen, silk, indigo, rice, corn, a wide range of fresh and dried foods, preserves, butter and other dairy products, cattle, horses, elephants, rhinoceroses, turtles, leopards, tigers, red lacquer, wax, and manufactures such as boats, chinaware, crockery, cookware, and cane and rattan furniture (as good as those of China, according to the seventeenth-century traveller François Pyrard). Was this provisioning undertaken by outsiders or by a local mercantile class? Exports and re-exports suggest trade with the Maldives, Persia, Africa, and China, the last particularly in exotic animals and rare animal products. Chittagong's rice and slave exports were crucial to Dutch Batavia.

IV. Chittagong Port: Hazy history, few sources
 Chittagong's early history is unclear.

occupied a median position between the medieval agrarian states of the interior and the coastal trading polities. This is also the period when sources on Chittagong become more plentiful. There is thus an asymmetry in our perception of time and space in this borderland spanning South and Southeast Asia.

VI. A borderland without elites
 Although network centrality made it a significant place, Chittagong's frontier location under multiple hegemonies produced a historiographic erasure. Its historical development was determined simultaneously by politics in Bengal and Arakan, and by the social, economic, and political interactions between them.

It has been said that a region's representation and public image are products of status and power, yet Chittagong's urban hierarchy or its elite-dominated order lacks definition. David Ludden noted that early Chittagong was not marked by an ethnically distinct population that could evolve into an elite class. This makes Chittagong's recorded history strangely timeless, as elites produce historical records and typically live in central territorial sites with networks of coercion and patronage.

Chittagong's elite reach over resources was sporadic, suggesting limited integration into neighbouring power networks. If the state, regional elites, and the local population are knit into a coherent power structure with relatively low tension, the borderland is likely to be peaceful and flourishing. This was not always the case for Chittagong. Rudimentary elite classes emerged after the Chandra decline in 665, and again around 957, and yet again following Gaur's decline after 1538, but further progress was thwarted each time. Despite these setbacks, Chittagong's elites were sufficiently integrated into networks of state power to issue their own coinage to conduct trade during periods of their existence, and to work generally in alliance with political authorities to control the region.

VII. A visible heterogeneity
 We cannot fully envisage Chittagong's social world, but its names in various languages and diverse dialects reveal its heterogeneity. In the local dialect it is Cat'ga or Catiga. The Anglicised 'Chittagong' derives from the eighteenth century. The Sanskrit *Chittagrama* (literally 'four villages') is similar to the Buddhist *Chaityagram* (*chaitya* meaning pagoda). It is also the ninth-century Arab *Samandar*, famous for the aloeswood coveted in Persia and China. Other names include the seventeenth-century Mughal 'Islamabad'; the sixteenth-century 'Porto Grando'; the fifteenth-century *Bengala-Banghella*; the fourteenth-century *Sadkawan-Sutirkawan* of Ibn Battuta; and the Bengali *Roshang* (also used for Arakan's capital Mrauk U and Bengal's mint town Fathabad).

In Puranic and Tantric texts, it appears as *Harikela* and *Cattala*. In tenth-century Tibetan and Arab texts it is *Jwalandhara* and *Karnabul* (Karnaphuli). Other variants include *Tsi-Tsi-Gong*, *Che-ti-chiang*, *Shetgang*, *Xatigam*, *Chatgaon*, and *Chartican*. Of particular note are the Arakanese *Caittegam*—meaning 'chief' or 'superior fort'—and *Cit-taut-gaurm*, meaning 'do not make war'.

Badr Pir is Chittagong's patron saint and guardian of rivers. His influence is visible in place names such as Badartila (Hathazari thana), Badarkhali (Chakoria thana), Badarkua (Cox's Bazar), and the ninth-century Badr Maqam shrines—situated on boulders and crags at river mouths to mark a maritime circuit—worshipped by Hindus, Muslims, Chinese sailors, and local fishermen at Akyab, Cheduba, Thandwe (Arakan), and Mergui (lower Burma).

VIII. Question
 How, then, did this marginal land transform into the Cantino Planisphere's major portal in 1502? The Portuguese diarist Tomé Pires (1515) observed a westward commercial networking from Chittagong, with Persian, Rumi, Turk, and Arab merchants present there, as well as traders from Chaul, Dabhol, and Goa, while the Portuguese epic poet Camões (1572) emphasised eastern networks:

The City CATHIGAN would not be wav'd,
 The fairest of BENGALA: who can tell
 The plenty of this Province? but its post
 (Thou seest) is Eastern turning the South-Coast.'

Rila Mukherjee is a historian and the author of *India in the Indian Ocean World: From the Earliest Times to 1800* (Springer Nature, 2022) and *Europe in the World from 1350 to 1650* (Springer Nature, 2025).

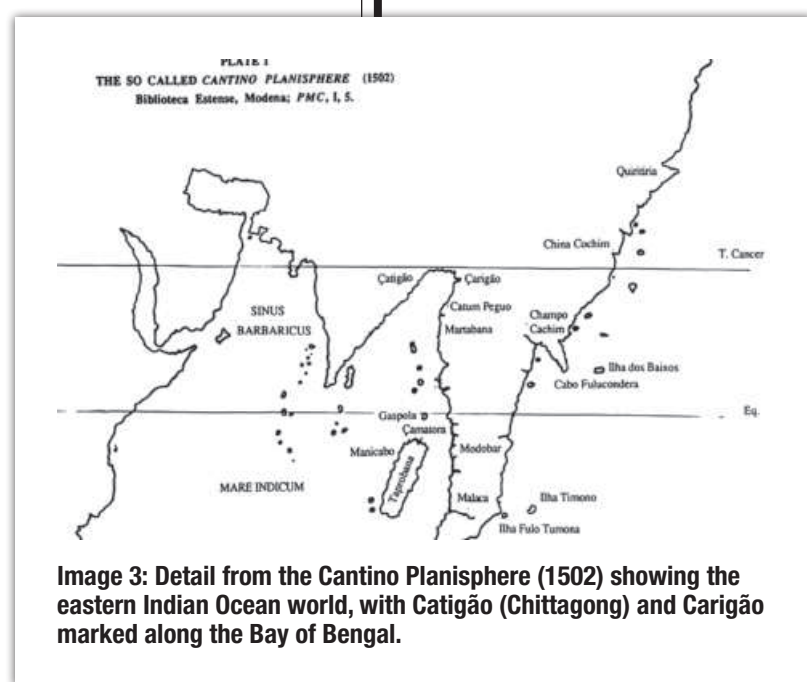


Image 3: Detail from the Cantino Planisphere (1502) showing the eastern Indian Ocean world, with Catigão (Chittagong) and Carigão marked along the Bay of Bengal.

I. Unstable land

Dating from the seventh century and conflated with Yavadvīpa by travellers, Chittagong was an autonomous border town and port town on a dynamic but unregulated water frontier. Located at the apex of the Bay of Bengal and straddling the fault line between South and Southeast Asia, it was subject to forces of earth, wind, and water. Its site is distinctive, with a complex land-river-sea ecosystem marked by unstable sea islands (*char*) at a short distance from the mainland, separated by shallow waters and mangroves. To its south, where Arakan and Bengal overlap, the Arakan Yoma barrier forces riverine or coastal voyaging along a coast interrupted by channels owing

Joty, Marufa set for WBCL return

SPORTS REPORTER

The Women's Bangladesh Cricket League T20 tournament (WBCL) is set to begin on Monday, with national team skipper Nigar Sultana Joty and pacer Marufa Akter returning to the domestic fold after sitting out the Women's National Cricket League.

The tournament, which ends on December 25, will be held across six match days, with all matches scheduled to be played at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium in Rajshahi.

Central Zone will take on North Zone, while East Zone will play South Zone on the opening day. The morning match between Central and North Zone will get under way at 9:00am, while the latter match will begin at 1:30pm.

Bangladesh skipper Joty, spinner Nahida Akter and pacer Marufa Akter had sat out the recent NCL to recuperate from injuries following the ODI World Cup in India. Joty will lead Central Zone, while Marufa has been named in the South Zone squad.

BCB selector Sazzad Ahmed informed that spinner Nahida's chances of appearing in the tournament are slim as she is currently undergoing recovery work.

U-17 National C'ship begins on Dec 22

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is all set to launch the U-17 National Championship on December 22 across eight venues, involving all 64 districts. Jhenaidah will host the opening matches, while other venues include Rajbari, Rangpur, Pirojpur, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Sylhet, and either Feni or Chattogram. The final venue is yet to be confirmed.

The 64 districts are divided into eight zones, each split into two groups. Teams will play round-robin league matches, with the top two sides from each group advancing to the zonal semifinals and finals. The eight zonal champions will then meet in the final stage of the championship.

The details were revealed at a logo unveiling and grouping ceremony on Sunday. Only players who are not yet registered in the FIFA Connect system will be eligible to participate in the two-month-long tournament.

"Under the Youth Festival project, with support from the ministry and the NSC, we have already completed the U-14 Women's National Championship and the U-15 National Championship. The U-17 event is a continuation, aiming to spread football at grassroots level in all districts," said Sayeed Hasan Karon, chairman of the tournament and BFF executive committee member.

GOATs meet at Wankhede



World Cup winners, iconic number 10s, and GOATs of two different sports -- football legend Lionel Messi and cricket great Sachin Tendulkar -- came together in one frame at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. Following a chaotic experience in Kolkata the previous day, Messi's ongoing three-day, four-city GOAT tour of India found its rhythm again in Hyderabad and Mumbai. The crowd, which had gathered at the stadium since the afternoon, erupted with excitement as Messi, Sachin, and India's football great Sunil Chhetri shared the stage at different points during the event. Messi, accompanied by Inter Miami teammates Rodrigo de Paul and Luis Suarez, received a gift from Sachin -- the former Indian skipper's iconic jersey from the 2011 Cricket World Cup -- in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Sachin described it as a "golden moment for Mumbai and India," and the fans' reaction reaffirmed the great batter's words, with chants of "Messi... Messi... Sachin... Sachin" rising from every corner of the stadium.

PHOTO: X

Tigers eye gains from 'different' skill camp

SPORTS REPORTER

It was already evening at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, but that did not deter the national team stars as their practice continued under lights, with head coach Phil Simmons also present. The aim of the skill camp, which ended yesterday, was to place a sharp focus on the development of a few players in specific areas, while others were participating in the recently-concluded National Cricket League (NCL) or were on vacation.

Tanzid Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, and Saif Hassan had been regularly undergoing sessions with Simmons, senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin, and batting coach Mohammad Ashraf. Ground shots and effective shot selection during the Powerplay had been on the agenda for the openers over the past week. Yesterday, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Shamim Hossain, and Jaker Ali Anik joined the rest of the batters during the afternoon session.

Simmons is expected to leave the country on Monday to spend time with his family, while the players will undergo a short break before the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) practice sessions begin.

Yesterday, handling short deliveries was also on the agenda. One by one, Sohan, Shamim, and Jaker were tested with short balls, with the task being to clear the infield and hit the ball into the target zones not manned by fielders. Slashes and slogs



against short deliveries were prevalent.

Later, spin trials were set up, during which the batters were challenged to drive through the off side along the ground.

For Sohan, it was a rare opportunity to work on his game in a more specific manner ahead of important assignments such as the BPL, followed by the ICC T20 World Cup.

"Over the last few years, the international and domestic schedules have been very busy, so we didn't really get the opportunity to have camps like this," Sohan said while attending the Rangpur Riders-Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) Media Cup event. "But

the seven or eight days we have spent in this camp will definitely help us because we finally got time to work on our skills."

Sohan has looked largely out of form in his last few national team assignments. He made scores of five and one in the West Indies T20I series, and in his only appearance in the Ireland series, he scored one.

He felt that the practice sessions were different this time, as the focus was placed more acutely on individual shortcomings.

"Look, in a specific sense, this was quite different. We are usually accustomed to practising together or doing things collectively. But here, you can see that the work is being done in specific groups, sometimes focusing on one or two individuals. So I feel this is a bit different. And the batsmen are also getting the opportunity to work on certain specific aspects of their game," he explained.

The focus was not just on the basics of the game but on sharpening specific skills, as was evident throughout the camp. Sohan noted that ahead of upcoming assignments, the camp allowed players to focus on areas where improvement was still possible.

"There is a gap before the BPL, but once the BPL starts, the World Cup comes almost immediately. After that, everyone will be busy playing matches. This camp has allowed players to focus on areas where they can still improve," he concluded.

First Division League begins with four no-shows

SPORTS REPORTER

The new season of the Dhaka First Division Cricket League was inaugurated in a jovial mood yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka. However, the mood was different elsewhere as four teams no showed their respective matches at other venues while cricketers who are suffering because of the conflict between the board and clubs protested right outside the gates in Mirpur.

The four teams who did not turn up and will get relegated as per the by-laws according to the officials, are -- Partex Sporting Club, Gazi Tyres Cricket Academy, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Amber Sporting Club.

Gazi gave a walkover to Dhaka United Sporting Club at BKSP Ground 3. Partex Sporting Club did not show up for their match against Baridhara Dazzlers at PKSP, while neither Kalabagan nor Amber turned up for their match at BKSP Ground 4.

"Since it's a case of walkover, they are out of the tournament," a CCDM official told The Daily Star.

"There will be no relegation league this time around. If a team wants to participate later, that's a separate issue... But they can't return under normal procedure," he added.

Match referee Sujit Kumar, who was supposed to officiate the match at BKSP 3, told The Daily Star that the officials waited till 10:15am for the teams to turn up before deciding to leave. The matches were scheduled to begin at 9:00am.



The four teams that did not show up belong to the 44 clubs who are boycotting all domestic leagues, alleging irregularities in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) elections in October. There are four more clubs in this 20-team league who are part of the protesting outfits.

Meanwhile, some 60 cricketers staged a human chain at Gate 2 of the Mirpur Stadium, protesting the ongoing conflict, which has robbed them of the opportunity to compete.

Inside the venue, Bangladesh Police Cricket Club beat Old DOHS Sports Club by eight wickets. In Aminbazar, Dhanmondi Sports Club won by 57 runs against Lalmatia Club.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Organisers and sponsors hold jerseys of participating teams on the eve of the Rangpur Riders-BSJA Media Cup cricket tournament, which will get underway on Monday at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. The six-a-side tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) and powered by ACE Developers, will feature 32 reputed media houses. The tournament is co-sponsored by Nabil Group, ACME and Ispahani Group.

'A truly historic World Cup for Bangladesh'

As the Bangladesh under-21 hockey team were making history in their debut Junior World Cup campaign in India, two umpires -- Salim Lucky and Shahbaz Ali -- were also becoming part of history as the first officials from the country to officiate at a World Cup. In an interview with The Daily Star's Atique Anam, Lucky, a hockey player-turned umpire, spoke about learning elite-level protocols, earning praise from the FIH and global peers, the challenges of limited domestic competition, and his plea for greater institutional support to secure the future of Bangladeshi umpires. Following are the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): Tell us what the experience of officiating in the World Cup for the first time was like.

Salim Lucky (SL): It was truly historic for us. We learned and experienced many new things -- new friendships, a completely different environment, and the opportunity to meet people at such a big global event. We gained invaluable experience and learned various modern techniques of officiating. Beyond on-field duties, we observed how elite umpires conduct themselves. We also learned how video

referral discussions are handled.

DS: How many matches did you and Shahbaz Ali officiate?

SL: I officiated 15 matches in total -- six as a field umpire, two as a video umpire, and around seven as a reserve umpire. Shahbaz bhai officiated 13 matches -- eight as a field umpire, three as a video umpire, and two as a reserve umpire. Together, we were involved in 28 matches out of roughly 72 in the tournament.

DS: You officiated many high-pressure matches. How challenging was it?

SL: The pressure was immense. Nearly 10 World Panel umpires were present, which naturally raised the standard. Although we are a couple of levels below them, officiating alongside such elite umpires was a fantastic feeling.

DS: How did the two of you earn this opportunity?

SL: We have been involved in international hockey since 2012.

Over the years, we officiated at major tournaments such as the Asia Cup, Asian Games, European Tour, African Olympic Qualifiers, and even India-Pakistan matches. Through consistent hard work and performance, we reached a stage where the FIH trusted us with a World Cup assignment.

DS: What feedback did you receive from the FIH and fellow umpires?

SL: They acknowledged that this was our first FIH event and advised us to further increase our confidence to reach a higher level. They were

happy with our improvement and effort, especially considering our limitations back home. Since we lack regular leagues, games, and proper umpire protocols in Dhaka, adapting to different environments is difficult. I felt extremely proud every time I heard the emcee say, "Salim Lucky from Bangladesh," before the matches.



Barcelona forward Raphinha celebrates with winger Lamine Yamal after scoring his second goal in a 2-0 home win over Osasuna in a LaLiga fixture yesterday. The visitors made the star-studded Catalan giants sweat, thwarting Barca's attack for 69 minutes before Raphinha broke the deadlock in the 70th. The Brazilian added his second in the 86th to give league leaders Barcelona a healthy cushion at the top of the table.

PHOTO: REUTERS



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JEWISH HOLIDAY EVENT 12 killed, 29 hurt in Australia beach shooting

REUTERS, Sydney

At least 12 people were killed and almost 30 wounded when gunmen fired on a Jewish holiday event at Sydney's Bondi Beach yesterday in what Australian police and officials described as a terrorist attack.

One suspected gunman was killed and another was in a critical condition, New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon told a press conference. At least 29 people injured, including two police officers, were taken to hospital, he said.

Police were investigating whether a third gunman was involved in the shooting, and a bomb disposal unit was working on several suspected improvised explosive devices, Lanyon said.

Mike Burgess, a top Australian intelligence official, said one of the suspected attackers was known to authorities but had not been deemed an immediate threat.

Yesterday's shootings were the most serious of a string of antisemitic attacks

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Health workers move a woman on a stretcher to an ambulance after a shooting incident at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Fifty-three years after independence, many stories of the Liberation War remain untold. Part 9 of this 12-part series explores how the Mujibnagar Government financed the war – tracing the daring recovery of treasury funds, the mobilisation of domestic and foreign aid, and the financial backbone that sustained Bangladesh's fight for independence.



The funding network of 1971

AHMAD ISTIAK

On April 17, 1971, in the mango grove of Baidyanathala at Bhoberpara, an isolated border area in Meherpur, the acting president and cabinet members of the Mujibnagar Government were sworn in, formally establishing the provisional Government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.



Volunteers collecting money to aid Bangladesh war victims, in Chandni Chowk, Delhi (August 1, 1971). PHOTO: TIMES OF INDIA

Although the government took shape in mid-April, the need for funds emerged from the earliest days of the war. Freedom fighters initially gathered money from treasuries and banks across the country.

Among the ministries formed at Mujibnagar, finance held a crucial portfolio, responsible for raising funds, collecting revenue, mobilising foreign aid and managing wartime expenditures.

Accounts of the Mujibnagar Government's financial operations are documented in several sources, including "Bangladesher Shadhinota Juddho Dolil Potro Volume III", "Bangladesh Sarkar 1971" by H T Imam, "Mujibnagar Government 1971" by Mohammad Fayequzzaman, "Spring: 1971" by Faruk Aziz Khan, and "Muktijuddher Chikitsa Itihas" by Shahaduzzaman and Khairul Islam.

Financial aspects are also referenced in Akbar Ali Khan's memoir "Purono Shei Diner Kotha" and "Muktijuddher Purbapor Kothopokothon" by A K Khandker, Maidul Hasan and S R Mirza.

THE SEARCH FOR FUNDS

According to these sources, senior Awami League leaders led by Tajuddin Ahmad began forming a provisional government in India in late March. With most leaders fleeing with little, raising funds proved difficult.

After the government was formed on April 10, the urgency intensified. In his April 14 diary entry, Tajuddin noted that at least Tk 1 crore were required initially, with hopes of securing loans from India and other friendly nations.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Remains of a rare sun temple found in Egypt

AFP, Cairo

An Italian archaeological mission has discovered the remains of a sun temple belonging to an ancient Egyptian king near Cairo, the Egyptian antiquities ministry said on Friday.

The temple of King Nyuserre is believed to be from the Fifth Dynasty and the remains were found in the Abusir necropolis south of the Egyptian capital.



It is part of a monumental complex dedicated to the cult of the sun god Ra and is one of the few solar temples identified to date.

The site was identified as early as 1901 by the German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt – known for his 1912 discovery of the famous bust of ancient Egyptian queen Nefertiti – but a high water table prevented any excavation at the time.

According to the ministry, the mission has uncovered for the first time more than half of the temple, long buried under River Nile sediment.

The ministry described a colossal structure of over 1,000 square metres "with a unique architecture that ranks it among the largest and most remarkable valley temples in the Memphis necropolis", a stretch of ancient funerary complexes.

Mass resistance and global efforts shaped country's birth

Say speakers at Star discussion on Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The struggle of the independence-loving people of this country, supported by expatriate Bangalees and foreigners against the genocide committed by the Pakistani occupation forces, ultimately led to Bangladesh's birth, said academics and journalists said at a programme yesterday.

Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan in 1971, amid a complex geopolitical reality, was a miracle, they said while speaking at an event titled "The Global History of Liberation War", organised by The Daily Star at its auditorium in the city.

Noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said, "Today the United States and other Western countries are breaking up countries left and right and have no qualms about it whatsoever. But in 1971, this was an absolute taboo issue, for one to in fact support any attempt where there was a separatist movement."

As a special envoy of the Mujibnagar Government during the Liberation War, Sobhan represented Bangladesh in various countries, including the US and the UK.

He said for geopolitical reasons during the Cold War era, the US, China and Pakistan opposed the

creation of Bangladesh, while other powerful Western countries remained neutral.

The UK government was

were the United States and the World Bank.

"The idea was that if we could reach out to the World Bank and to



Their [Pakistan's] view essentially was that Bangladesh was eventually going to be liberated, but it should not be liberated through the Muktijoddhas, but through the process of a bilateral international war between India and Pakistan.



REHMAN SOBHAN

not inclined to openly support Bangladesh's position. Therefore, Sobhan's campaign focused on the media and the opposition, who later became an important support base in putting pressure on the British government to support Bangladesh's cause.

He said he found a similar position in the US, where many senators supported the struggle of Bangladeshis.

Sobhan said he was successful in his campaign to stop aid to Pakistan, a heavily aid-dependent country whose principal donors

the US to persuade them that they should no longer give unconditional support to Pakistan."

Pakistan, without access to external assistance, could not afford to sustain the war without international backing, and expatriate Bangalees and US senators played a critical role in the process.

By November 1971, he said, the situation changed after India signed a treaty with the Soviet Union, committing to support Bangladesh. Before that, Pakistan

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

No change in Khaleda's condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Evercare Hospital in Dhaka, where she has been receiving treatment for the last 21 days.

The BNP Media Cell said last night that her condition remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir expressed deep concern over Khaleda's health, describing the situation as worrying.

"We cannot even speak with a smile. Every moment it feels like she is in a serious condition. She has spent her entire life fighting for the people of this country," he said at a programme in Dhaka.

Doctors said on Thursday that the former prime minister has been placed on elective ventilator support to allow her lungs and other organs to rest.

The BNP chief has developed several additional complications, including ineffective endocarditis, acute pancreatitis, and severe bacterial and fungal infections.



Workers sorting and packaging tomatoes brought in from various districts of the Rajshahi division at the Rajshahi Court Bazar area in the city yesterday. Despite a good yield this year, tomatoes are being sold at Tk 2,000-2,200 per tonne at the wholesale market, up from Tk 1,000-1,200 just a few days ago. In the retail market, prices have risen to Tk 80-100 from Tk 40-50 per kg. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

2 killed, 9 hurt in Brown Univ shooting

US police detain 'person of interest'

REUTERS

Providence police have detained a "person of interest" in connection with the Brown University shooting that left two students dead and another nine people wounded at the US Ivy League school.

Brown said in an advisory yesterday that police had also lifted a shelter-in-place order for its campus in Rhode Island.

More than 400 law enforcement personnel had been deployed on Saturday as police sought a suspect who had entered a building where students were taking exams with a firearm.

The Providence university said that police officers remained in areas still considered an active crime scene.

Access to parts of the campus remained restricted yesterday as police maintained a security perimeter around Minden Hall and nearby apartment buildings, said Brown, which has hundreds of buildings, including lecture halls, laboratories and dorms.