



Tax return deadline may be extended

B1



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I have given my all in 'Pressure Cooker': Azizul Hakim

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No room for slip-ups for India

P11

Shock ouster of BB governor

Govt replaces Ahsan H Mansur with garment company CEO Mostaqur Rahman

MD MEHEDI HASAN

In a stunning development that roiled the financial sector, the government yesterday removed Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, replacing him with a corporate accountant who owns a garment company.

By the time Mansur departed amid calls for his resignation from central bank employees, the finance ministry had already fast-tracked the appointment of his successor, 59-year-old Mostaqur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Hera Sweaters Ltd.

Within hours, the ministry issued two separate notices: one cancelled the remainder of Mansur's tenure, which was due to run until August 2028, and the other appointed the new governor.

Asked what prompted the sudden move, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury framed it as a prerogative of a newly elected administration. "There's nothing to consider," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

"A new government has taken office and has its priorities. Changes have not only occurred at Bangladesh Bank; changes are happening in many places and will continue to happen," he said.

"To align with and implement the new government's programmes, preferences, thoughts, and vision, changes will be made wherever necessary. This is perfectly normal."

Mansur's unceremonious removal surprised many, as it came just days after Mansur met the finance minister on February 23 and received assurances that the new government would carry forward banking reforms. His ouster — less than two years into his four-year term — has raised fresh questions about the independence of the central bank.

The appointment of the new governor quickly sparked criticism within financial and policy circles. Before his appointment, Mostaqur chaired the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's standing committee on the central bank. He also sat on the ruling BNP's election steering committee.

In December, Mutual Trust Bank rescheduled Tk 89 crore in stressed loans of his company, Hera Sweaters. The loans were restructured for 10 years with a two-year grace period under a special facility for distressed borrowers, according to a bank official.

Managing directors of three commercial banks, speaking anonymously to The Daily Star,

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RELATED STORIES ON B1



AS THE EVENTS UNFOLDED

11:00am

Protest against BB governor begins

12:00pm

BB governor Mansur reaches office

1:00pm

Mansur calls emergency press conference

2:00pm

Mansur leaves office after hearing news of new appointment

3:00pm

Adviser to governor forced out of office by a mob

4:00pm

Ministry issues notice about new governor

6:00pm

Transfers of 3 officials cancelled



There's nothing to consider... A new government has taken office and has its priorities. Changes have not only occurred at Bangladesh Bank; changes are happening in many places and will continue to happen.

Finance Minister
Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury

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President Md Shahabuddin, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, and the chiefs of three services offer prayers and pay tribute to the army officers martyred in the 2009 Pilkhana carnage at Banani Military Cemetery in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: P10

Appointment that can undo economic recovery

ZINA TASREEN

History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce, the German philosopher Karl Marx said. What unfolded yesterday at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters was nothing short of history repeating itself in just about 18 months — as tragedy.

Ahsan H Mansur, the key person in steadying the economy that had been brought down to its knees by years of mismanagement and corruption, was unceremoniously removed from the post of the governor.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"I have not resigned, nor have I been removed. I saw it in the media, so I am going home," he told reporters as he left the BB headquarters around 2pm circumnavigating a mob.

About an hour later, the financial institutions division of the finance ministry issued a gazette notification cancelling the remainder of his four-year tenure that began on August 13, 2024.

His replacement is Md. Mostaqur Rahman, the managing director and chief executive officer of a modest

'It was an evil attempt to foil our sovereignty'

PM says after paying respect to martyred army officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said the 2009 Pilkhana carnage, in which 57 army officers were killed, was a sinister attempt to undermine Bangladesh's sovereignty, reported the UNB.

Addressing the family members of the martyred officers at Army Multipurpose Hall in Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of Jatiya Shaheed Sena Dibosh (National Martyred Army Day), he said weaknesses in the country's national security structure were exposed through the Pilkhana incident.

"In line with the changing global context, our national security framework needs to be more modern, time-befitting and stronger. Our government will certainly work towards this goal."

Tarique said the army has a glorious history in the Liberation War and in building the nation in the post-independence period, adding that his government will work to preserve the memory of February 25-26 with due honour.

The prime minister also pledged long-term measures to ensure education, healthcare and rehabilitation for the children of the martyred officers, UNB added.

Earlier, the families of the slain officers gathered at Banani Military Cemetery to pay tribute, marking the Jatiya Shaheed Sena Dibosh.

Tarique arrived at 9:58am as security personnel formed a tight cordon around the area. Nearby stood the chiefs of the three services. Senior officials lined up as they waited for the arrival of the head of state.

Around 10:02am, President Mohammed Shahabuddin's motorcade pulled in, and the prime minister stepped forward to receive him.

After a brief handshake and exchange of greetings, the president and the prime minister walked side by side along the path towards

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US TRADE DEAL Dhaka takes wait-and-see approach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will adopt a cautious "wait-and-see" approach to the US-Bangladesh trade deal, Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar said yesterday, calling the matter "sensitive and evolving" amid fresh uncertainty in Washington.

The uncertainty follows a ruling by the US Supreme Court declaring that President Donald Trump exceeded his authority by imposing sweeping reciprocal tariffs without congressional approval. The verdict has cast doubt over the reciprocal tariff arrangement signed between Dhaka and Washington.

Speaking at a press conference after a consultative meeting with economists, business leaders and trade analysts at the commerce ministry, Mukhtar said Bangladesh has yet to receive any formal clarification from the US.

"We heard the announcement, but we

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BDR CARNAGE 2009



Withdraw false cases against journalists

Editors' Council urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday urged the newly elected government to urgently withdraw false and harassing cases filed against journalists across the country, saying such actions seriously undermine media freedom.

In a statement, the council said that since August 5, 2024, many journalists have been falsely implicated in numerous cases, including murder. Some journalists remain in jail, while others are being compelled to appear in court regularly.

"These cases are seriously obstructing journalists' professional activities and disrupting the independent

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Vendors apply indelible ink to the fingers of TCB consumers to prevent repeat purchases under a new rule, as they distribute essential goods at subsidised prices to the buyers standing in line in the Agrabad area of the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

DMP boss quits amid looming police reshuffle

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Amid the ongoing reshuffle of government officials, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali submitted his resignation yesterday.

His resignation came a day after the appointment of a new inspector general of police.

Police sources said Sazzat, in his resignation letter to the new IGP Ali Hossain Fakir, sought to be relieved of his duties, citing personal and family reasons. Sources said he, who was appointed on a two-year contract on November 24, 2024, will continue to perform his duties until the government decides on his intent.

Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, confirmed to The Daily Star about the resignation letter.

After assuming office on February 17, the BNP government has started reshuffling officials at different levels of the administration. As part of the move, major changes in the police administration are now underway, officials said.

While addressing reporters at the Secretariat yesterday, Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said that changes across different sectors are natural after a changeover.

"A new government has its own priorities. So, naturally, there will be changes. To implement its programmes, preferences, and plans, changes will be made wherever necessary," he said.

Alongside the DMP commissioner post, changes are also expected soon in other key law enforcement positions, including the chiefs of the Special Branch (SB) and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), they said. The government also plans a major reshuffle at the field level, including

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Minimum fitra set at Tk 110

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year fitra has been fixed at a maximum of Tk 2,805 and a minimum of Tk 110 per person.

The National Fitra Determination Committee made the decision at a meeting held yesterday morning at the conference room of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malek, chairman of the committee and khatib of the mosque, chaired the meeting.

The committee decided that, according to Islamic Shariah, fitra may be paid with any of the following commodities: wheat flour, barley, raisins, dates or cheese.

Muslims may pay the fitra in any of these commodities or their equivalent market value according to their capacity. Retail prices vary across regions, and payment at local market rates will also be considered valid.

Fitra is an obligatory charity that Muslims give at the end of Ramadan before the Eid-ul-Fitr prayer. Its purpose is to help the poor and needy celebrate Eid.



Family members of an army officer, who was martyred in the 2009 Piikhana carnage, stand in quiet prayer at his grave, 17 years after his death, at Banani Military Cemetery in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bank official dies in rehab centre

Family alleges torture; two staffers detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A bank official died at a drug addiction rehabilitation centre in Bogura on Tuesday night, with his family alleging that he was tortured to death.

The facility's authorities have denied the allegations.

According to Bogura Sadar Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Md Monirul Islam, "Samiul Hasan Shuvo, 33, senior officer at Janata Bank's Dupchanchia branch, died at 'Mayer Ashroy' -- a rehabilitation centre in the Sabgram area of Bogura. He was the son of Shafiullah from Kazipara village in Kahaloo upazila. Two employees of the rehabilitation centre have been taken into custody for questioning.

"The body has been sent to the morgue for an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. No formal written complaint has yet been filed by the family."

According to police and hospital sources, Samiul was taken to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital on Tuesday evening, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Zillur Rahman, deputy director of the Bogura

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Shock ouster of BB governor

DMP boss quits amid looming police reshuffle

FROM PAGE 1

expressed deep unease. "How can someone who rescheduled loans for his own company under special terms work in the interest of the country's banks?" one executive said, calling it a clear conflict of interest.

The new governor did not respond to repeated calls for comment.

A former IMF economist, Mansur was appointed in 2024 by the interim government to stabilise a deeply troubled banking sector. The seeds of his downfall were sown when he began dismantling weak banks in a sector already strained by poor governance and mounting loan defaults. His aggressive reform drive angered powerful businesspeople and entrenched factions within the central bank.

"A group of people are angry with me because their interests have been hurt," he recently told The Daily Star. "Even then, I will continue my reform work."

That defiance culminated in a fierce internal showdown. The revolt came into public view on February

pm.

In a striking parallel, similar mob pressure had preceded the departure of Mansur's predecessor, Abdur Rouf Talukder, in August 2024 -- though under different circumstances.

As news of the development spread, economists reacted swiftly, with some expressing sharp criticism on social media.

"The decision to appoint a professional accountant and businessman as Bangladesh Bank governor naturally raises questions. Is the government truly committed to reforming the banking sector?" wrote Selim Raihan, a professor of economics at Dhaka University, on Facebook.

"A businessman may prioritise corporate interests, whereas the primary responsibilities of the central bank are to control inflation, ensure financial stability, and take firm action against weak banks," he wrote.

Warning of deep-rooted problems -- from defaulted loans to governance failures -- he added, "Are we returning to a system where influential groups

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district superintendents of police (SPs) and officers-in-charge (OCs).

Several top police officials, especially those who joined the force through the 15th BCS examination, are high on the list for appointment to these posts, sources said.

For the DMP commissioner post, Sarder Nurul Amin, additional IGP (development) at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), is being considered, according to sources in the PHQ and the home ministry. Nurul is an officer of the 15th batch.

Contractual tenures of SB chief Golam Rasul and Rab chief AKM Shahidur Rahman will end on March 15.

According to sources, Zillur Rahman, chief of the Railway Police, is the frontrunner for Rab DG, while Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, additional IGP (logistics and asset acquisition) at the PHQ, may become the SB chief, sources said.

Both Zillur and Mosleh are also

officers of the 15th batch.

At least four officials at the PHQ and SB spoke to this newspaper about the potential changes.

RESHUFFLE IN SP, OC POSTS

The newly formed government has made maintaining law and order its top priority, with sources saying its image largely depends on the situation in the capital. That is why it is expected to place trusted and experienced leadership in key positions, they added.

An official of the ministry said that after changes in the top posts, the government plans to reshuffle SPs and OCs.

In November last year, ahead of the 13th national election, the interim government carried out a major reshuffle of SPs and then OCs through a lottery system.

However, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said those postings would be reviewed, as many officers were assigned to unsuitable stations.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with the heads of the departments and agencies under the ministry on Monday, the home boss said postings are made based on certain criteria, and those postings did not follow proper procedure.

Salahuddin also questioned the lottery system. "We do not think that was transparent. It happened, but government postings are not done like that."

He said authorities have been instructed to scrutinise the postings and place officers in posts where they can serve effectively and competently.

NEW IGP TAKES CHARGE

Meanwhile, a farewell and reception programme was held at the PHQ's Hall of Pride yesterday to honour outgoing IGP Baharul Alam and to welcome the newly appointed IGP Md Ali Hossain Fakir.

Baharul described Ali as a professional officer and expressed hope that under his leadership, the prestige and image of the police

would reach a new height.

New IGP Ali Hossain Fakir sought everyone's cooperation in carrying out his duties.

Earlier, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, accompanied by the home minister, pinned the rank badge of 'IGP' on Ali Hossain Fakir at the Secretariat.

A member of the 15th batch of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Police) cadre, Ali was sent into forced retirement "in public interest" on November 16, 2022, while serving as the commanding officer of Armed Police Battalion-3 during the then Awami League government.

The interim government reinstated him on August 27, 2024, along with four other officers. In August 2025, he was promoted from deputy inspector general to supernumerary additional inspector general of police.

Ali joined the Bangladesh Police in 1995 as an assistant superintendent of police.



Ahsan H Mansur leaving Bangladesh Bank around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NTV

16, when the central bank's Officers' Welfare Council publicly denounced the governor, accusing him of favouritism in awarding digital banking licences and rebelling against his ongoing efforts to merge weak banks. He was accused of behaving autocratically, belittling officials, and filling some senior positions with contractual appointees.

Some officials also spoke out against the ongoing bank merger process. When Mansur retaliated by transferring three of the vocal officials, the resentment boiled over. The unrest reached its climax yesterday as a section of Bangladesh Bank employees organised a large protest at the Motijheel headquarters.

In a hastily convened press conference just before his removal, an embattled Mansur described the protest as "a conspiracy by a vested group aiming to undermine the discipline and achievements of our banking sector."

Mansur spent his final moments cancelling meetings and watching news of his removal unfold on midday television before leaving the central bank premises around 2:00 pm. Speaking to The Daily Star over the phone, he said he had not resigned but had left the office after learning of the appointment of a new governor. "I don't know anything, I saw it on TV. There are formalities remaining. I will complete them later," he said.

Around the same time, Ahsan Ullah, an adviser to the governor of Bangladesh Bank, was allegedly mobbed and forced out of the central bank premises by a group of officials. The incident occurred around 3:00

override the independence of the central bank?"

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, credited Mansur with laying the groundwork for long-term reform. He praised efforts to restructure bank boards, curb illicit financial outflows, and push for a much-needed asset recovery entity to handle distressed assets.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, lauded Mansur's attempt to reform the sluggish Money Loan Court framework. He called the transition "abrupt and institutionally troubling," questioning whether a sweater exporter possesses the technical expertise and strategic depth required to lead a central bank during a prolonged financial crisis.

Md Deen Islam, research director at the Research and Policy Integration for Development, described the leadership change as "alarming", warning that the country may be heading in the wrong direction.

Mansur's tenure was not without criticism from economists. They observed that his punishingly contractionary monetary policy, while initially justified to tame inflation, may have eventually dampened investment and supply-side activity.

Immediately after he took over, bankers reacted negatively to some of his public remarks. He had warned that 10 banks were on the verge of collapse -- a statement that triggered depositor anxiety and intensified pressure on the banking system.

Dhaka takes wait-and-see approach

FROM PAGE 1

did not get anything in writing," he said. "We will look into the matter and decide our next course of action."

The meeting reviewed the fate of the American Reciprocal Tariff (ART) agreement, along with broader challenges facing industry, trade, exports and imports.

Participants questioned the haste with which the interim government signed the ART deal just three days before the February 12 parliamentary election, and asked whether Bangladesh would be obliged to procure the US goods committed under the agreement.

In reply, he said the trade deal is, until now, an "evolving and sensitive issue", and that he does not want to

answer in an elaborate manner yet.

When asked whether the interim government had consulted BNP leaders before signing the deal, the minister said he was unaware of any such consultations.

Officials had earlier avoided detailed discussions with stakeholders due to a non-disclosure agreement tied to the ART. That position has now shifted. The ministry plans to review the deal clause by clause with business representatives before taking further steps, said a businessman who attended the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It remains unclear whether the agreement will ultimately be scrapped or enforced, and whether Bangladesh will proceed with the

pledged imports of US commodities, he added.

Experts at the meeting urged the government to deliberate carefully, given the rapidly shifting scenario. Bangladesh should refrain from immediate action, await Washington's response and safeguard national interests while weighing alternative options, said an economist present at the meeting.

Trump introduced a new 10 percent global tariff rate after the Supreme Court ruled that the majority of tariffs he introduced in 2025 were illegal. Trump later threatened to raise it to 15 percent, but the lower rate came into effect on February 24.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president

of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said Bangladesh could benefit from the lower additional tariff. A reduced rate would ease commodity prices in the US market, potentially boosting consumer demand and, in turn, increasing garment exports from Bangladesh, he said.

If the 10 percent reciprocal tariff is finalised, it will be added to the existing 16.5 percent Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty, raising Bangladesh's average tariff on exports to the US to 26.5 percent. That would still be significantly lower than the previous 35.5 percent total, when a 19 percent reciprocal tariff had been fixed for Bangladesh under the deal.

Appointment that can undo economic recovery

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sweater factory in Narayanganj that had defaulted on its loan amounting to Tk 89.02 crore and had to reschedule it just a couple of months ago by paying a 2 percent down payment for 15 years.

An accountant by education, he is neither an economist nor a banker -- one of the prerequisites for holding the post of a central bank governor -- and he has never held a position in the banking or finance industry.

The appointment becomes even more preposterous when one realises that to become the managing director of a bank, one needs to have a solid educational background, decades of banking experience and at least three years of experience as an additional or deputy MD, as per the BB's own regulations.

The new BB governor, who is part of the ruling party's inner circle as demonstrated by his inclusion in the BNP's election monitoring committee, would not qualify to helm a bank by central bank rules, let alone take the reins of the entire banking sector.

This is oddly reminiscent of the Awami League years, when central bank governor appointments were made on political considerations to be pliant to the wishes of the top leadership.

Even then, there was a method to the madness: their last two governors were finance secretaries, and before that, a development economist.

This is the first time in Bangladesh's history that a businessperson has become the central bank governor.

In fact, there is hardly any precedence anywhere in the world, as the post requires razor focus on public interest, i.e. balancing inflation and employment rate, and not on profit maximisation as businesspeople are wont to.

Inevitably, this has led to widespread lancing fears that the banking sector could once again become susceptible to systematic looting, as witnessed during the Sheikh Hasina years.

Using a web of schemes, about \$17 billion was siphoned from the country's financial system in the 15 years before the AL government was deposed in a mass uprising, according to Mansur.

The central bank, as well as a host of banks and their boards, were captured by people affiliated with the then-ruling party.

The banks then issued thousands of crores in loans to companies, some of them fictional, that would never be paid back and sidestep the punitive measures by the authorities. Much of that money was then transferred out of the country illegally.

At such a dilapidated state, Mansur, an economist who worked at the International Monetary Fund for 27 years, took charge as the central bank governor and went about steadying the ship.

When he took the reins, the country's gross foreign exchange

reserves stood at \$20.5 billion.

To preserve the dollar stockpile, the AL government restricted imports, racked up \$2.5 billion of dues of just the power and energy sector among others, and barred multinational companies from repatriating their profits for years.

In the past 18 months, not only were all foreign liabilities cleared, but profit repatriation was resumed and import restrictions were lifted. And yet, reserves propped up to a healthy \$30 billion.

The currency was allowed to float, and yet, the taka did not go on a freefall, as was predicted, thanks to Mansur's years of experience as a monetary economist. The taka has now stabilised in the neighbourhood of Tk 122 against the dollar.

Mis-invoicing, the tool of choice for money laundering, has come down dramatically, while expatriate Bangladeshis continued to send remittances through the official channel, buoyed by the confidence in Mansur's handling of the monetary affairs.

Inflation, which has been grazing double-digit levels for the best part of the past three years, has come down to 8 percent because of his deft manoeuvring of the financial system.

The banking sector, whose bad loans hit one-third of total outstanding assets, is getting its life back, while the ravaged Islamic banks' balance sheets are being cleared up.

What is more impressive is that he

made headway in retrieving money laundered out of Bangladesh.

And thanks to the personal credibility he brings to the table, the country managed to unlock instalments under the IMF's loan programme despite not meeting the Washington-based multilateral lender's requirements.

What Mansur accomplished in the past 18 months is simply extraordinary.

But, the economic recovery is fragile. Given the war risks mounting in the Middle East, LNG prices can escalate, and with it, Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves could fast deplete. If that happens, inflation would take a hit, the taka would appreciate and macroeconomic stability would be undone.

When the presence of an experienced hand like Mansur was needed to navigate the looming choppy waters, we are saddled with an untested person.

This segues to the issue of the IMF loan programme: would the multilateral lender be comfortable with an inexperienced person handling the monetary policy? If the IMF pulls back from the programme, how badly would Bangladesh's credit rating be impacted, and with it, the availability and the cost of international borrowing for the country?

In short, it would set the economy back by decades. If that happens, it would be nothing short of a tragedy -- for Bangladesh.

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'No new probe commission over Pilkhana'

Salahuddin backtracks on decision, says existing report to be implemented in phases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the government would not form a new investigation commission over the 2009 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutiny in Dhaka's Pilkhana.

"Since a national independent investigation commission has already been formed, we will implement its report step by step. I have taken a glance at the recommendations, though I have not yet reviewed the entire report," he said.

Salahuddin said this to reporters after placing wreaths at the Banani Military Graveyard, marking National Martyred Army Day.

He also said he wanted to correct his earlier remarks that he had made without fully reviewing the report.

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Sellers busy arranging books and other items at a stall on the Suhrawardy Udyan premises yesterday, ahead of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair that begins today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ekushey book fair begins today

DIPAN NANDY

The Amar Ekushey Book Fair begins today, marking the shortest edition in its history. Organisers, however, say it is not the length but the breadth of ideas that will define this year's fair, themed "Multidimensional Bangladesh".

Rooted in the spirit of the Language Movement, the fair will continue until March 15, making its duration 19 days. It will remain open daily from 2:00pm to 9:00pm, while on weekends and holidays it will run from 11:00am to 9:00pm.



549 publishing houses are participating this year, with 1,018 units set up across the Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan. Last year, 708 publishing houses participated with 1,084 units.

This year's fair also comes after tension over its schedule. Until Sunday evening, "Prokashok Oikya", a platform representing leading publishers, had announced it would not participate, objecting to holding the fair during Ramadan. More than 300 publishing houses initially took a boycott stance. Following mediation by the government and discussions among the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangla Academy and publisher organisations, a consensus was reached.

Under the agreement, stalls will be allocated free of cost and no pavilions will be allowed other than those of the

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Advance Eid train tickets go on sale March 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will begin selling advance train tickets from March 3 to ensure hassle-free journeys ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to a press release issued by the railway in this regard yesterday, sales of advance train tickets for the Eid travels will start on March 3 and continue until March 9.

Tickets for March 13 will be sold on March 3, while tickets for March 14 to 19 will be sold on March 4 to 9, respectively. Tickets for March 20 to 22 will be sold depending on the sighting of the moon.

All tickets will be sold online, as in previous occasions. Ticket sales for trains in the western zone will start at 8:00am, and for the eastern zone at 2:00pm.

A passenger can buy a maximum of four tickets at a time, including both advance and return tickets. However, advance and return tickets for Eid cannot be refunded, added the release.

This year, Bangladesh Railway will also operate five pairs of special trains in addition to regular intercity trains. The special trains will run on the Chattogram-Chandpur, Dhaka-Devanganj, Bhairab Bazar-Kishoreganj, Mymensingh-Kishoreganj, and Joydebpur-Parbotipur routes.

The authority will start selling return tickets from

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Yet another unelected VC set to take DU helm

Next appointment likely under temporary clause of 1973 Order

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Dhaka University is all set to get another unelected vice chancellor for the third consecutive term, as the current VC has resigned without calling a Senate session to appoint a new one.

Usually, after being appointed by the president, the VC calls a Senate session to validate the appointment or to appoint another.

According to the DU Order, 1973, the principal executive officer (VC) of the university must be appointed by the chancellor from a panel of three elected teachers or officials.

If that is not possible, the sitting VC is required to call a Senate session to elect the panel.

However, outgoing VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan did not initiate such a session after taking office in August 2024. He was appointed on a temporary basis when the post fell vacant following the July uprising.

On February 22, Prof Niaz

submitted his resignation to the chancellor through the education minister.

Officials said the ministry will now move to appoint a new VC.

They said there are two provisions for appointing a VC.

We have been observing this for the last forty years. Most vice chancellors have been appointed in this way. They always describe it as an emergency.

PROF SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUHURY



Clause 11(f) of the 1973 Order states that the VC shall be appointed by the chancellor for four years from a panel of three persons nominated by the Senate.

Clause 11(2) states that if a temporary vacancy occurs due to

leave, illness, resignation or any other reason, the chancellor may make arrangements to carry out the duties of the office as he deems fit.

Prof Niaz was appointed under Clause 11(2), and since he resigned, the next appointment is also likely to follow the same provision, officials said.

Pro-VC (Administration) Sayema Haque Bidisha said there is little possibility of following the electoral procedure for appointing the next VC at this stage.

"The fundamental condition before arranging the electoral procedure is to call a Senate session," she said, adding that once the new VC assumes office, the electoral process can be initiated through a Senate meeting.

The Senate, one of the university's prime decision-making bodies, has 104 members across 11 categories. However, five categories comprising 60 members

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'February polls largely peaceful'

Says Shujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The February polls were generally peaceful and all political parties had accepted the results, said Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), yesterday.

"Some irregularities did occur in certain places, but overall, voters were able to exercise their right to vote freely," he said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Asked how he would evaluate the election in one sentence, Majumdar said, "The polls were largely peaceful, though there were some inconsistencies and incidents of unrest. Above all, all parties accepted the outcome."

Majumdar said elections should be judged not only by polling day but by the entire electoral process, including the legal framework, voter list accuracy, candidate participation and access to information.

A peaceful vote alone does not guarantee credibility if earlier stages are flawed, he added.

He said Shujan had monitored the full process

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Some irregularities did occur in certain places, but overall, voters were able to exercise their right to vote freely.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR

Impeach, arrest the president

Demands Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP leader and parliament's opposition chief whip Nahid Islam yesterday demanded the impeachment and arrest of President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

While visiting the graves of the martyrs of the Pilkhana massacre at the Banani Military Graveyard in the afternoon, the National Citizen Party convener said, "He (the president) did not take effective measures to prevent the mass killings of July 2024. Hence, he cannot avoid responsibility for it."

"He should be impeached in the first session of Parliament. Then he should be arrested for the July mass killings," he said.

"The government and the opposition must work together, as we have national unity against fascism," he added.

He alleged that the president represents a "fascist era" and had made statements against President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia. He further claimed that a recent interview by the president violated his oath.

Nahid also alleged that the Awami League had reopened its office and attacked NCP leaders and activists.

"From the activities we can see, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Submit polls expense reports by March 15

EC asks candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has directed all candidates who contested the 13th national parliamentary election to submit their election expenditure statements to returning officers by March 15.

The commission instructed district election officials to forward these reports to the EC headquarters by March 25, according to a letter signed by ASM Iqbal Hasan, senior assistant secretary of the EC, issued yesterday.

The letter was sent yesterday to all returning officers across the country.

According to the Representation of the People Order, 1972, Article 44(g), every contesting candidate must file a return of election expenses with the returning officer within 30 days of the gazette notification of elected members.

The gazette listing the names and addresses of elected lawmakers from the February 12 polls was published on February

13.

The EC letter further stated that officials must ensure compliance with Circular-18, issued for the 13th parliamentary election, to verify that all candidates submit their expenditure statements. It also instructed that details of the returns filed with returning officers be sent to the commission by the March 25 deadline.

A total of 2,028 candidates contested in the 13th national parliamentary election that was held on Feb 12 this year.

EC TO PUBLISH REPORT ON FOREIGN OBSERVERS

Meanwhile, the EC is preparing a comprehensive report on the activities of foreign observers who monitored the 13th National Parliamentary Election and Referendum held on February 12.

A 33-member committee has been formed to compile the documentation, EC Director of Public Relations Ruhul Amin Mollik told reporters yesterday afternoon.



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Japan invites PM for official visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan has formally invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit the country at a “mutually convenient” time.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Saïda Shinichi conveyed the invitation when he called on Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, according to a statement issued by the ministry.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including defence procurement, metro rail cooperation, and mutual support in international forums, it added.

Ambassador Saïda congratulated Khalilur on his assumption of office and reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

Both sides explored collaboration under the Employment Skill Development Programme, with particular focus on skills enhancement and Japanese language training for Bangladeshi workers aspiring to work in Japan.

Khalilur emphasised the importance of improved access to information and proposed developing a digital matchmaking platform to facilitate recruitment of skilled Bangladeshi workers by Japanese employers. Earlier in the day, Ambassador Saïda Shinichi paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam.

Recalling Japan’s early recognition of Bangladesh, the state minister reaffirmed her commitment to advancing Bangladesh–Japan relations and appreciated Japan’s continued support, including on the Rohingya issue.



PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

A ‘Royal Maitree’ bus departed from Kamalapur Bus Depot in Dhaka on a trial run as the Dhaka-Agartala-Kolkata bus service resumed after more than a year and a half of suspension. The photo was taken when the bus was entering Agartala through the Akhaura International Immigration Checkpost on Tuesday.

Yet another unelected VC set to take DU helm

FROM PAGE 3
are currently vacant, according to university officials.

Despite serving for over a year and a half, Prof Niazi did not call a Senate session, although the DU Ordinance requires at least one session each year. According to the registrar, the last Senate session was held in the last week of June 2024.

In October 2023, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal was also appointed under Clause II(2) by the then Awami League government, even though there was no emergency or temporary vacancy at the time.

The then VC Prof Akhteruzzaman was still in office, and his tenure was set to end in November.

Prof Akhteruzzaman himself had been appointed in September 2017 temporarily amid tensions between the then VC AAMS

Arefin Siddique and a faction of pro-AL teachers.

Arefin had also been appointed under the

temporary provision and served about four years without being elected, followed by another four years after being elected. In 2017, when he sought another term, the government appointed Akhteruzzaman instead.

Akhteruzzaman also served for around two years without being elected before calling a Senate session in November 2019.

The Senate then elected a panel comprising Akhteruzzaman, the then Pro-VC Muhammad Samad, and Maksud Kamal. The government subsequently reappointed Akhteruzzaman as the elected VC.

Dr Kamrul Hassan Mamun, a professor in the university’s Physics department, said violating the ordinance has become a long-standing practice of successive governments.

“The vice chancellor of Dhaka University holds unparalleled centralised power, which makes it easy for the government

to control the university through one individual,” he said, describing the government’s approach as a “fascist mindset”.

Mamun said he opposes all existing methods of selecting a VC and suggested forming an international search committee comprising global intellectuals.

In May last year, the previous government formed a search committee to recommend vice chancellors, pro-VCs and treasurers for public universities.

The committee was headed by then Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar and included University Grants Commission members Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan and Prof Md Saidur Rahman, Rajshahi University VC Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib, and BRAC University Prof Firdous Azim.

A committee member, requesting anonymity, told TheDailyStar that since the nominated names for the

VC post would not come through a Senate vote, the search committee has the legitimate authority to select the nominees.

However, the committee has not yet received any directive from the government or the relevant ministry to begin the search process, said the committee member.

Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury

expressed frustration in this regard, saying the appointment of unelected vice chancellors has been a long-standing practice at Dhaka University.

“We have been observing this for the last forty years. Most vice chancellors have been appointed in this way,” he said.

“They always describe it as an emergency,” he added.

No new probe

FROM PAGE 3

On February 23, he had said the government decided to form a new commission to reinvestigate the Pilkhana carnage.

“During the tenure of the interim government, an independent investigation commission was formed, and its report has now come before us. We assumed office only a few days ago with the people’s mandate. Before that, the interim government had the report in hand. However, no significant steps were taken to implement it. A few days ago, I made certain comments without reviewing the report in full, which I wish to correct today,” he said.

“Since a national independent investigation commission was formed, comprising competent and qualified individuals... and from what I have seen at a glance, it contains around 70 recommendations. Many of those recommendations are already under implementation,” he added.

“There are cases under trial, some at the appeal stage and some at division level. We will complete this judicial process,” he said.

“We will implement the remaining recommendations step by step,” he said.

The home minister said the government would ensure proper justice to the families of the martyrs and the nation over the

Pilkhana killings so that such an incident is not repeated.

“We want to assure the martyr families and the nation that justice will be done and ensured,” he said, adding that all necessary steps would be taken.

He also said the incident had posed a threat to Bangladesh’s independence and sovereignty and weakening or undermining the army had been “a goal”.

“That could only be the aim of those who do not believe in Bangladesh’s independence and sovereignty or who want to see the country as a weak state,” he said.

A total of 74 people, including 57 of the nation’s top military officers, were killed during a mutiny at the then BDR Headquarters in Pilkhana in 2009.

Impeach

FROM PAGE 3

Awami League has reached a secret understanding with the new government. If the government violates the rule of law by reopening offices or facilitating its activities, people will protest,” he said.

Nahid also demanded justice over the Pilkhana killings, alleging that the Awami League had targeted the Bangladesh Army and killed 57 army officers and 74 others.

Rehab, treatment for all July uprising victims: Ishraque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain yesterday said the government would ensure rehabilitation and medical treatment for all those affected by the July uprising, regardless of political affiliation.

Many “July fighters” and their families were deprived of proper treatment and rehabilitation during the interim government’s tenure due to their BNP affiliation, Ishraque told reporters at the Secretariat after a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

“We are reviewing those cases. No political identity will be considered. All who were injured or martyred and made sacrifices will be rehabilitated. Treatment will be ensured, and martyrs’ families will receive the rehabilitation and respect they deserve,” he said.



China to invest more in Bangladesh

Envoy tells home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noting that a politically stable government has been established in Bangladesh, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen yesterday said China will increase its investment in the country.

He made the remarks during a courtesy call on Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed at the ministry.

Salahuddin, in turn, called upon Chinese investors to invest more in Bangladesh.

The home minister said China and Bangladesh are time-tested friends, and Bangladesh wants to take the bilateral relationship to a new level, considering regional, strategic, and geographical realities.

Dr. S. M. Shahidul Islam Hailed as Pioneer Acupuncture Specialist Following PhD from UK

Pioneer Acupuncture Specialist Dr. S. M. Shahidul Islam, PPM, Superintendent of Bangladesh Police and Chief Consultant at SUOXI Hospital, has recently been conferred a PhD in Clinical Acupuncture from Helstone University (London, UK). He had previously attained a PhD specializing in Pain and Paralysis. In recognition of his dual doctoral degrees and three decades of unwavering excellence in acupuncture Treatment, the Shreyo Somaj Unnayan Sangstha has formally designated him as a Pioneer Acupuncture Specialist. The SUOXI Hospital family takes immense pride in this prestigious milestone.

Professional and Academic Highlights Dr. Islam is an esteemed member of the 23rd BCS (Health) and the 25th BCS (Police) cadres, currently serving in the police department. His academic journey is distinguished by a government scholarship to Tongji University, China, where he completed his MBBS. His multifaceted educational background also includes an MPH (NSU, President's Gold Medalist), as well as LLB, MBA, and MSc degrees. Furthermore, he has made significant scholarly contributions with 42 research articles published in renowned international medical journals and has authored 6 comprehensive books on acupuncture treatment.

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Age limit:

Playgroup : Between 3 and 4 years of age (as on 01 July 2026)

Nursery : Between 4 and 5 years of age (as on 01 July 2026)

Requirements: Following documents must be submitted with the admission forms:

- Two copies of passport sized coloured photograph of the candidate.
- A copy of appropriate birth certificate of the candidate issued by the People's Republic of Bangladesh. (No change of Birth Certificate will be accepted later)
- Report card of last academic year (if any) from admission in Nursery.

Note: On the day of interview presence of father and mother is mandatory. Date of interview will be informed later. For further information please contact: 01949800800, 01705953257, 55060039-42, Ext 0/110

Brig Gen S. M. Mahub-ul-Alam, OSP, SGP, ndc, psc (retd)
Principal

www.manaratcollege.edu.bd

NOTICE

I Shamsunnahar, Chairman the Company of ZMM Associate Pvt. Ltd., Registration No: C-102236 having project address at Konabari, Gazipur, Dhaka. We are all chairman and director's opinion is that it is just equitable that the Concern Company should be wound. As a chairman of that company, I declared that the companies has no any kinds of loan and liabilities with any person, company or any bank.

D-14

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 18 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF
John Karmakar, Secretary of the Pakistan Baptist Church Trust Association —VERSUS—
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms & another —Respondents

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 1995 to 2025 of The Pakistan Baptist Church Trust Association has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon his Lordship Mr. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque was pleased to admit the application on 23/02/2026. Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Md. Asif Ekhal)
Advocate, Supreme Court
Room # 225, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Bar Association Main Building,
Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01712091605.

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GD-402

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Memo No. 28.24.0000.653.18.05.26

Date: 25.02.2026

e-Tender Notice No. 20/2025-26

This is notify to all concerned that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Sl.	Tender ID, Reference No. & date of publishing	Name of goods	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
01.	Tender ID: 1235018 Reference No. AGMP/E-GP/9/25-26 Publishing date: 25-02-2026	Supplying of Personal Computer (Desktop), UPS, Laser Jet Printer, Dot Matrix Printer (Wide Cartridge), Dot Matrix Printer (Narrow Cartridge), Scanner.	11.03.2026 15.00 hrs	12.03.2026 15.00 hrs	12.03.2026 15.00 hrs

The interested bidders may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd for further details.

Md. Jashim Uddin
DGM (Operations)

GD-406

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
Plot -F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo No: 57.03.0000.051.07.881.25-637

Date: 22 February, 2026

4th Corrigendum of REQUEST FOR BIDS (Package No: CP-GD-34)

Assignment Title	Last Date of Submission (Updated)	Last Date of Opening (Updated)	Tender Validity Period (Updated)
Supply, installation and commissioning of Full Mission Engine Room Simulator, Liquid Cargo Handling Simulator & High Voltage Simulator for Ship Building and Marine Technology of Institute of Marine Technologies	14:00 hour BST (GMT+6:00), 05 March 2026	14:30 hour BST (GMT+6:00), 05 March 2026	2 August 2026

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 09:00 to 17:00 hours (GMT+06:00).

Mir Zahid Hassan
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
ASSET Project
Telephone: 880-02-41024953
E-mail: pd@asset-dte.gov.bd

GD-395

We do not want any more police excesses

They give uneasy signals to the public

We are appalled at the way a Dhaka University (DU) student and two journalists were manhandled by the police on Monday, February 23, during an anti-narcotics drive at Suhrawardy Udyan. The total disregard for the constitutional rights of civilians is indefensible. Such use of disproportionate force on individuals gives uneasy signals to the public.

Reportedly, the DU student was apprehended at the Suhrawardy Udyan, and the Ramna Division deputy commissioner (DC) started questioning him. A video on social media shows that while the DU student was speaking with the DC, another policeman grabbed him from behind, pushed him to the ground and beat him with a stick, leaving him seriously injured.

Two multimedia journalists, who were trying to film the incident, were also beaten up by the police. Four of the officers involved were withdrawn, and departmental action against them is apparently underway. Would there be such prompt action if no videos were circulating on social media?

It is puzzling, moreover, that no action has been taken against the DC under whose watch such violence occurred. The arguments given do not justify police assaulting civilians. Allegations of police abusing their power during anti-narcotics drives in some city parks and other districts have also been reported.

The newly appointed IGP, Md Ali Hossain Fakir, has stated that he will ensure the police will be more professional and people-friendly. But these incidents do little to reflect such goals. Instead, they amplify the negative image of the police. The memory of police brutality during the July uprising is still fresh, and these incidents trigger mistrust, anger and fear. The protests by DU students in front of Shahbagh Police Station are a manifestation of this lack of public trust.

These are warning signs to the government. Law enforcers must be trained to respect basic human rights of civilians and realise that violation of those rights will have consequences. The sense of impunity that law enforcers enjoyed in the past must end. Merely withdrawing police or transferring them is not enough. Those who assault individuals without justifiable reason must face legal action and be punished. The independent police commission that has been formed should ensure that the use of force is applied as a last resort, and prevent arbitrary arrests and custodial torture.

Law enforcers must prove to the people that they are the protectors of the law and the people. Anti-drug and anti-crime drives are necessary, but they must be conducted professionally. Sweeping arrests, roughening up suspects, harassing people just for being out at night—these fear tactics are those of past repressive regimes and must stop. A de-politicised, corruption-free and modern law enforcement is crucial for our democratic journey.

A hospital building sitting unused

Recruit doctors, staff at new Rangamati hospital building immediately

It is unacceptable that the newly constructed six-storey building at Rangamati General Hospital—built at a cost of Tk 48.5 crore—remains unused months after its completion. Reportedly, construction ended in June 2024 and the building was handed over to the local Health Department in November last year. But no services have yet been provided at the new building. At a time when patients in remote areas struggle to access basic healthcare, allowing such a major public investment to sit idle reflects a systemic failure in our health sector planning.

Equipped with modern operating theatres, a 20-bed ICU, isolation units, and diagnostic facilities (including MRI and dialysis), the building can expand the hospital's capacity from 100 to 250 beds. However, services have not been shifted due to a shortage of manpower. The old 100-bed hospital, meanwhile, is operating far beyond its capacity, with patients receiving treatment on floors and in corridors.

For residents of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the hospital is a crucial healthcare facility and often the only one they can turn to. It is therefore unacceptable that a fully equipped expansion cannot open because doctors, nurses, and technicians have not been deployed. Why was staff recruitment not planned alongside construction? Why is there no temporary plan to assign staff from other facilities until permanent posts are filled? According to the Public Works Department, if the building remains unused for long, the elevators and other electrical equipment could be damaged.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Across districts and upazilas, infrastructure projects are often completed on schedule but human resource planning lags years behind. According to a recent report in this daily, at least 80 health facilities across 18 districts currently remain unused. These include children's hospitals, community clinics, trauma centres, and extensions of existing hospitals. Many buildings have been idle for years, some for over a decade, due to shortages of doctors, nurses, equipment, as well as bureaucratic delays. As a result, patients are being denied healthcare close to home. In several cases, expensive medical equipment has already been removed from idle facilities, further delaying service delivery.

Authorities must act immediately to make the new expansion building of Rangamati General Hospital fully functional so that people from remote areas across the CHT can receive better treatment. Urgent staff recruitment, temporary posting of medical personnel, and quick administrative approval are essential. The Tk 48.5 crore public investment cannot be allowed to go to waste. In future, all infrastructure expansion must go hand in hand with manpower deployment. Public healthcare in remote districts and upazilas should not remain hostage to bureaucratic inertia.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Napoleon escapes from Elba

On this day in 1815, French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the island of Elba and, gathering support en route, retook power on his return to Paris on March 20, ushering in the Hundred Days.

Economic priorities the government should focus on



Dr Sayema Haque Bidisha is pro vice chancellor and professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Dhaka.

SAYEMA HAQUE BIDISHA

The newly elected BNP government has inherited an economy with diverse challenges. The crises of persistent inflationary pressure, sluggish private investment, and unemployment needs to be dealt with simultaneously, with careful policy planning. In addition to such macro challenges, the country's long standing struggle with domestic resource mobilisation is another area for which policy emphasis is mandatory. Stabilising the economy against these challenges should, therefore, be the new government's top priority.

In the aftermath of the July uprising in 2024, the hardest economic challenge faced by the interim government was taming the double digit inflation, which escalated to as high as 11.66 percent in July 2024. By employing contractionary monetary and fiscal policies, the almost uncontrollable trend of inflation was brought down within the range of eight to nine percent, with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data of January 2026 showing point-to-point inflation at 8.58 percent (food inflation at 8.29 percent and non-food inflation as 8.81 percent). However, it should be noted that, with a slump in private investment and employment generation, monetary and fiscal instruments previously used to curb inflation no longer appear to be sustainable policy tools.

The newly elected government should, therefore, opt for a balanced mixture of monetary instruments and efficient market management. The latter means ensuring a competitive environment in the market and constraining non-competitive and collusive behaviour and hoarding practices. Additionally, ensuring the availability of demand and supply data, effective coordination among relevant authorities/ministries, reducing time lag of imports at ports, and the overall efficient management of supply chain should be considered.

From the economic management point of view, sluggish private sector investment stands as a major challenge, resulting in low GDP growth and job creation. The private sector credit growth plummeted to as low as 6.49 percent in 2024-25, according to the Bangladesh Bank. This has been caused by a wide range of factors, including infrastructural bottlenecks,

high interest cost of borrowing, and high cost of doing business. The slowed pace of private sector investment correlates to sluggish industrialisation, which is argued to be linked with political uncertainty in the absence of an elected government. The new government should, therefore, prioritise ensuring stability in its policy design and a private sector-friendly environment.

An often overlooked yet fundamental economical challenge is persistent unemployment and low



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

absorptive capacity of the economy. A fall in public and private sector investment, caused by contractionary policies, has arguably led to lack of job creation in recent years. The demand side story is, however, more complex: data of the employment elasticity of growth, which measures the pace of employment generation in relation to the growth of an economy, reveals low elasticity for the economy as a whole (0.34) with negative elasticity in the manufacturing sector (-0.05) from 2016-17 to 2022. On the other hand, there is a large youth population in the country who are unemployed (youth unemployment rate 8.07 percent) and a high prevalence of NEET (youth not in education, employment or

technical and vocational education.

Besides the macro challenges, a major concern for economic management in Bangladesh is persistently low domestic resource mobilisation. The tax-GDP ratio is argued to be one of the lowest in the world (less than seven percent in FY2024-25). Such a poor state of revenue mobilisation acts as an impediment towards government spending in critical sectors, i.e. education, healthcare, and safety net. Improving domestic resource mobilisation goals through suitable instruments while maintaining the inflation and inequality levels is crucial. To this end, greater emphasis should be given on direct taxation with digitalisation of the tax structure. Bringing all potential taxpayers into

rural economy, increased and transparent allocation for social safety net programmes, and a progressive and equitable tax structure must be prioritised.

Having come to power through a landslide victory in the February 12 election, the BNP government should set its initial economic priorities by focusing on containing inflation, accelerating private sector investment, generating decent and productive employment, and mobilising domestic resources to attain the development goals. Strong political commitment as well as efficient and timely policy direction and resource mobilisation can accomplish such daunting tasks, thereby ensuring inclusive development for the entire population.

Return of the authoritarian reflex in policing?



Tagabun Taharim Titun is a content executive at The Daily Star.

TAGABUN TAHARIM TITUN

The memory of the July uprising remains vivid in my consciousness. As a student participant, I recall those afternoons of protests not only as a struggle against an authoritarian regime but also as a decisive rejection of an entrenched culture that treated citizens with suspicion, turned streets into sites of surveillance, and used the police as instruments of fear. We marched for a Bangladesh where the relationship between the governed and those who govern would be rooted in dignity and mutual respect.

Recent debates about nighttime policing and public safety show that changing rhetoric does not necessarily alter institutional mindsets. The education minister's call for nighttime policing, framed as protection for students and citizens, has prompted an important conversation. Although the intention is to ensure security, the implementation tends to reveal an authoritarian reflex we had pledged to overcome. The state's duty should be to expand freedom and enable citizens to live without fear, not to regulate their movements.

When police officers harass people in parks or on streets at night, question their right to occupy public space, or use physical or verbal aggression, we must ask whether the nature of law enforcement has truly changed. The July uprising reflected a generation's determination not to let a policing mentality seep into everyday life, to live under constant supervision, or to allow dissent to be crushed.

Security should never serve as a pretext for moral policing or the erosion of civil liberties. If an area is unsafe, the right response should be to increase visible patrols or introduce transparent, formal restrictions when necessary. It must not be left to individual officers to act as arbiters of public morality and to decide who belongs on a street based on the officers' private bias. The power to protect must not be confused with a licence to humiliate. When a citizen is harassed for simply being present in a public space, that is an abuse of power and a breach of trust.

The recent incidents of assault and harassment by police officers

are therefore not merely a string of isolated incidents, but a signal about institutional health. Public anxiety has increased, evidenced by the comment section of videos circulating on social media showing verbal harassment of youths by law enforcers. Many interpret this as a reversion toward policing that requires constant contestation. Thus, there is a renewed call to disentangle policing from arbitrary authority and to establish a clear and enforceable accountability mechanism to rebuild public trust.

For decades, police have been trained to maintain order through intimidation. That muscle memory does not disappear overnight. The current administration has a historical mandate to recalibrate the existing system. The demand is not for a perfect tomorrow but for a clear break with the past. Leaders must speak and act in ways that demonstrate commitment to a rights-based framework. Directives for nighttime security should be accompanied by training and oversight of law enforcers, as well as swift consequences for misconduct.

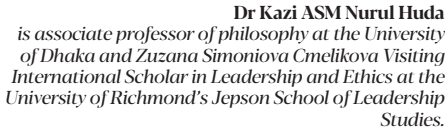
During the July uprising, we saw how quickly a force lost legitimacy when it stopped protecting and began preying. To avoid repeating that chapter, we must move toward consent-based policing. Police presence should be justified by the safety it produces, not by the fear it provokes. Physical violence employed against the public is not a security measure. It is a human rights violation that corrodes the foundation of the

democratic state we are trying to build.

We should not have to protest every instance of administrative heavy-handedness. We need a government that addresses abuses proactively and recognises institutional reform as a prerequisite for lasting stability. The authoritarian practices and the urge to moralise and control through force persist within institutions. The reform we seek must prioritise institutional change and restore public trust by replacing coercive behaviour with a spirit of service, transparent procedures, and accountable oversight.

Our expectations are high because the sacrifices were high. We deserve a governance structure that treats youth not as problems to be managed but as architects of a free society. This demands more than policy adjustments. It requires a reimagining of what the state owes its people and an honest admission that the state is not the parent of citizens but their employee.

Progress should be measured not only by economic growth or political stability, but by how citizens feel when they see a police officer at night. Until citizens feel unequivocally safer, the work of the state remains unfinished. Upholding the constitution through comprehensive institutional reform is the difficult but necessary path to securing a democracy that protects rights and enforces the rule of law. What we ask for is a state that respects our presence in it and that secures the street for the people both by day and by night.



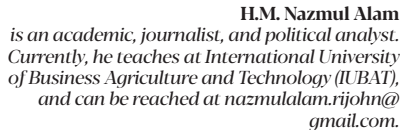
KAZI ASM NURUL HUDA

A majority can change a constitution, but it cannot silently change the question it was asked. The July charter recorded dissents and conditional agreements. Voters were asked whether they approved the reform framework; they were not asked whether they wished to nullify the recorded objections embedded within it. Ratification confirms a document as presented; it does not excise its internal terms. To treat a general 'yes' as implicitly erasing those terms is to convert negotiated ratification into retroactive nullification and to expand consent beyond specification.

FILE VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Beneath these disputes lies a deeper democratic principle. Democracy is not merely a majority rule; it is majority rule exercised under conditions that render minority compliance rational and legitimate. That requires credible commitment. Political actors must believe that agreements ratified today will not be retroactively reinterpreted tomorrow. Popular sovereignty does not exist as raw force; it exists as specified authorisation. When authority expands beyond the question presented to the electorate, sovereignty ceases to be consent and becomes interpretation.

*We are neglecting cooking gas danger
at our own peril*



H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

The human cost is already visible in hospital wards. Burn injuries are among the most painful and resource-intensive medical conditions. They require long-term care, multiple surgeries, and psychological support. For families, they mean emotional devastation and catastrophic expenditure. For the state, they mean a strained health infrastructure. Each preventable explosion adds to that burden.

Structural reform is difficult. It demands coordination among gas authorities, fire service, city corporations, building regulators, and law enforcement. It demands data-driven planning and transparent reporting. It demands that we treat gas safety not as a private matter but as a public safety priority.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion-7
 Patenga, Chattogram
 www.rab.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

For Financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

S L	Tender ID No & Reference No	Description of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1.	1231883, RAB-7/REV/7/2025-26 Date:16 Feb 2026	Repairs and renovations including painting of tiles in the cook house and recreation room of CPC-3, Chandgaon Camp under RAB-7	11 Mar 2026 09:00	11 Mar 2026 12:00
2.	1231865, RAB-7/REV/7/2025-26 Date:16 Feb 2026	Repair and renovation of the watercraft store inside RAB-7	11 Mar 2026 09:00	11 Mar 2026 12:00
3.	1230300, RAB-7/REV/7/2025-26 Date:16 Feb 2026	Interior and exterior painting, tiles repair and renovation of the Elite Hall of RAB-7 and exterior painting, repair and renovation of the Officers Quarters of RAB-7	11 Mar 2026 09:00	11 Mar 2026 12:00
4.	1229386, RAB-7/REV/7/2025-26 Date:16 Feb 2026	Repair and renovation of the barbed wire above the boundary wall around the battalion headquarters of RAB-7 and repair and renovation of the partial security wall of the pond ghat adjacent to the force quarters inside RAB-7	11 Mar 2026 09:00	11 Mar 2026 12:00

This is an Online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any Registered bank branches. Further information and help lines are available in national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For details, please contact at 01777-710705 (Assistant Director, Quarter Master, RAB-7).


MD HAFIZUR RAHMAN, PSC
 Lt Col
 Commanding Officer
 Rapid Action Battalion-7

Tel: 023-33300400

GD-401

I have given my all in ‘Pressure Cooker’: Azizul Hakim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Azizul Hakim enjoyed an enviable presence on the small screen during the 90s. Over the course of his career, he has appeared in numerous dramas. Alongside professional success, he has earned the love of millions of viewers. Maintaining that success, he continues to act in television dramas, films and web series.

He has appeared in several films, including *Joyjatra*, *Shankhanil Karagar*, *Padma Nadir Majhi* and *Golui*, receiving praise for his performances. Recently, he completed shooting for a new film titled *Pressure Cooker*, directed by Raihan Rafi.

Speaking about working on the project, the actor said, “Rafi understands a story very well. He is extremely sincere and gives complete attention to his work. This is my first project with him. He has shown considerable craftsmanship and designs his work beautifully.”

He added about the film, “I have portrayed a different kind of character. Audiences will see me in the role of a businessman. I have played many types of characters in my career, but not this kind. I have acted with great dedication.”

Commenting on the team behind *Pressure Cooker*, he described it as “well-organised” and “a very good team”.

Regarding Raihan Rafi’s body of work, he said, “I have watched his other films. He makes outstanding cinema, which is why audiences go to see his films. I have watched them myself. Rafi means diversity and something new.”

On his co-actors in the film, Azizul Hakim mentioned that several artistes were involved, including Shahiduzzaman Selim, Gazi Rakayet and Nazifa Tushi. “Everyone has delivered excellent performances,” he said.

Despite acting in numerous television dramas over his long career, why has he appeared in comparatively fewer films? In response, he said, “At the time when I should have done films, or when I received offers, I was extremely busy with television dramas. My career was at its peak then. It was an impossibly busy period. For that reason, I did not want to work in both mediums simultaneously.”

He continued, “While working in television, I wondered whether audiences would buy tickets to watch me in cinemas. After all, they were already watching my work at home every month. I had these

thoughts. Moreover, I did not want to undermine my television career.”

Other than television and film, he has also worked on OTT platforms. His performances in web series like *Redrum*, *Silence*, *Ararat*, and *AKA* have also been discussed widely. At the same time, he continues to act in dramas produced for YouTube channels.

Speaking about audiences, he said, “We must never consider viewers to be foolish, because they understand everything. At the end of the day, audiences watch good work.”

Azizul Hakim’s wife, Zeenat Hakim, is a popular playwright. When asked about her contribution to his career, he replied, “My wife’s role in my career is one hundred per cent. Her contribution is immense,” he concluded.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Netflix unveils first teaser for ‘Pride and Prejudice’ adaptation

Netflix has unveiled the first teaser for its six-episode adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, offering a first look at Emma Corrin as Elizabeth Bennet and Jack Lowden as Mr Darcy. The series, set to premiere this autumn, has been adapted by author Dolly Alderton and directed by Euros Lyn.

The teaser features sweeping visuals, including Elizabeth standing at sunset before Darcy’s dramatic arrival on horseback. The cast also includes Olivia Colman, Rufus Sewell and Freya Mavor, among others.

Based on Jane Austen’s 1813 novel, the project aims to honour the original while introducing the story to a new generation. Alderton previously described the work as the “blueprint for romantic comedy”, calling the adaptation a rare privilege.



Sadia Ayman’s pet cat Alu debuts in ‘MEU’

Chorki original film *Meu* presents an emotional family narrative that explores the complexities of human relationships while raising a compassionate question about how we care for the animals that depend on us. Directed by Atiq Zaman, the film stars Sadia Ayman, Afsana Mimi, Afzal Hossain, Ishtiaq Ahmed Rumel, Rakib Hossain Eyon and Azizul Hakim, among others.

At its core, the story revolves around a family, with the presence of a pet adding a distinct emotional dimension. The special attraction of the film is Sadia Ayman’s real-life pet cat, Alu, who appears in *Meu*, lending authenticity to the performance. The film premieres at midnight on March 4 on Chorki.

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Orthopedics and Prosthetics
অর্থোপেডিক্স এবং প্রস্থেটিক্স

Oncology and Immunology
অনকোলজি এবং ইমিউনোলজি

Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery
প্লাস্টিক এবং এস্থেটিক সার্জারি

NEWS

Urban voters show ballot box apathy

FROM PAGE 12
were also noticed elsewhere: Dhaka-5 recorded 48.75 percent turnout, 10.69 percentage points below the average; Dhaka-6 saw 47.69 percent, 11.75 points below; and Dhaka-7 registered 48.16 percent, 11.28 points below the average.

The trend continued across other constituencies. Dhaka-9 turnout was 47.23 percent, while Dhaka-11 showed 44.72 percent, Dhaka-13 recorded 44.67 percent, and Dhaka-14 reported 46.12 percent.

Dhaka-16 turnout was 46.08 percent, Dhaka-17 dropped to 44.30 percent, and Dhaka-18 stood at 44.76 percent, Dhaka-8 registered 43.74 percent, Dhaka-10 recorded 43.39 percent, and Dhaka-15 saw 44.00 percent.

Elsewhere, Gazipur-2 recorded 44.69 percent, 14.75 percentage points below the national average. It was 57.41 percent turnout in Narayanganj-3, while 56.57 percent turnout was recorded in Narayanganj-5.

Sylhet’s three seats also fell short

of the national average: Sylhet-1 recorded 47.81 percent turnout (11.63 percentage points below the national average), Sylhet-2 saw 44.59 percent, and Sylhet-3 recorded 49.20 percent.

In the port city, Chattogram-5 witnessed a turnout of 43.56 percent, 15.88 percentage points below the average. Chattogram-10 saw 43.49 percent, while the turnout was 47.04 percent in Chattogram-8.

Barishal-5 saw 52.36 percent turnout, 7.08 percentage points below the average, Cumilla-6 (52.84 percent), Gazipur-1 (53.02 percent), and Mymensingh-4 (54.50 percent).

Khulna-3 saw a voter turnout of 59.84 percent, slightly higher than the national average.

The constituencies in the northern area told a different story.

Rangpur-1 recorded 60.71 percent, edged 1.27 percentage points above the average turnout, Rangpur-3 (63.71 percent), and Rajshahi-2 (63.73 percent). The strongest performance came from Rangpur-2, where turnout soared to 68.59 percent, 9.15 percent

points above the national average, the highest in any city corporation seat.

Talking to this newspaper, Dhaka University Prof Sabbir Ahmed said many urban voters feared violence at polling centres. “They thought that if, for any reason, the Awami League tried to assert control, violence might erupt. Out of this fear, many stayed away.”

Another factor was the AL’s own support base. “Only a small number went to cast votes. Those from the lower middle-class groups of the Awami League cast ballots, but the middle-class and upper middle-class supporters largely refrained. This absence significantly affected the turnout percentage,” he noted.

He also pointed to the four-day holiday during the election period. “Urban residents rarely get such long breaks, so many took the opportunity to travel. This further reduced voter turnout. Many people thought during this long holiday, ‘What difference does my one vote make?’ and simply left town, contributing to the lower turnout.”

India stands with Israel

FROM PAGE 12
to visit Israel in 2017, during which he and Netanyahu took a barefoot stroll on a beach in the northern port city of Haifa.

Both still in power nearly nine years later, the two leaders, who describe one another as friends, are expected to hold talks on artificial intelligence as well as defence at a time when Israel is seeking to increase its military exports.

An Israeli government official said Modi’s visit would “pave the way for new partnerships and collaborations across many fields.” Bilateral ties were on the cusp of a significant upgrade, an Israeli foreign ministry official said.

Modi is visiting as the United States deploys a vast naval force near Iran’s coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic, with the two countries at an impasse in talks over Tehran’s nuclear programme. The Pentagon has also deployed an aircraft carrier to the

Mediterranean, bound for Israel’s coast.

A US attack on Iran could draw Iranian retaliation against Israel as well as US military facilities in Gulf Arab countries, where millions of Indians live and work and send home billions of dollars of remittances each year.

In his speech to lawmakers, Modi vaguely spoke about the challenges facing stability in the region, acknowledging that the landscape had become more challenging in recent years, but made no mention of the US military build-up, or of Iran.

He backed the US plan to end the war in Gaza, telling the parliament that it could lead to peace “for all people of the region, including by addressing the Palestinian issue.”

“The road to peace is not always easy. But India joins you and the world for dialogue, peace and stability in this region,” Modi said.

Israel behind two-thirds

FROM PAGE 12
military drones, the highest annual number of journalist deaths in the war since 15 were killed in 2022.

Journalists are increasingly vulnerable due to a persistent culture of impunity, the CPJ said, noting a lack of transparent investigations into killings.

In Mexico, six journalists were killed in 2025 and all the cases remain unsolved. The Philippines saw three journalists shot dead.

Others were killed following their reporting on corruption, such as a

Bangladeshi reporter hacked to death by suspects linked to a fraud ring, according to the CPJ report.

Similar organized crime-related deaths were recorded in India and Peru.

In Saudi Arabia, prominent columnist Turki al-Jasser was executed by the state after being convicted on several charges that the CPJ likened to “spurious national security and financial crime allegations” used to punish reporters.

It was the Gulf state’s first documented killing of a journalist since the 2018 death of Jamal Khashoggi.

Show bailed pro-AL leaders

FROM PAGE 12
further instructions and applies specifically to leaders and activists of banned organisations who, after being granted bail, are deemed capable of reorganising the group, strengthening it, or actively engaging in field-level activities.

The notice also instructed all concerned to strictly follow existing laws and regulations regarding protocol and protection.

Following the mass uprising in 2024, the Awami League has been described by rival political parties and activists as “fascist”. On May 12 last year, the interim government suspended all activities of the Awami League and its affiliated bodies over allegations of killings, genocide, crimes against humanity, and

other grave offences during the July uprising, pending the completion of trials against its leaders.

Contacted, Assistant Inspector General (Media) AHM Sahadat Hossaine of Police Headquarters told The Daily Star he was unaware of any centrally issued instruction of this kind and said the Rajshahi Range DIG could comment on the matter.

Speaking to this newspaper, DIG Mohammad Shahjahan said the notice would be enforced in cases involving banned or suspended organisations and clarified that it applies to any organisation whose activities have been prohibited.

Officials in the Dhaka and Chattogram ranges said they had not issued similar directives.

Barishal Bar chief held

FROM PAGE 12
of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate SM Shariatullah. His fellow lawyers sought his bail. But the court rejected his bail petition and sent him to the District Judge’s Court lock-up, said the police commissioner.

Around 5:00pm, Linkon was taken to jail, said Al Mamun-ul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Protesting against the arrest, pro-BNP lawyers demonstrated on the court premises, halting the judicial activities.

They have been demonstrating since Monday, protesting the recent bail of AL leaders and activists, which hampered judicial proceedings and created tensions on the court premises.

Around 2:30pm on Tuesday, a group of lawyers, led by Linkon, allegedly entered the courtroom of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, created chaos, and carried out vandalism to protest against the release of former AL MP Talukder Md Yunus, who got bail immediately after surrendering before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate SM Shariatullah’s Court on Monday.

A video clip of the incident went viral on social media.

Following the incident, a meeting was held involving the metropolitan sessions judge, other judges, and law enforcement officials, according to court sources.

The case was lodged yesterday morning.

In another incident, a Barishal court granted bail to former MP Jebunnesa Afroz and two AL leaders on February 17.

Yesterday, the HC issued the contempt rule against nine lawyers, including Linkon, for carrying out vandalism in the courtroom and making derogatory comments about the judge, who granted bail to the former AL MP.

In the rule, the court asked the lawyers to explain within 10 days why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them and why they should not be punished for contempt.

The eight others are Barishal Bar Association Secretary Mirza Riazul Islam; public prosecutors Abul Kalam Azad and Nazimuddin Panna; and lawyers Mohsin Montu, Mizanur

Rahman, Abdul Malek, Sayed, and Hafiz Uddin Bablu.

The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Md Ashif Hasan issued the rule on a suo moto (voluntary) move after the Supreme Court Registrar General’s Office placed a letter describing the incident and an inquiry report from Barishal Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mir Md Amtajul Huq before the bench. Shafiqur Rahman, deputy attorney general, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, a group of SC lawyers yesterday demonstrated on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises in protest against the incident of vandalism at the Barishal court.

Lawyers Chanchal Kumar Biswas, Subir Nandi Das, Cumar Debul Dey, Tamanna Ferdous, Ujjwal Hossain, Md Russel, Biplob Kumar Das and Aslam Miah, among others, spoke at the programme.

In a statement, National Lawyers Alliance Convener SM Azmal Hossain Bachchu and its Member Secretary Muhammad Ershadul Bari Khandaker condemned the incident.

[Our Barishal correspondent contributed to this report.]

GD-405



GD-410

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তারিখ: ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নওগাঁ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে নিম্নোক্ত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও ফেল (জাতীয় বেসন ফেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (গ্রেড-৪) বেতন ফেল: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/- ক) আইন বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি খ) হিসাববিজ্ঞান বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি	০২	-	ক) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সম্মান) এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। খ) স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিজিপিএ ৪.০০- এর মধ্যে সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। গ) স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০৭ (সাত) বছরসহ মোট ন্যূনতম ১২ (বারো) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ঘ) এমফিল/সমমান ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০৬ (ছয়) বছরসহ মোট ন্যূনতম ০৯ (নয়) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ঙ) পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০৪ (চার) বছরসহ মোট ন্যূনতম ০৭ (সাত) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। চ) প্রার্থীদের স্বীকৃত জার্নালে (পিয়ার রিভিউড) সর্বমোট ন্যূনতম ০৬ (ছয়)টি প্রকাশনা থাকিতে হইবে। তন্মধ্যে, সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন)টি প্রকাশনা থাকিতে হইবে, যাহার মধ্যে First Author/Corresponding Author হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, মোট প্রকাশনার ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক)টি প্রকাশনা ইমপ্যাক্ট ফ্যাক্টর/Indexed জার্নালে প্রকাশিত হতে হবে। ছ) শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
০২	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (গ্রেড-৬) বেতন ফেল: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- ক) আইন বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি খ) হিসাববিজ্ঞান বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি	০২	-	ক) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সম্মান) এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। খ) স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিজিপিএ ৪.০০- এর মধ্যে সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। গ) স্নাতকোত্তর/সমমান ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রভাষক হিসাবে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ঘ) এমফিল/সমমান ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রভাষক হিসাবে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ঙ) পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রভাষক হিসাবে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক) বছরের সক্রিয় শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। চ) স্বীকৃত জার্নালে (পিয়ার রিভিউড) সর্বমোট ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন)টি প্রকাশনা থাকিতে হইবে যার মধ্যে First Author হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে। ছ) শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
০৩	প্রভাষক (গ্রেড-৯) বেতন ফেল: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- ক) আইন বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি খ) হিসাববিজ্ঞান বিভাগ স্থায়ী পদ-০১টি	২	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	ক) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সম্মান) এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। খ) স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিজিপিএ ৪.০০- এর মধ্যে সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকিতে হইবে। গ) শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
০৪	পিএস টি ভিসি (সেকশন অফিসার) গ্রেড-০৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-)	০১	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	ক) প্রার্থীকে কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে যেকোন বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছরের স্নাতক/৩ (তিন) বছরের সম্মানসহ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর/পাস কোর্সে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনে সকল পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমগ্রগ্রেড (সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। খ) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/সরকারি/বায়ত্তশাসিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে আর্থিকার দেয়া যেতে পারে। গ) প্রার্থীকে মাইক্রোসফট অফিসসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে।
০৫	হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা গ্রেড-০৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-)	০১	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	ক) প্রার্থীকে কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অর্থনীতি/পরিসংখ্যান/বানিজ্যের যেকোনো বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছরের স্নাতক/৩ (তিন) বছরের সম্মানসহ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর/পাস কোর্সে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনে সকল পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমগ্রগ্রেড (সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। খ) প্রার্থীকে মাইক্রোসফট অফিসসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের অর্থিকার দেয়া হবে।
০৬	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) গ্রেড-০৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-)	০১	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	ক) প্রার্থীকে কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বি.এস.সি ইন সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনে সকল পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমগ্রগ্রেড (সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। খ) প্রার্থীকে মাইক্রোসফট অফিসসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের অর্থিকার দেয়া হবে।
০৭	প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা গ্রেড-১০ (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-)	০৩	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	ক) প্রার্থীকে কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে যেকোন বিষয়ে ৪ (চার) বছরের স্নাতক/৩ (তিন) বছরের সম্মানসহ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর/পাস কোর্সে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনে সকল পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমগ্রগ্রেড (সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী/সমমান গ্রেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। খ) প্রার্থীকে মাইক্রোসফট অফিসসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য এবং অর্থিকার দেয়া হবে।

শর্তাবলী (শিক্ষকদের ক্ষেত্রে):

- ১) অগ্রাধী প্রার্থীগণকে সংশ্লিষ্ট পদের জন্য ৮ (আট) সেট আবেদন পরে আগামী ১২/০৩/২০২৬ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) রেজিস্ট্রার, নগরো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাইপাস সড়ক, বরনকান্দি মোড়, নগরো-৬৫০০ কানায় সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- ২) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট (www.nau.ac.bd)-এ প্রদত্ত ফরমেট আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ৩) আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজ পত্রের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে:
(ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্রের ফটোকপি (খ) অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে) সনদপত্রের ফটোকপি (গ) সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ কপি বস্টিন ছবি (ঘ) জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (চ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিক সনদপত্র।
- ৪) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে রেজিস্ট্রার, নগরো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূল জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসির যেকোনো শাখা থেকে সকল পদের জন্য ৬০০/- টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/সে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ৫) অনলাইন প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ডিগ্রিপত্র হত হবে, অর্থাৎ পরীক্ষার ফল প্রকাশ অপেক্ষামান থাকাকালে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ৬) অনলাইন ও দূরশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে ডিগ্রিপত্র প্রার্থীকে কোনো বিভাগে শিক্ষক নিয়োগের জন্য বিবেচনা করা হবে না।
- ৭) চাকুরিত নিয়োগিত প্রার্থীদের যথাক্রমে কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। যে সকল সরকারি চাকুরিগরী প্রার্থী চাকুরিত অবস্থায় উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুমতি নিয়ে আবেদন করবেন, সে সকল প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগ বাছাই বোর্ডে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে অনুমতিপত্র (NOC) আনতে হবে।
- ৮) প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে খামের পদের পরের নাম এবং খামের বাম পাশে নিজ নাম ও ঠিকানা স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে লিখতে হবে।
- ৯) প্রার্থীদের নিজ ঠিকানা স্মরণিত ১১/- (এগারো) টাকার ডাক টিকিটসহ একটি হেরান নাম সন্যুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ১০) ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ বা নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১১) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন, আংশিক বাতিল বা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
- ১২) আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ, বাছাই এবং নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১৩) নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা/বাছাইকার গ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

শর্তাবলী (প্রশাসনিক জনবলের ক্ষেত্রে):

- ১) অম্বাই প্রাথমিক সশ্রুতি পদের জন্য ৬ (ছয়) সেট আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১২/০৩/২০২৬ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) রেজিস্ট্রার, নওগাঁ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাইপাস সড়ক, বরনকান্দি মোড়, নওগাঁ-৬৫০০ তিকানায় সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে পৌছাতে হবে।
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- ৭) প্রার্থীদের নিম্ন তিকানা সম্বলিত ১১/- (এগারো) টাকার ডাক টিকিটের একটি ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
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- ১০) আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ, বাছাই এবং নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোনো প্রকার দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সশ্রুতি কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১১) নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা/ছাচ্চাকার গ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রধান করা হবে না।
- ১২) অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

ড. মো. আলাউদ্দিন
রেজিস্ট্রার
নওগাঁ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-400

No room for slip-ups for India

STAR SPORTS DESK

The Super Eights Group 1 of the ongoing T20 World Cup is set for a significant shape-up today, with defending champions India taking on surprise package Zimbabwe in Chennai and two in-form sides – South Africa and the West Indies – clashing in Ahmedabad.

The Proteas and the Windies will take the field in the day's first game. India will be hoping that the Aiden Markram-led South Africa prevail, as that would allow them to keep their semifinal fate largely in their own hands by winning both of their remaining Super Eight fixtures, including today's encounter.

On the contrary, Zimbabwe will be rooting for a West Indies victory, as that would further strengthen their chances of reaching the semifinals in what has already been an incredible World Cup campaign.

India suffered a 76-run hammering at the hands of South Africa in their first Super Eight fixture, a defeat that dented their net run-rate to -3.800. While both South Africa and the West Indies have won their opening Super Eight matches, a Proteas slip-up today could further complicate matters for India.

In that scenario, apart from winning all their remaining Super Eight games, India would also need Zimbabwe to beat South Africa – a statistically unlikely outcome, even though the lower-ranked Zimbabwe have already come this far by stunning Australia and co-hosts Sri Lanka.

Beyond the result of the day's first game, India skipper Suryakumar Yadav will have another pressing concern – how to address their faltering opening combination. Opener Abhishek Sharma's slump – including three consecutive ducks and an unconvincing 12-ball 15 in their last outing against South Africa – has hurt India's campaign.

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak admitted that changes are being considered.

"There can be changes, yes," Kotak told reporters. "And obviously, it goes without saying that we discuss, because there are two leftie openers, number three is



left-handed."

India's top and middle order is heavily dominated by left-handers, offering opponents a clear tactical avenue.

Teams including Pakistan, the Netherlands and South Africa have targeted this vulnerability by opening the bowling with off-spin, dismissing one of India's openers in the first over with an off-spinner in multiple games.

With skipper Sikandar Raza and Brian Bennett in Zimbabwe's ranks, the African side will almost certainly look to exploit that weakness.

India have lost a wicket in the first over in three games

so far in the World Cup, and right-handed wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson could emerge as a potential solution to that recurring problem.

"People ask about Sanju as a right-hander up front," Kotak said, without offering any clear indication. "Or you think of playing three spinners," he added.

Whether India opt for changes or stick to their current combination, one thing is certain – the outcomes of today's two matches will significantly reshape the semifinal race in Group 1 and could define the trajectory of multiple campaigns in a matter of hours.

Shakib must clear legal hurdles to return: Aminul

SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque said yesterday that Shakib Al Hasan and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza would be welcomed back to cricket if they can resolve the legal proceedings against them.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has officially spoken about Shakib's return following a recent board meeting, and there are suggestions that the all-rounder may even feature in the upcoming home ODI series against Pakistan, starting on March 11.

Aminul had previously stated that the government would take a lenient stance regarding the cases against Shakib and Mashrafe. Speaking after a program at Pallabi Bidyaniketan on Wednesday, Aminul said that Shakib and Mashrafe, however, would still have to face and resolve the cases against them.

"Shakib and Mashrafe are legendary cricketers. I have seen the love of the people of Bangladesh for them and their attraction to cricket. I feel that the legal cases against them were the state's decision," he said.

Aminul noted that Shakib and Mashrafe should address the cases through their lawyers in accordance with state laws.

"As a sportsperson, I believe they should address those legal issues personally through their lawyers, in accordance with the law.

"Through their lawyers, if they face the legal proceedings against them and resolve everything to

prove their innocence to return to the field, I will welcome them. We will be hundred percent flexible in that regard," Aminul added.

Shakib, a former Awami League MP, has not returned to the country since the Awami League-led government was ousted in August 2024. His last match for Bangladesh was the Kanpur Test during the Tigers' tour of India in September 2024.

Meanwhile, BCB sources have claimed that documents related to the cases against Shakib were forwarded to the government yesterday.

"The documents were forwarded yesterday, but since this is a policymaking issue, it will be handled by the relevant authorities, and for now, the board is not involved in the proceedings. If anything is required [from the board], we will be notified," a BCB official said on condition of anonymity.

Darwin, Mackay to host Bangladesh Tests in August

AFP, Sydney

Test cricket will return to the Australian city of Darwin for the first time in over two decades in August, organisers said Wednesday as they unveiled the schedule for an upcoming series against Bangladesh.

Cricket Australia said the first of two Tests against Bangladesh would kick off on August 13 in the Northern Territory capital, the first such match there since July 2004 when they hosted Sri Lanka. The second Test from August 22-26 will be played in Mackay in the eastern state of Queensland. Bangladesh had played the opening Test at the Darwin venue in their maiden tour of Australia in 2003. Bangladesh's second Test during that tour was held in Cairns.

The Tests will be the Australia's first since thrashing England 4-1 in the Ashes in January.

Tigresses to fine-tune in Scotland

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are set to play a tri-nation series in Scotland as part of their build-up to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, to be held in England and Wales from June 12 to July 5.

After limited international exposure hampered their campaign at last year's 50-over World Cup, Bangladesh Cricket Board is keen to ensure stronger preparation this time.

Women's wing chairperson Rubaba Dowla said the series follows the team's unbeaten qualifying run and forms part of a structured roadmap that includes the Women's Bangladesh Premier League (WBPL) and a home white-ball series against Sri Lanka. "All of these are part of our overall plan," she said after a Women's BPL Governing Council meeting in Mirpur yesterday.

The Tigresses are expected to arrive in Scotland two weeks before the marquee event. Alongside the hosts, the Netherlands are likely to complete the tri-series line-up, with matches set for Edinburgh.

From Brook's hardest winter to redemption in Kandy

AGENCIES

Richly talented yet relentlessly scrutinised, Harry Brook found his redemption beneath the floodlights of Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy, crafting an innings that may forever define his captaincy.

For months, the 27-year-old England skipper had carried more than a bat to the crease; he bore the weight of criticism, controversy and doubt. But on Tuesday night, chasing 165 against Pakistan in the ICC T20 World Cup, Brook delivered not merely runs, but a statement.

When Phil Salt fell first ball, a hush rippled through the stands. England's campaign, already uneven, threatened to unravel. Brook, typically stationed at number five, made a captain's call. He walked in at first drop, shoulders squared, eyes steady – a silent message to his dressing room: trust me. What followed was breathtaking. Brook unfurled drives that split the infield, hooks that pierced the night sky, and deft nudges that kept the scoreboard breathing. It was the second-fastest century in T20 World Cup history and the first by a captain – a blend of audacity and calculation.

Where others might have lashed blindly, Brook measured risk with precision. Against a snarling Pakistan attack led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, he alternated violence

with vigilance, farming strike when wickets tumbled at the other end.

Yet the runs were only half the story.

Before the tournament, Brook had apologised for a late-night altercation during a white-ball tour of New Zealand, admitting he lied to shield teammates. The episode, coupled with a barren Ashes and tabloid-fuelled criticism, had prompted calls for his resignation. In Australia, he was mocked for reckless dismissals; at home, questioned for judgment off the field.

"I've had the hardest winter of my life," he would later confess. But in Kandy, there was clarity. Every single taken, every boundary pierced through noise accumulated over months. Afridi himself would call it "the best innings of his life – a captain's innings."

England, twice champions in 2010 and 2022, had limped through the group stage, beaten by the West Indies and rattled by Nepal. Few fancied them lifting a third crown. Yet Brook's hundred hauled them into a fifth straight semi-final and reshaped the narrative.

It was not just a century. It was stewardship under fire.



Arctic thunder: A small club's giant statement

AFP, MILAN

Bodo/Glimt are on the march in the Champions League after dumping out European giants Inter Milan, the latest chapter in a remarkable rise for the tiny club from north of the Arctic Circle.

Kjetil Knutsen's team reached the last 16 of the biggest club competition on the planet with two wins over last year's beaten finalists – a 5-2 aggregate victory giving them the greatest result in their history.

"I think it's an amazing evening for the club, for the players, for the town and also for Norwegian football," said Knutsen, who has been in charge of Bodo/Glimt since 2018.

Tuesday's triumph was their fourth straight win in the Champions League, with Manchester City and Atletico Madrid also falling in the final two league phase matches, which allowed Bodo/Glimt to snatch a spot in the knockout play-offs.

Bodo/Glimt were only promoted to Norway's top tier, a competition which had been dominated for three decades by Rosenborg of



Trondheim, in 2017 but have since been crowned national champions in four of the last six seasons.

And since then, they have slowly risen up the domestic and European ranks, last season becoming the first Norwegian team to play in the semifinals of a major European competition with their run to the last four of the Europa League.

Before this season, their best result was beating Lazio on penalties in the quarterfinals of

the Europa League before being eliminated by Tottenham Hotspur.

But now, the team of no stars with a tiny budget have moved to a whole new level with one of either City or Sporting of Portugal awaiting next month.

Bodo/Glimt had previously been considered tricky opposition due to their artificial pitch and the frequently frigid conditions at their 8,200-capacity Aspmyra Stadium.

But they have now added

strong away performances to their armoury, with a solid defensive display on Tuesday allowing Jens Petter Hauge and Hakon Evjen to dish out two sucker punches.

"I always look forward, so that's how we're thinking. For me, history is not so important," added Knutsen.

It was, however, a rude awakening for three-time winners Inter, whose stature and budget dwarf that of the Norwegians and who are heavy favourites to win Serie A this season.

A pasting at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain might have coloured their last European campaign but Inter got to that final by seeing off Bayern Munich and Barcelona in epic knockout ties.

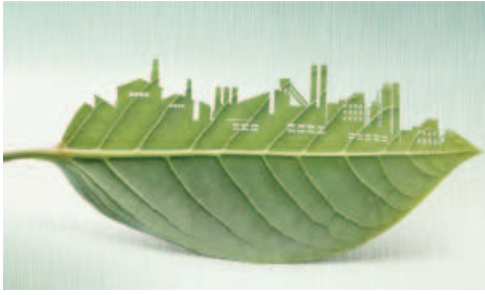
Defeat to Bodo/Glimt was also symbolic after Norway swatted Italy aside twice in World Cup qualifying.

Italy face the prospect of no team reaching the last 16 with Juventus and Atalanta trailing Galatasaray and Borussia Dortmund, the latest blow to the reputation of a grand old footballing nation which has since fallen on hard times.



Alexander Sorloth's hat-trick fired Atletico Madrid into the Champions League last 16 with an emphatic 4-1 win over Club Brugge on Tuesday, progressing 7-4 on aggregate from the play-off round. Brugge could not keep the Norwegian target man at bay as he settled an entertaining tie with a display of lethal finishing at the Metropolitano stadium. After Joel Ordóñez had cancelled out Sorloth's opener, Johnny Cardoso smashed Atletico in front and Sorloth added two more goals late on to seal his team's victory.

PHOTO: REUTERS



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SHAH CEMENT

Show bailed pro-AL leaders arrested in other cases

Rajshahi DIG asks cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police's Rajshahi Range has directed officers to show arrested leaders and activists of banned "fascist" organisations in other cases after they secure bail, if they are considered capable of reorganising, strengthening, or mobilising the group.

Those who do not meet that criterion need not be shown arrested for now upon securing bail, the directive said.

The instruction was issued on Tuesday by the Office of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Rajshahi Range, in a notice signed by DIG Mohammad Shahjahan. It was sent to the superintendents of police in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogura and Joypurhat for necessary action.

According to the notice, the directive will remain in force until

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



With demand for fresh banknotes rising ahead of Eid, roadside vendors in Gulistan have become busy exchange points for people swapping old or defective notes for shiny new ones, often taking a small commission for the service. People collect fresh notes for Eid salami, a tradition in which elders give money to children on the festive day. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Rabiul's memo on state ministers 'bypasses rules'

BAHARAM KHAN

Road Transport and Bridges, Railways, and Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam has expressed his desire to distribute responsibilities among two state ministers in an office memo to the cabinet secretary.

The memo, signed by Senior Assistant Secretary Ajit Deb on Tuesday, says that State Minister Habibur Rashid will be assigned responsibilities for the railways ministry and the Road Transport and Highways Division.

State Minister Rajib Ahsan will be given charge of the shipping ministry and the Bridges Division.

The memo said the decision was made the previous day and was being implemented accordingly.

Sources at the Cabinet Division said a minister cannot request the cabinet secretary, through a senior assistant secretary of his ministry, to allocate portfolios to state ministers of any ministry.

The memo also did not mention whether the prime minister's consent had been obtained, which is mandatory under the Rules of Business.

A former secretary, speaking on condition of anonymity, said such situations arise due to a lack of clarity regarding procedural requirements. "Problems have been created due to not knowing such matters."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

India stands with Israel 'with full conviction'

Says Modi as he starts two-day Israel visit to discuss AI, defence



REUTERS, Jerusalem

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Israel yesterday for a two-day visit that both countries have cast as a chance to deepen relations, as regional concerns mount over the risk of military conflict between the United States and Iran.

In an address to the Israeli parliament, Modi told lawmakers that India stood with Israel "with full conviction" as he shared his nation's condolences over the October 2023 Hamas attack.

"Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standards," he said.

Both Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also addressed the parliament, spoke of terrorist attacks that their nations had faced, with Netanyahu saying India and Israel both faced the challenge of confronting "radical Islam".

Modi became the first prime minister in India's history

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Jubo Dal leader shot dead after iftar in Raozan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals shot a Jubo Dal leader dead in Chattogram's Raozan upazila yesterday evening.

The victim is Mujib Bhandari, 60, president of a ward unit Jubo Dal of Purbogujara union, said a local journalist.

Police said the incident took place near a shop at Oli Miar Hat around 7:00pm.

Balayat Hossain, assistant superintendent of police (Rangunia circle), told The Daily Star, "Mujib Bhandari was sitting outside a shop after finishing his iftar. Armed assailants appeared at the scene and opened fire, leaving him injured."

Mujib was taken to the Raozan Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead, he said, adding that Mujib had been involved in BNP politics, but could not confirm his position in the party.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The body of Mujib was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for an autopsy, the ASP added.

Urban voters show ballot box apathy

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Urban areas revealed clear signs of low voter participation in the February 12 national election.

The voting rate in constituencies across the 12 city corporation areas was significantly lower than in rural areas. Against the national average turnout of 59.44 percent, most city corporation seats fell short -- several by wide margins.

Election Commission data shows that there are 45 seats in the city corporation areas, with results from one seat withheld due to a court order. Of the 44 seats whose results were announced, only five managed to cross the national average.

The remaining 39 recorded turnout levels up to 22.02 percentage points lower, according to the final result sheets compiled by returning offices.

None of the five constituencies with the highest turnout -- all above 77 percent -- were in the city corporation areas. These are Chuadanga-2 (78.27 percent), Jashore-6 (77.90 percent), Jhenaidah-3 (77.84 percent), Naogaon-1 (77.52 percent), and Panchagarh-1 (77.41 percent).

By contrast, four of the five seats with the lowest turnout were in the urban area. Dhaka-12 recorded 37.42 percent turnout, over 22 percentage points below

the national average. Gopalganj-2 followed at 39.83 percent, while Chattogram-9 (41.02 percent), Chattogram-11 (41.73 percent), and Chattogram-10 (43.49 percent) ranked among the seats with the lowest turnout.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque, director

government benefit lists. In cities, this fear does not exist.

"The election was different in one crucial respect: many Awami League supporters refrained from voting. In cities, it was relatively easy for them to stay away from the polls. In rural areas, it was difficult due to the fear of identification

TURNOUTS IN CITY CONSTITUENCIES			
LOWEST		HIGHEST	
Dhaka-12	37.42%	Rangpur-2	68.59%
Chattogram-9	41.02%	Rajshahi-2	63.73%
Chattogram-11	41.73%	Rangpur-3	63.71%

of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University, said city turnout reflects a global trend: people in urban areas often cast fewer ballots compared to rural voters.

"Urban residents tend to believe that, whether they vote or not, politics will remain unchanged and the country will continue on the same course as before," he said.

In contrast, rural voters feel a stronger compulsion to go to polling centres. They fear that if they do not cast their votes, their names might be removed from

and the potential loss of benefits," he added.

According to EC data, Dhaka city experienced widespread erosion in voter participation.

Turnout figures across Dhaka's constituencies reveal a consistent pattern of lower participation compared to the national average. In fact, none of Dhaka's constituencies crossed the national average.

In Dhaka-4, voter turnout stood at 45.41 percent, 14.03 percentage points below the national average. Similar gaps

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Barishal Bar chief held over court vandalism

HC issues contempt rule against 9 lawyers

STAR REPORT

Barishal District Bar Association President Sadiqur Rahman Linkon was arrested and sent to jail yesterday on charges of vandalising a courtroom and making derogatory remarks about a judge, who granted bail to Awami League leader and former MP Talukder Mohammad Yunus in a criminal case.

Besides, the High Court issued a contempt of court rule against Linkon, a pro-BNP lawyer, and eight other lawyers in connection with the incident.

Detectives held Linkon from the Bar Association office in a case filed by Rajib Majumdar, bench assistant of Barishal's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Linkon and 11 other lawyers were accused in the case filed with Kotwali Police Station, said Shafiqul Islam, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police.

Police produced him before the court

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Israel behind two-thirds of journo deaths in 2025

CPJ says 129 were killed last year

AFP, New York

A record 129 journalists and media workers were killed worldwide in 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said yesterday, blaming Israel for two-thirds of the deaths.

It was the second consecutive annual record for press deaths and the deadliest year since the CPJ began collecting data more than three decades ago.

"Journalists are being killed in record numbers at a time when access to information is more important than ever," CEO Jodie Ginsberg said in a statement. "We are all at risk when journalists are killed for reporting the news."

Over three-quarters of all the fatalities in 2025 were in conflict settings, the CPJ said in its report. More than 60 percent of the 86 members of the press killed by Israeli fire in 2025 were Palestinians reporting from Gaza, it added.

The Israeli military maintains that it never deliberately targets journalists. The number of journalists killed in Ukraine and Sudan also increased in 2025 compared to a year earlier.

The CPJ highlighted a rise in drones being used, with 39 cases documented, including 28 killings by Israel in Gaza and five by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan.

In Ukraine, four journalists were killed by Russian

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner plays a commanding shot during his team's 61-run win over former champions Sri Lanka in a Super Eights Group 2 clash of the T20 World Cup at Colombo's R Premadasa Stadium yesterday, a result that, following two straight losses, eliminated the co-hosts who still have a match to play. After Santner (47 off 26 balls) stitched an 84-run partnership with Cole McConchie to lift the Black Caps from 84 for six to 168 for seven, Sri Lanka limped to 107 for eight, with Rachin Ravindra taking four wickets. PHOTO: AFP

Economic priorities the government should focus on
P6

HASANAH ISLAMIC BANKING
البنكية الاسلامي
Prime Bank

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 26
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:10 12:45 4:30 6:01 7:30
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:45 6:11 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING
RAMADAN FEB SEHRI IFTAR
8 26 6:01
9 27 5:06 6:02
10 28 5:05 6:02