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GDP growth slows to 3.03% in Q2

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US airman rescue may mask bid to steal uranium: Iran

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Bangladesh's obsession with age-level success

P11

PDB'S SUMMER POWER PLAN

60% capacity of gas plants to stay unutilised

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government's underutilisation of power plants is likely to worsen this summer due to shortages of gas, coal, and furnace oil caused by US-Israel war on Iran and financial constraints.

Around 40 percent of the overall capacity is expected to remain idle during peak demand between 7:00pm and 9:00pm. Gas-fired plants are likely to be used the least.

Out of the total 12,204 megawatts (MW) of gas-fired capacity, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) will be able to use at best 5,200MW, leaving nearly 7,000MW offline.

This means about 60 percent of gas-fired capacity may remain unutilised throughout the summer, while capacity charges will continue to be paid, according to the PDB's summer plan.

Even yesterday, at least 17 gas-fired power plants, out of a total of 57, were either not running or producing less than their capacities due to gas shortages.

To fully utilise the country's gas-fired power capacity, the PDB requires around 2,524 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMcf/d).

With the overall gas supply now at 2,650 MMcf/d, Petrobangla, the state-owned supplier, must ration allocations to power plants, industries, fertiliser factories, and homes.

An internal PDB analysis states that it needs at least 1,200 MMcf/d of gas to run power plants during the summer peak projected demand of



A farmer harvesting half-ripe paddy in Hakaluki Haor of Moulvibazar yesterday, as heavy rains and upstream water have submerged Boro on thousands of hectares. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

INSTALLED CAPACITY VS GENERATION (IN MW)

FUEL TYPE	CAPACITY	POSSIBILITY*
Gas	12,204	5,130
Coal	6,203	5,700
Furnace Oil	5,634	3,500
Diesel	768	0
Solar & wind	829	20
Hydro	230	40
Imported power	1,200	1,000
Import from Adani	1,436	1,436
Total	28,504	16,826
Demand in peak		18,500
Shortfall		1,674

* Maximum production during peak time

11 of top 20 loan defaulters linked to S Alam Group

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The top 20 loan defaulters whose names were disclosed yesterday in parliament owe more than Tk 35,000 crore, with the majority of the companies belonging to the controversial S Alam Group.

Among the top 20 defaulters, 11 defaulting companies directly or indirectly belong to the Chattogram-based business group, and a major portion of the loans was taken from Islami Bank and state-run Janata Bank.

Founded in 1985 by Mohammed Saiful Alam, a relative of former Awami League politician Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and former Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, S Alam Group has grown into one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh.

The group accounted for 80 percent of Islami Bank's total loans as it dominated its board from 2017 to August 2024. It also dominated the board of Social Islami Bank.

Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday provided

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Bad loans stand at Tk 5.45 lakh crore

Finance minister in JS names top 20 loan-defaulter companies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The total defaulted loans in the banking sector reached Tk 5.45 lakh crore at the end of last year, said Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday.

The amount is four times the total project cost of the Rooppur nuclear power plant, Bangladesh's most expensive project.

In his response to a query from National Citizen Party MP Hasnat Abdullah, Khosru also provided a list of the top 20 loan defaulters, with nine of them being subsidiaries of the controversial Chattogram-based sprawling conglomerate S Alam Group.

The nine S Alam companies are S Alam Super Edible Oil, S Alam Vegetable Oil, S Alam Refined Sugar Industries, S Alam Cold Rolled Steels,

The amount is four times the total project cost of the Rooppur nuclear power plant, Bangladesh's most expensive project.

Sonali Traders, Global Trading Corporation, Chemon Ispat, S Alam Trading Company, and Infinite CR Strips Industries.

The other defaulters in the list are Bangladesh Export Import Company (Beximco), Keya Cosmetics, Deshbandhu Sugar Mills, PowerPac Mutiara Keraniganj Power Plant, PowerPac Mutiara Jamalpur Power Plant, Pacific Bangladesh Telecom, Karnafuly Foods, Murad Enterprise, CLC

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

2 bills tabled to repeal judicial ordinances

Another to reintroduce NHRC law of 2009

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman yesterday placed two bills in parliament, seeking to repeal three ordinances on judicial independence, judges' appointments, and the budgetary authority entrusted to the Supreme Court Secretariat.

He also tabled the National Human Rights Commission (Repeal and Reinstatement) Bill, 2026, to reintroduce the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009.

Discussions on the three bills would take place later in the House, Asaduzzaman said, as there are notes of dissent from members of the parliamentary special committee tasked with scrutinising the 133 ordinances adopted by the interim government.

Three Jamaat-e-Islami MPs issued notes of dissent on all three.

The law minister placed the Supreme Court Judges Appointment (Repeal) Bill, 2026, to repeal the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

'HISTORIC DAY' Astronauts farther than any human ever gone

AFP, Houston

The four astronauts embarking on Nasa's lunar flyby yesterday became the humans to travel furthest from our planet, as they get set to view areas of the Moon never before seen by the naked eye.

The Artemis II team broke the previous record set by 1970's Apollo 13 mission, which they are expected to surpass by approximately 6,606 kilometers when they reach this journey's furthest distance from Earth -- 252,760 miles (406,778 kilometers) -- later today.

The astronauts are journeying around the Moon for a monumental flyby, in which they'll spend more than six hours analysing and documenting lunar surface features.

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To get relief from the scorching sun, bikers stand in the shade of roadside trees, covering their vehicles with cloth, as they wait in queue for fuel at a filling station in Khulna's Dumuria yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

US can 'take out' entire Iran in a day

Says Trump, threatens to destroy all of its bridges, power plants in 4 hours if Tehran ignores deadline

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said the US military can destroy all of Iran's bridges and power plants in four hours, or even take out the entire country, if Tehran does not meet his deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, as Tehran

of sanctions, and reconstruction, the agency added.

"We have a plan -- because of the power of our military -- where every bridge in Iran will be decimated by 12 o'clock tomorrow night, where every power plant in Iran will be out of business, burning, exploding and never to be used again,"

Israeli strikes kill Iran Guards intel chief

EU chief says targeting civilian infrastructure 'illegal'

Iran rejects ceasefire, demands end to conflict

Trump says Tuesday's deadline final

pushed back against pressure to accept a ceasefire.

Responding to a US proposal through mediator Pakistan, Tehran rejected the ceasefire and said a permanent end to the war was necessary.

The Iranian response consisted of 10 clauses, including an end to conflicts in the region, a protocol for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, lifting

Trump said at a press conference. "I mean complete demolition by 12 o'clock (midnight), and it'll happen over a period of four hours -- if we wanted to."

Trump, who has threatened to rain "hell" on Tehran if it did not make a deal by 8:00pm EDT Tuesday (midnight GMT) to open the vital route for global energy supplies, rejected the Iranian proposal

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Explosives found near gas pipeline to Hungary

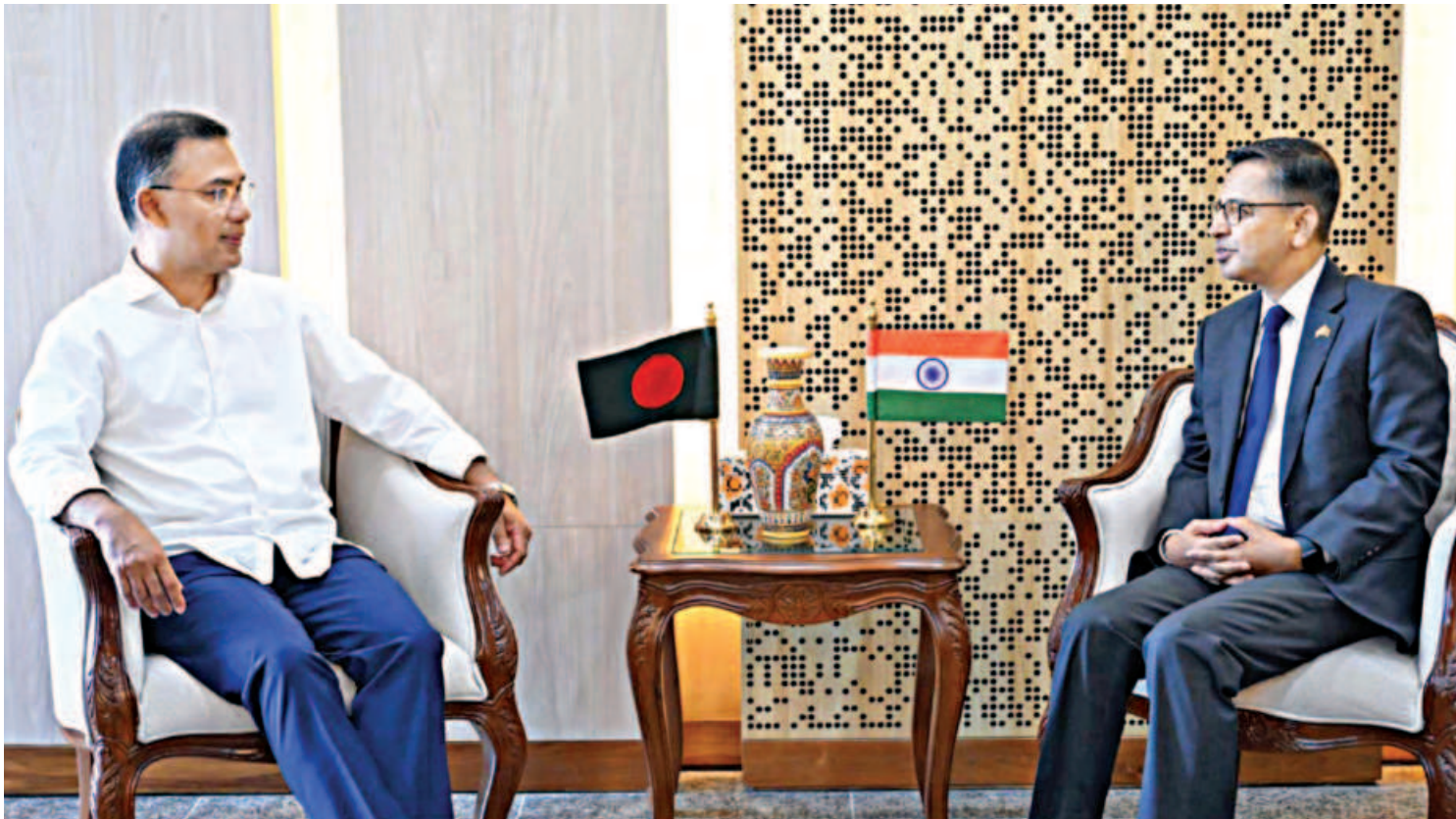
Serbian president says

AFP, Belgrade

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said the army and police had found two backpacks containing explosives Sunday near a gas pipeline to Hungary, prompting Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban to call an emergency meeting.

Hungary's opposition leader Peter Magyar however suggested the incident could be a "false flag" operation staged to disrupt next Sunday's high-stakes elections in their country.

The backpacks, containing "two large packages of explosives with detonators", were found in Kanjiza in northern Serbia, "a few hundred metres from the gas pipeline", Vucic said.



Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma called on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Cabinet Division office in the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Khalilur starts India tour today

Indian envoy meets PM, signals positive, constructive ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman travels to India today on the first ministerial visit since BNP assumed office, as both sides seek to rebuild relations in a people-centric manner based on mutual respect.

During his April 7-9 visit to New Delhi, he is scheduled to meet India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobar will accompany Khalilur before both fly to Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference on April 11-12, organised by the India Foundation, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Delhi said.

"It's a new relationship between Bangladesh and India. There is nothing like Hasina's Awami League in Bangladesh now," Humaiun Kobar told



SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

11 of top 20 loan defaulters

FROM PAGE 1
the list of the top 20 loan defaulters, but he did not mention the loan amounts they took from the banking sector.

Among the companies on the list, S Alam Super Edible Oil has Tk 4,665 crore in outstanding loans with Islami, Janata, Social Islami, EXIM and Southeast banks until May 2025, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Of that amount, Tk 3,260 crore became defaulted, Tk 1,721 crore of which is with Islami Bank.

Defaulted loans of S Alam Vegetable Oil stood at Tk 4,565 crore, while its total loans amounted to Tk12,711 crore with Islami, Janata, EXIM and Social Islami banks.

Bad loans at S Alam Refined Sugar Industries stood at Tk 2,874 crore, while its total outstanding loans reached Tk 11,666 crore with Islami, Janata and Social Islami banks.

S Alam Cold Rolled Steels defaulted on Tk 3,420 crore of loans with Janata, Islami, EXIM and Social Islami banks, while its total outstanding loans stood at Tk 5,713 crore.

Among S Alam Group companies on the top defaulters list, Sonali Traders had Tk 1,042 crore in bad loans; Global Trading Corporation Tk 2,654 crore; S Alam Trading Company Tk 2,160 crore; and Infinite CR Strips Industries Tk 1,406 crore until May last year.

Chemon Ispat, Murad Enterprise and Karnafuly Foods (Pvt) are also linked to the S Alam Group. The three companies' combined bad loans stood at upwards of Tk1,500 crore.

The 11 companies under the S Alam Group hold at least Tk 22,881 crore as bad loans, which is 65 percent of the total bad loans of the top 20 defaulters.

There are two companies from the Beximco Group in the top defaulters list. Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment affairs adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was the vice-chairman of Beximco Group.

The group took out the majority of its loans from state-run Janata Bank.

Bangladesh Export Import Company has Tk 4,340 crore in bad loans with Agrani, Janata, Sonali, Rupali, AB, National, UCB and EXIM banks.

The company's total loans stood at Tk 5,771 crore until May this year.

Beximco Communications's bad loans stood at Tk 982 crore with Agrani, Rupali and Sonali banks.

Keya Cosmetics, a company of Keya Group, holds Tk 2,139 crore in bad loans with Sonali, National, Southeast, Social Islami, Standard, Premier banks, GSP Finance and Union Capital until May 2025.

PowerPac Mutiara Keraniganj Power Plant and PowerPac Mutiara Jamalpur Power Plant are companies under Sikder Group and they have bad loans of Tk 1,000 crore and Tk 629 crore respectively with Agrani, AB, Social Islami, Union, Global Islami, EXIM and First Security Islami banks.

Rongdhanu Builders, a company of Rangdhanu Group, holds Tk 961 crore in bad loans with Islami, Social Islami, First Security Islami and Union banks.

Astronauts farther

FROM PAGE 1

The Nasa mission had swept earlier into the Moon's gravitational sphere of influence, meaning their spacecraft is in the natural satellite's neighbourhood, with lunar gravity outmuscling Earth's pull.

The Orion capsule is zipping around the Moon before U-turning and heading back to Earth in a so-called "free return trajectory," a return-trip that will take about four days.

Swooping around the far side of the Moon, the crew of four will witness previously hidden lunar territory – the sphere looming large through their capsule windows.

The Moon will appear to the astronauts "about the size of a basketball held at arm's length," Noah Petro, head of the US space agency's planetary geology lab, told AFP.

TOP 20 DEFAULTERS (BAD LOANS DATA AS OF MAY 2025) taka in crore

NAME	DEFAULTED LOANS
S Alam Super Edible Oil Ltd	3260
S Alam Vegetable Oil Ltd	4565
S Alam Refined Sugar	2874
S Alam Cold Rolled Steels	3420
Sonali Traders	1042
BEXIMCO Ltd	4340
Global Trading Corporation	2654
S Alam Trading Company	2160
Infinite CR Strips	1406
Keya Cosmetics	2139
PowerPac Mutiara Keraniganj	1000
PowerPac Mutiara Jamalpur	629
Beximco Communications	982
Rongdhanu Builders	961
CLC Power Company	1640
Deshbandhu Sugar Mills	544
Chemon Ispat	data not available
Murad Enterprise	data not available
Pacific Bangladesh Telecom	1000
Karnafuly Foods (Pvt)	data not available

CLC Power Company, a concern of Maisha Group, founded by late Awami League lawmaker Aslamul Haque, holds Tk1,640 crore in bad loans in different banks, including National Bank.

Pacific Bangladesh Telecom (Citicell), a company owned by the former BNP minister during the Morshed Khan. Its defaulted loans is more than Tk1,000 crore.

Deshbandhu Sugar Mills, a concern of Deshbandhu Group, has bad loans with Social Islami and First Security Islami banks. The company has Tk 544 crore in loans with Social Islami Bank.

2 bills tabled to repeal judicial ordinances

FROM PAGE 1

He also introduced the Supreme Court Secretariat (Repeal) Bill, 2026, to repeal both the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025, and the Supreme Court Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

The ordinances aimed to create judicial posts and support the development of the judiciary, with budgetary authority entrusted to the Supreme Court Secretariat under the chief justice's control.

According to the ordinances, under the secretariat's full operation, authority over the transfer, promotion, and discipline of lower court judges would also be vested in the SC.

Although the constitution requires a law for appointing judges, such legislation has yet to be enacted. In 2025, the interim government issued the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance to establish a process under which suitable candidates would be selected and the chief justice would advise the president on appointments.

Out of 133 ordinances issued during the interim government, the parliamentary special committee recommended approval of 98 in their original form and 15 in amended form. Of the remaining 20, it proposed repealing four and introducing new bills to strengthen the other 16.

Meanwhile, Land Minister Mizanur Rahman Minu introduced the Land Use Control and Agricultural Land Protection Bill, 2026, to regulate land use and safeguard agricultural land.

SEVEN BILLS PASSED
The parliament yesterday passed seven bills.

Six of them approved ordinances that were issued during the interim government: Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, Delimitation of Constituencies (Amendment) Bill, Election Commission Secretariat (Amendment) Bill, Election Officers (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, Voter List (Amendment) Bill, and Bangladesh Law Officers (Amendment) Bill. One bill repealed the National Parliament Secretariat (Interim Special Provisions) Ordinance.

Law Minister Asaduzzaman introduced the bills during a session chaired by Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal. With no amendments proposed, he put them to direct voice votes, and all were passed without debate.

A special committee had earlier recommended that these ordinances be approved in their existing form, and parliament passed them accordingly.

PROCEDURAL CONCERNS
Standing on a point of order, Jamaat MP Saiful Alam Khan said members had received the 49-page copy of the Voter List (Amendment) Bill only moments before, instead of three days in advance as required.

The deputy speaker acknowledged the procedural rule but cited the speaker's special authority to condone the time period.

Chief Whip Nurul Islam said all 133 ordinances must be passed by April 9, and due to time constraints, copies could not be distributed earlier.

He expressed regret and assured that bills carrying dissent notes or proposed amendments would be presented separately by the next day.

Legislative proceedings resumed following the exchange.

Bad loans stand at Tk 5.45 lakh crore

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Power Company, Beximco Communications and Rongdhanu Builders.

Loans involving current members of parliament and their related entities amount to Tk 11,117.31 crore.

"It is to be noted that as per the directions of the court, the total amount of defaulted loans of Tk 3,330.08 crore has not been shown as defaulted."

Outlining steps to recover defaulted loans, Khosru said the government is holding quarterly meetings with senior management of banks where classified loans exceed 10 percent to identify obstacles to recovery and resolve them.

Progress in recovering loans from top defaulters is being reviewed at each bankers' meeting organised by the Bangladesh Bank.

The central bank has also formulated guidelines for resolving classified loans

in banks with high default rates.

In addition, a policy has been introduced to identify wilful defaulters and take action against them under the Banking Companies (Amendment) Act.

Banks have been instructed to strengthen their legal departments and set targets to recover at least 1 percent of their defaulted loan balances in cash by June 30 using Alternative Dispute Resolution, Khosru said.

The government has taken different steps to resolve the problem of defaulted loans, such as the amendment of existing laws like the Bank Company Act, Negotiable Instrument Act, Money Laundering Court Act, Bankruptcy Act, etc.

The short-term agricultural loan rescheduling policy is being reviewed and updated, while the list of defaulters and wilful defaulters will be published.

The existing policies regarding

incentives for those who repay loans regularly will be reviewed, while good borrowers will be identified with the aim of developing a better credit culture in the country.

The maximum limit for borrowing by a borrower from the entire banking sector will be set.

Steps also include taking initiatives for necessary legal reforms to impose some of the measures taken for wilful defaulters on defaulting borrowers as well; inclusion of experienced bankers in the judge panel/jury board of the money lending court; taking necessary measures in consultation with the Attorney General to ensure that defaulting borrowers cannot stall debt collection activities by filing writs; and enact necessary legislation to establish Asset Management Companies (AMCs) in the private sector.

60% capacity of gas plants to stay unutilised

FROM PAGE 1

As a result, officials forecast load shedding of around 2,000MW during peak hours, translating into two to three hours of outages nationwide.

For the first time this year, there was 1,000MW of load shedding yesterday. The demand was 14,800MW.

CAPACITY CHARGE BURDEN
Local power plants operate under contracts with the PDB that guarantee a portion of payments to operators regardless of actual electricity generation, ostensibly against their investments.

Inflated capacity charges in these deals have been costing Bangladesh up to \$1.5 billion annually, according to a national committee formed during the interim government to review unsolicited contracts signed under the Awami League regime.

The committee warned that unless agreements with at least 41 plants are renegotiated, the country could face about \$7.2 billion in excess payments over the remaining life of the deals.

M Shamsul Alam, professor of electrical and electronic engineering at Daffodil University, said the service for which the plants were rented was never fully provided, with contractors and "deal-makers" benefiting at the people's expense.

He noted that underutilisation of plants is not solely linked to current geopolitical tensions, as coal supply is not dependent on the Strait of Hormuz.

"Coal plants were utilised at only 45 percent capacity last year, though they were designed to run at 90 percent as

baseload plants are designed to run continuously. If those plants operated properly, we could save Tk 25,000 to 30,000 crore annually by not having to buy liquid fuel," he said.

GAS SHORTAGE
The country requires around 3,825 MMcf/d of gas to meet the demand for power, industries, fertiliser, domestic consumers and non-grid power.

However, as of yesterday, Petrobangla is supplying 2,650 MMcf/d, with 1,698 MMcf/d from local gas sources and 952 MMcf/d from imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Domestic gas production has been in decline since 2018, when the local production was around 2,500 MMcf/d. Over the last couple of years, the country's largest producing gas field, Bibiyana, has been producing less and less due to dwindling reserves.

COAL SCENARIO
The PDB expects around 5,700MW of power from coal-fired plants. The country has installed 6,203MW capacity across seven plants, alongside an agreement with Adani Power (Jharkhand, India) Ltd to import 1,496MW.

As of yesterday, official data shows local plants were producing up to 4,100MW, while Adani Power supplied around 750MW.

One of Adani's two units was shut for maintenance, while the 1,200MW Matarbari plant was generating only 320MW due to coal shortages.

In addition, all three units of the Barapukuria power plant, with a combined capacity of 524MW, were

producing just 50MW because of technical issues, the records show.

FURNACE OIL
The country has furnace oil-based power plants with a capacity of 5,634MW, from which the PDB expects to generate up to 3,500MW this summer.

At the evening peak (9:00pm) yesterday, furnace oil plants produced 2,800MW. These plants are typically operated only during peak hours, as furnace oil is the costliest source of fuel.

The situation is further complicated by mounting dues to power plants. Operators have warned they may not sustain production unless payments are cleared, raising the risk of deeper supply cuts.

RENEWABLES
The country has installed 1,059MW of renewable capacity – just 3.7 percent of the total – with solar at 757MW, hydro 230MW and wind 62MW.

The 11 solar plants across the country support only daytime peak hours, providing up to 500MW and easing pressure on furnace oil plants.

The lone hydro facility at Kaptai operates at full capacity only during the monsoon, when water levels are high. During evening peak hours, 80MW is currently available from the hydro plant, with output fluctuating in line with water pressure, data shows.

The country's sole wind mill in Cox's Bazar has an installed capacity of 60MW. Since output depends on wind speed, generation under current weather conditions is around 20MW, data also shows.

US can 'take out' entire Iran in a day

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday and said his deadline was final.

"They made a proposal, and it's a significant proposal. It's a significant step. It's not good enough," Trump told reporters at an annual White House Easter event, referring to Iran.

Iran responded to US and Israeli attacks in February by effectively closing Hormuz, a conduit for about a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas supply. The waterway's stranglehold on the global economy has proved a powerful Iranian bargaining chip.

The Pakistani-brokered framework for ending the war emerged from intense overnight contacts and proposes an immediate ceasefire, followed by talks on a broader peace settlement to be concluded within 15 to 20 days, a source aware of the proposals said yesterday.

Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, was in contact "all night long" with US Vice President JD Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, the source said.

However, the prospect of a deal looks slim.

"The entire country could be taken out in one night, and that night might be tomorrow night," Trump said as he brushed off concerns that hitting Iran's

power facilities and bridges – a tactic that Russia has also used in its invasion of Ukraine – would be a war crime.

"I'm not worried about it," Trump said when asked what he would say to those who allege that striking energy facilities would breach the laws of war. "You know the war crime? The war crime is allowing Iran to have a nuclear weapon."

Asked again about the issue, he said Iran's leaders were "animals" who had killed tens of thousands of protesters.

He also argued that Iranians were willing to suffer for their freedom, saying the United States had intercepted communications urging them to "please keep bombing."

Trump also said that if it were up to him, he would seize Iran's oil, but that "unfortunately, the American people would like to see us come home" and end the war.

"I'd keep the oil, and I would make plenty of money," Trump said, adding that Americans who opposed the Iran war were "foolish."

In a post laden with expletives on his Truth Social platform on Sunday, Trump threatened further strikes on Iranian energy and transport infrastructure if Iran failed to make a deal and reopen the Strait by his deadline.

Amid the war of words, fresh aerial strikes were reported across the region

yesterday.

Iranian state media said the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence chief, Majid Khademi, has died. Israel claimed responsibility for his death.

A US Israeli attack hit the data centre at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, damaging infrastructure underpinning the country's national artificial intelligence platform and thousands of other services, Fars News Agency said on Sunday.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, in a statement issued yesterday, threatened to destroy Iran's infrastructure and hunt down its leaders "one by one." The Israeli military also said they had targeted Iran's air force through a series of strikes on the Bahram, Mehrabad, and Azmayesh airports over the previous night.

Iran yesterday said two of its petrochemical complexes were attacked.

Emergency and firefighting teams brought a blaze under control at the South Pars complex in Asaluyeh, Iran's National Petrochemical Company said. No casualties were reported.

An Israeli attack in mid-March on the South Pars gas field that Iran shares with Qatar prompted an escalation in the war, with Iran striking energy targets across the Middle East.

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5% of GDP to be allocated for health sector: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said five percent of GDP will be allocated to the health sector in phases to ensure the healthcare system is for everyone.

In a message on the eve of World Health Day 2026, he also said preventive healthcare activities will be expanded alongside quality medical services, including comprehensive maternal and child healthcare in both urban and rural areas.

He said one lakh
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Participants at a roundtable, titled 'Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Bangladeshi News Media', organised by The Daily Star and Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was supported by the UNDP. PHOTO: STAR

Self-regulation needed amid shift in AI

Say media leaders at Star-MRDI policy dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism offers unprecedented opportunities, but it also raises urgent ethical concerns, industry experts warned at a policy dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

The event, titled "Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Bangladeshi News Media," was organised by The Daily Star and Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) at The Daily Star Centre and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Speaking at the programme, Shakhawat Liton, executive editor of The Business Standard, cautioned against legal regulation of AI in media.

"Our political and social culture is such that whenever a problem arises, we want to solve it through laws. By moving towards a legal framework for AI, we are indirectly handing the government another tool to control the media," he said, adding that laws are generally designed to constrain rather than empower freedom.

Shawkat Hossain, head of online news management at Prothom Alo, argued that AI regulations should align with a media outlet's editorial policy, and outsiders have no jurisdiction to dictate such rules.

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'Two-thirds JS majority a curse for Bangladesh'

Speakers slam govt over repeal of key rights ordinances at dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-thirds majority in parliament has historically been a "curse" for Bangladesh's politics, speakers at a citizens' dialogue said yesterday, expressing concern over recent moves affecting judicial independence and protections against enforced disappearance.

The discussion, titled "Repeal of the ordinance on judicial independence and suspension of the ordinance on prevention and remedy of enforced disappearance: A threat to progress in good governance and human rights," was organised by Voice for Reform at BDBL Bhaban in Karwan Bazar. Speakers warned that repealing the ordinance on judicial independence and suspending the one on enforced disappearance pose a direct threat to good governance and human rights.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said the country must learn from past experiences following the 1973, 2001, and 2008 elections.

"Whenever a party secured a two-thirds majority, the consequences were negative," he said, adding that
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Jamaat ameer warns of 'neo-fascism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A "renewed journey of fascism" began in the country when the people's verdict in the referendum was denied, said Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman.

"We will stop this course and not allow it to proceed," he said at the founding anniversary of Jatiya Ganotantrik Party yesterday.

Praying for Bangladesh to be freed from "neo-fascism", Shafiqur called on all citizens to join the movement.

Criticising the parliament, the opposition leader said that it had failed to understand and respect people's aspirations.

"We are therefore returning to the people from parliament to implement the referendum verdict. This is just the beginning. This movement is for 180 million people."
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Fuel crisis threatens water taxi shutdown

Half of trips of the Hatirjheel-based service suspended; passengers face long waits

SHAMIMARITA

The Hatirjheel water taxi service in the capital is facing the risk of a complete shutdown as the ongoing fuel crisis begins to hit the alternative transport system, operators said.

Since Eid-ul-Fitr, trips have been reduced to conserve fuel, with nearly 50 percent of trips already suspended. Passengers are now facing long waits, increasing their hardship.

According to authorities, around 10,000 to 15,000 passengers use the service daily, many of whom rely on it to avoid road congestion. However, uncertainty is growing as fuel shortages persist.

Operators warned that if the fuel supply is not restored soon, even the reduced services may be halted.

Among 15 boats of the

water taxi service, 12 to 13 usually operate on four routes -- FDC, Rampura Bridge, Gudaraghat, and Police Plaza.

Among them, three large vessels can carry up to 215 passengers, but not all boats

FDC and Rampura, while two were running on the Police Plaza-Gulshan route. Passenger numbers were also lower than usual.

Many passengers expressed frustration as boats did not



are running regularly due to fuel constraints, disrupting schedules.

During a visit to FDC and Rampura ghats on Sunday afternoon, four boats were seen lying idle. Only three boats were operating between
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Country targets trillion-dollar economy by 2034

Finance minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday informed the parliament that the government aims to transform Bangladesh into a trillion-dollar economy by 2034.

In response to a question from Dhaka-18 MP SM Jahangir Hossain, the minister said the government has prepared an action plan considering investment, employment, economic democratisation, creative economy, sports economy, and other sectors to achieve the milestone of a trillion-dollar economy.

The minister said according to the latest official data published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the per capita income in the fiscal year 2024-25 stands at US \$2,769.

To raise per capita income, the government is simultaneously prioritising employment, investment, production, exports, remittances, skills development, social protection, and macroeconomic stability.

In response to a question from Feni-2 MP Zainal Abidin, the finance minister said that in the context of the Middle East war, the government
SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Baul Abul Sarkar gets bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six months' ad-interim bail to renowned baul singer Maharaj Abul Sarkar in a case filed over "hurting religious sentiments".

The court also issued a rule asking the government why Abul Sarkar should not be granted permanent bail in the case.

The HC bench of Justice Md Atowar Rahman and Justice Md Sagir Hossain Leon issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Abul Sarkar seeking bail.

On November 19 last year, Abul Sarkar was arrested and sent to jail in Manikganj in the case filed by Mufti Md Abdullah, imam of Ghior Bandar Mosque.
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE Ex-Jubo Dal leader files complaint against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Jubo Dal leader yesterday lodged a complaint with the prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), accusing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several former top officials of enforced disappearance and torture.

Moshiur Rahman Mamun submitted the complaint to Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam, naming former DGF chief Lt Gen (retd) Sheikh Mamun Khaled, former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and others.

Mamun claimed he was first picked up in 2013 and held in secret detention for six days when Mamun Khaled was DGF chief.

He alleged that he was again detained on February 23, 2015, while heading to Thailand from Dhaka airport, and kept blindfolded and handcuffed by plainclothes law
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Members of indigenous communities from the Chittagong Hill Tracts perform a traditional dance at the Biju fair, which began in Rangamati yesterday afternoon. The five-day event features competitions in Goriya dance, bamboo pole walking, Ghila, Latim and Pajon cooking, marking preparations for the upcoming Biju celebrations from April 12 to 14. PHOTO: RIKORS CHAKMA

Govt orders fairs, cultural events to end by 7pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has directed deputy commissioners (DCs) in all 64 districts to ensure that cultural programmes, trade fairs, and billboard lighting are shut down by 7:00pm, in a stricter move to save electricity and fuel.

The Cabinet Division issued the instruction to divisional commissioners and DCs yesterday.

Earlier, the government reduced office hours by one hour and ordered shops and shopping malls to close by 7:00pm. Through these measures, it aims to save 3,100MW of electricity daily.

Following last week's cabinet meeting, authorities moved to enforce the closing time for shops, initially set at 6:00pm and later revised to 7:00pm. The latest directive extends the restrictions to cultural events and billboards.

Self-regulation

FROM PAGE 3
Echoing this, Dr Md Saiful Alam Chowdhury, associate professor at Dhaka University, warned that seeking government regulation, given the authorities' current level of AI literacy, could invite disaster.

Journalist Talat Mamun suggested that if 10 to 15 leading media houses set their own AI standards, it would create a trend, allowing the sector to self-regulate effectively.

MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman outlined plans to develop a comprehensive AI guideline applicable to print, online, and television platforms, which any media organisation could adopt with ease.

Speakers also highlighted current AI applications in Bangladeshi media.

Shawkat noted that the 60-word news summaries in Prothom Alo's "Shorts" app are almost entirely AI-generated. Yet, a lack of AI training among journalists remains a critical concern.

Kamal Ahmed, consulting editor at The Daily Star, said, "We are still far behind in using AI. But we cannot remain detached from this train. No matter

how late, we have to get on board."

Md Al Mamun, country director of BBC Media Action, stressed the importance of major investments in AI training, warning that unskilled oversight could result in significant errors.

Dr Sumon Rahman of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) highlighted the intellectual necessity of mastering "prompt writing" to avoid bias and misinformation.

Dr Susan Vize, Unesco representative in Bangladesh, described the UN's role in training journalists on AI tools, noting that around 3,500 journalists were trained alongside the Press Institute Bangladesh before the elections.

"I was actually a little bit surprised at the lack of knowledge of many of these people about AI," she said.

She stressed the urgent need for localised, flexible codes of practice in Bangladesh and suggested that regional examples, such as those in Southeast Europe, could provide guidance to balance AI-driven efficiency with accountability and reliability.

Country

FROM PAGE 3
has taken initiatives to import fuel and LNG from alternative sources to ensure energy security.

"Given the sharp rise in international fuel prices, the government has sought budget support from development partners and adopted various measures for energy savings," he added.

The minister explained that despite global instability, commodity price pressures, external transaction challenges, weaknesses in the banking sector, and economic disruptions created in the past, the current government has already taken a series of measures to make the economy stronger, more stable, and more dynamic.

Responding to a question from Kushtia-1 MP Reza Ahmed, the finance minister said the government has adopted integrated measures based on stability, reform, investment, employment, social protection, and good governance to accelerate economic development and will continue to do so in the future.

Two-thirds JS majority

FROM PAGE 3
such dominance enabled controversial constitutional amendments, interference in the judiciary, and a weakened electoral system.

He questioned the hesitation over the ordinances, noting they had already received public endorsement through a referendum. With 10 out of 14 members in agreement, he said, it was unreasonable to delay decisions based on dissent from a few.

"A two-thirds majority has repeatedly proved a curse. Absolute power erodes judgement," he added.

Photographer and activist Shahidul Alam said many in the current government had themselves been victims of enforced disappearance, making their stance difficult to understand.

He said he had personally spoken to the law minister, who reportedly expressed a desire to introduce a stronger law. "But my question is - what is the problem with adopting the current ordinance for now and amending it later?" Political analyst Dr Dilara Chowdhury described enforced disappearance as "state terror" and one of the gravest human rights violations.

"Repealing the Enforced Disappearance Prevention Ordinance means it would give law enforcement a licence for such practices," she said, adding the move appeared influenced by an

"invisible force".

AB Party Chairman Mojibur Rahman Monju said the aim of the mass uprising was to restore weakened state institutions, but the government and BNP now appear to be reverting to old practices.

Cumilla-4 MP Hasnat Abdullah warned that abandoning reforms while relying on majority power could lead to another uprising. The 2024 uprising was meant to transform the state, not just change individuals, he said, adding, "If the previous system remains intact, then any individual could eventually become another Hasina."

He also criticised placing the Human Rights Commission under government control, saying it could shift investigative authority back to the home ministry and allow police to investigate allegations against themselves.

Tasnim Jara, independent candidate for Dhaka 9, said maintaining the Supreme Judicial Council and anti-enforced disappearance ordinance is essential for the rule of law, warning that weakening them would invite political interference.

Lawyer and activist Manzur Al Matin, rights activist Ruby Amatulillah, and journalist Ashraf Kaiser also spoke, among others.

The event was moderated by Voice for Reform Co-coordinator Fahim Mashroor.

Fuel crisis threatens water taxi

FROM PAGE 3
waiting for 45 minutes. I will stop using this service after today."

Another passenger, Emon Mia, a student of Tejgaon Government College, said delays have worsened since Eid.

"Earlier, taxi left with five to six passengers. Now we wait around 30 minutes. Even if there are 12 passengers on board, the operators keep waiting," he said.

Authorities said boats are being operated under a rationing system to cope with the fuel shortage. Each vehicle requires about 30 litres of diesel daily, but currently receives only 15 to 20 litres, allowing operations for about four hours. At least five litres must be kept in reserve to avoid engine damage.

During peak hours between 7:00am and 11:30am, 11 boats operate. Services are then reduced to three or four boats around noon to conserve

fuel, before increasing again after 4:00pm.

Talking to this correspondent, FDC ghat ticket checker Saiful Islam said the company is not receiving adequate fuel service. Four taxis are out of service, while the rest operate mainly during peak hours.

Water Taxi JT In-Charge Md Joynal Abedin said daily fuel demand is around 350 to 400 litres, but only about 200 litres are currently supplied.

"Trips are being reduced due to the shortage. If the situation continues, we may have to shut down, as we don't have a reserve," he said.

"We have reduced trips between 11:30am and 4:00pm to save fuel. However, we are trying to maintain services during morning and afternoon peak hours," he added.

Operated by Karim Group under Rajuk supervision, the service has been running for 10 years. Morshedul Alam, manager (operations) of the company, said they have never faced such a crisis before.

"We are operating only about 50 percent of services, prioritising peak hours to minimise inconveniences for officegoers. During other times, boats are not operated unless there are 15 to 25 passengers."

"Unlike before, we can no longer run boats with fewer passengers. We have no fuel reserve. Whatever diesel we receive is used the same day," he added.

He added that sales have dropped by around 50 percent, making it difficult to sustain operations. "If diesel supply stops completely, we will have no option but to shut down."

Launched on December 16, 2016, under the Hatirjheel Integrated Development Project, the service became popular among commuters from Badda, Rampura, and Gulshan as an alternative to congested roads.

5% of GDP to be allocated

FROM PAGE 3
healthcare workers will be recruited in phases, and 80 percent of them will be women.

The premier said his government plans to introduce e-health cards for every citizen and ensure rapid and quality treatment for chronic and multifactorial diseases through public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives.

The government will implement necessary reforms to improve service quality and keep treatment costs affordable, introduce and gradually expand health insurance, strengthen medical education and research, and enact fair laws for

both service providers and recipients, he said.

"To achieve these goals, five percent of GDP will be allocated to the health sector in phases," he added.

Tarique Rahman reaffirmed the government's commitment to building a healthy and safe world for future generations.


World Health Day 2026 will be observed today in Bangladesh as well as across the world with the theme "Together for Health, Stand with Science," he noted.

He said human beings, animals, and the environment - these three components are closely interconnected as the safety and well-being of one is dependent on others.

Therefore, protection of all forms of life is a demand of the time, he said, adding that this is the concept of "One Health", which emphasises not only human well-being but also the health of surrounding living beings and the environment.

"Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a fundamental human right," he said, urging all to fulfil their responsibilities with honesty, dedication, and sincerity to help build a healthy and strong nation.

The premier also extended sincere greetings and congratulations to everybody in the health sector and wished success to all programmes on World Health Day.



"Say No to Corruption, Adhere to Integrity"

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj.

"Energy security is the top priority"

Amendment of e-Tender Notice

Reference No.: 28.18.0000.000.039.07.0011.2025-26/803

Date: 05/04/2026

Tender Package Description	Tender ID	Tender Document Last Selling/Downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing/Opening Date and Time
Procurement of Rotary, Turbine Gas Meter with EVC	1220751	27-April-2026 at 10:00 AM	27-April-2026 at 2:00 PM	27-April-2026 at 3:00 PM

1) This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.


3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposit online through any registered bank's branches.

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

PGPR-39/2025-2026 (3 x 4")

General Manager (Administration)
e-mail: gm.admin@gpgcl.org.bd
Contact No.01730357237

GD-738



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

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212

সারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৭১৩.০৭.০০২.২৬.১৯৩

Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ০৬/০৪/২০২৬খিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি


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

ID	Title of Works
1252888	Purchase of Roller Blinds of Mahasthangarh 132/33 kV, Sherpur (Bogura) 132/33 kV, Joypurhat 132/33 kV and Bogura 132/33 kV Substation & Training Center Under GMD, Bogura.
1252896	Repair & Maintenance of IP Camera Under GMD, Power grid, Bogura.
1252915	Supply And Installation of rooftop lightning protection system for the control room building at Mahasthangarh Grid substation under GMD, Power Grid, Bogura.

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

মোঃ মামনুর রশীদ সরদার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, বগুড়া

GD-738



বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

নং সংস্থা/ব-৫৯/রে- ৭৭৮৬

তারিখ : ০৬ এপ্রিল ২০২৬

আবশ্যিক

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

শিক্ষক পদ

- ১। পেট্রোলিয়াম ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-
- ২। পানি সম্পদ কৌশল বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-
- ৩। কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ৩টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-
- ৪। স্থাপত্য বিভাগ
(ক) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ৪টি স্থায়ী পদ (সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)।
বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-।
(খ) লেকচারার-এর ২টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-
- ৫। পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ
সহকারী অধ্যাপক -এর ২টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-

উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ: ২৯/০৪/২০২৬

সকল পদের বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্যের জন্য বুয়েট ওয়েব সাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্টার অফিসের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

রেজিস্ট্রার

GD-742

Ex-Jubo Dal leader

FROM PAGE 3
enforcers for around six months.

"During my detention, I was inhumanely tortured," he told The Daily Star.

He said he was later handed over to the Detective Branch on August 23 that year and shown arrested the following day.

A few days later, he was produced before a court and placed on remand, and spent nearly two years in Dhaka Central Jail before securing bail from the High Court.

According to a Daily Star report published on August 29, 2015, Mamun was sent to jail after being produced before a Dhaka court following a three-day remand in a case linked to a controversial phone conversation involving Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna and BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Mamun Khaled on a three-day remand in a case over the killing of furniture trader Mohammad Delowar Hossain during the July uprising, taking his total remand to 14 days.

Earlier, ICT-2 asked jail authorities to produce Mamun Khaled and former army officer Lt Gen (retd) Masud Uddin Chowdhury before the tribunal today.

Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam recently said two arrested retired senior military officers were involved in activities that fall within the definition of crimes against humanity, including secret detention, killings and enforced disappearances.

Jamaat ameer warns

FROM PAGE 3
Hinting at the BNP, which formed the government with a two-thirds majority, Shafiqur said, "Those who cannot practise democracy within their own party cannot ensure democracy or security for the people of the country."


"The people gave their verdict, but it was snatched away. Seventy percent of people voted in favour of 'Yes' -- that is the proof."

Shafiqur went on to reaffirm his party's commitment to the referendum outcome.

"We were, are, and will remain in favour of 'Yes'. Whether parliament accepts it or not, we will implement the referendum verdict..."

Addendum-01 to Expression of Interest (EOI) for Franchise Ownership Rights

Women's Bangladesh Premier League T20 (WBPL T20)



Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref: BCB/Franchise Ownership Rights /WBPL T20/ 2026/287

Date: 07th April 2026

ADDENDUM-01

The Addendum is issued by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in connection with the Expression of Interest (EOI) dated 18th February 2026 (Ref: BCB / Franchise Ownership Rights / WBPL T20 / 2026 / 109) and Extension of EOI Submission Deadline dated 06th March, 2026 (Ref: BCB / Franchise Ownership Rights / WBPL T20 / 2026 / 172(ka)) for Franchise Ownership Rights of the Women's Bangladesh Premier League T20 (WBPL T20).

To align the EOI process with the revised tournament schedule and operational requirements, BCB hereby introduces the following amendments:

01. The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is hereby as Monday, 13th April 2026. BCB reserves the right to further extend or modify the timeline if required.
02. All Expressions of Interest submitted pursuant to the original EOI shall remain on record. However, all applicants shall be entitled, but not obligated, to revise, supplement or resubmit their EOIs within the revised timeline. Any applicant who does not submit a revised or supplemented EOI shall be deemed to rely upon its original submission, which shall be evaluated in accordance with the amended terms.
03. All applicants, including new participants, shall be afforded equal opportunity to participate in the process. No applicant shall be disadvantaged by reason of having submitted an EOI prior to this Addendum, and no rights or legitimate expectations shall accrue solely on that basis.
04. Save as expressly amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the EOI shall remain unchanged and shall continue to be valid and binding. This Addendum shall form an integral part of the EOI.

BCB reserves its rights as set out in the EOI, including the right to amend, modify, suspend or cancel the process at any stage without incurring any liability to any party.

WBPL Governing Council
Bangladesh Cricket Board

Management Office : Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216

GD-741



গাজী ওয়ারস লিমিটেড
GAZI WIRES LIMITED
(AN ENTERPRISE OF BSEC UNDER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES)

28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chandgaon, Chattogram-4212

www.gaziwires.gov.bd

email: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com

:International Tender Notice (ICT):

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2	Agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC).
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, Gazi Wires Limited (GWL), 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. E-mail: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com and hopur@gaziwires.gov.bd
4	Invitation for	Procurement 120 M.T Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm.
5	Invitation Ref. No.	36.03.1519.009.030.0001.2026, Date: 05.04.2026.
6	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (ICT) (One Stage Two Envelop System)
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
8	Tender Publication Date	Tender Last Selling Date & Time
	07.04.2026	18.05.2026 19.05.2026 11.30 AM 19.05.2026 11.45AM
9	Name & Address of the officer(s) Address	
(a)	Selling Tender Document	1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
(b)	Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	At the office time of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram -4212, Bangladesh.
10	Price of Tender Document	BDT. 3,000.00
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents.
12	Brief Description of tender:	
	Tender Package No.	Description of tender
	36.03.1519.009.030.0001.2026, Dated: 05.04.2026.	Procurement of 120 M.T Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm.
		Tender Security Amount (USD/Taka)
		USD 30,838.00 Equivalent BDT 37,94,000.00
13	Delivery Period/ Shipment Schedule	Shipment will be made at buyer direction (LC by I.C).
14	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.



মোঃ মুমিতুর রহমান
সদস্য পরিচালক (উপ সচিব)
গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
এবং
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

Head of Commercial For-Managing Director

GD-741

INTERNATIONAL

US airman
rescue may
mask bid to
steal uranium
Iran ministry says

AFP, Tehran

Iran's foreign ministry said yesterday that a US operation to rescue a downed airman may have been a cover to "steal enriched uranium" from the Islamic republic.

On Sunday, President Donald Trump said the US recovered a second crew member of an F-15E that went down over Iran on Friday in what he called a "daring" search and rescue operation.

Iran's military has called it "a deception and escape mission", insisting it was "completely foiled".

Yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said there were "many questions and uncertainties" about the operation.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs, near Camille Chamoun Sports City stadium, Lebanon yesterday. Inset, a relative mourns as she kisses the grave of a person killed in an Israeli strike in Tyre, Lebanon.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Use of Hormuz must
be guaranteed

UAE says, referring to any US-Iran war settlement; Iran Guards prepare plan for new order in the Strait

AGENCIES

UAE official Anwar Gargash said any settlement of the US-Iran war must guarantee access through the Strait of Hormuz, warning that a deal that fails to rein in Iran's nuclear programme and its missiles and drones would pave the way for "a more dangerous, more volatile Middle East."

Gargash, the diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, told a weekend briefing that the Strait of Hormuz - the world's most critical oil artery - cannot be weaponised, stressing that its security is not a regional bargaining chip but a global economic imperative.

"The Strait of Hormuz cannot be held



hostage by any country," said Gargash, adding that freedom of navigation through the waterway "has to be part and parcel of the settlement of any conflict with clear agreement on that."

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they are completing preparations to enforce new operating conditions in the Strait of Hormuz, reports Reuters.

Gargash said the UAE wants the war to end, but warned against a ceasefire that leaves the root causes of instability unresolved. "We don't want to see more and more escalation," he said. "But we don't want a ceasefire that fails to

address some of the main issues that will create a much more dangerous environment in the region...notably (Iran's) nuclear programme, the missiles and drones that are still raining down on us and on other countries."

US President Donald Trump threatened to rain "hell" on Tehran if it did not make a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz by his today's deadline, reports AFP. Gargash said the United Arab Emirates was ready to join any US-led international effort to secure shipping through the strait.

About a fifth of global oil and liquefied gas supplies normally pass through it each day, but Iran's actions have severely curtailed traffic, triggering a global energy crisis.

The UAE has come under heavier Iranian strikes than any other Gulf state, according to regional officials. Gargash said that for decades, the most unlikely worst case scenario for the UAE had been a full Iranian attack - a scenario that is now unfolding. Despite that, he said, the country was coping well, demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness under pressure.

US rescues downed
F-15 crew from Iran
in \$500m mission

NDTV ONLINE

The US military has successfully evacuated a pilot and an airman from Iranian territory after an American F-15E Strike Eagle jet was shot down inside the Islamic Republic.

The high-risk, multi-day US rescue mission, executed in the south of Iran's Isfahan province, is drawing attention not just for its precision but for its staggering cost, reaching close to \$500 million.

US officials called the recovery effort one of the "most challenging" combat search-and-rescue missions due to the terrain, a hostile Iranian pursuit and post-recovery complications.

Khalilur starts

FROM PAGE 2

reporters after a meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma.

He said the focus would be on strengthening people-to-people ties, moving beyond one-person-driven engagement, and expressed hope that candid dialogue could help address several longstanding challenges.

During the meeting, Pranay Verma reaffirmed India's intent to work with the government and people of Bangladesh in a "positive, constructive and forward-looking manner" based on mutual interest and benefit.

He said India-Bangladesh cooperation should turn geographical proximity into new opportunities by strengthening economic and connectivity linkages and enhancing cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

The visit comes after ties hit a historic low following Bangladesh's political changeover after the July 2024 uprising, when both countries imposed varying degrees of trade and visa restrictions.

Dhaka has also been angered by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's stay in India and has repeatedly requested her extradition.

Since assuming power, the BNP has indicated that relations with India would not remain tied to the Hasina issue. In late February, Bangladesh missions in India resumed

all categories of visas for Indian nationals, while Dhaka now awaits reciprocity from New Delhi.

India has also signalled a willingness to improve ties. These include messages from the Indian prime minister congratulating Tarique Rahman and inviting him to visit New Delhi.

Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri attended the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet. Recently, Bangladesh High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah met S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal, and Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi.

Diplomatic sources said discussions during the visit would focus on resuming all categories of Indian visas, easing trade routes, energy cooperation, water-sharing of transboundary rivers such as the Ganges and Teesta, and maintaining peace along the border.

"In the first ministerial meetings, Dhaka will definitely raise priority issues, including the Ganges water treaty and the Teesta management project," a diplomatic source said.

The Ganges water treaty expires in December this year and will be a key test of bilateral relations, he added.

Another diplomatic source said Dhaka would seek to rebuild ties in line with people's aspirations - making them people-centric rather than party-centric.

"The area where the American pilot was claimed to be present in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a long way from the area where they attempted to land or wanted to land their forces in central Iran," Baqaei said.

"The possibility that this was a deception operation to steal enriched uranium should not be ignored at all."

He added that the operation was "a disaster" for the United States.

Iran's military said several US aircraft had to "make emergency landings" in southern Isfahan province after being hit during the mission, with the US "forced to heavily bombard the downed aircraft" as a result.

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities said on Sunday morning that yet another US aircraft - a Lockheed C-130 Hercules - had been downed.

The US has not responded to those claims.

Ceasefire must address Iran's missiles, drones, nuclear risks
Iran strikes backfire, drive Gulf states closer to Washington

Measles outbreak

FROM PAGE 12

achievements were lauded worldwide and had significantly reduced deaths among children under five.

"From that situation, we are now witnessing a measles outbreak in the country, with hundreds of children fighting for their lives at hospitals," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He added that the sudden scrapping of the sectoral programme, under which funds for vaccination were provided, by the interim government triggered a measles vaccine crisis, leading to the deaths of many children.

"When we are supposed to celebrate something positive on World Health Day, we have to fight an outbreak, which is very unfortunate.

"We are supposed to eliminate measles-rubella by 2026, but we are struggling with the growing number of measles patients at hospitals."

According to the latest Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Coverage Evaluation Survey in 2023, the country recorded a commendable 95.2 percent crude coverage, which means both valid and invalid vaccinations.

It recorded an impressive 81.6 percent full valid coverage (children receiving all doses of all vaccines up to nine months of age) among children under one year of age.

But data from the EPI shows crude vaccination coverage under its regular campaign declined over the past two years.

Particularly, measles-rubella vaccination rate saw a deep decline in the last two years. Children aged nine months were administered MR-1 vaccine, while children

over 15 months were given MR-2 vaccine under the regular immunisation programme.

EPI data shows MR-1 and MR-2 coverage declined since 2023.

Special campaigns are held every four years to cover those missed in routine vaccination, with the last campaign held in December 2020 and January 2025.

But the special campaign planned for late 2024 could not be conducted due to the situation surrounding the political changeover.

The interim government did not carry out any such drive. Health assistants, who give the children the shots, went on strike three times in 2025, disrupting the regular vaccination programme, said health officials.

The EPI authority also had to ration vaccines in some areas since January due to a shortage caused by a fund crisis, an official told this correspondent on condition of anonymity.

Mushtaq Husain, another public health expert, said the government has undertaken an emergency vaccination drive to control the spike in measles cases and deaths.

However, instead of relying on emergency measures, the system needs reform to ensure sustainable progress in the health sector.

He added that the Health Sector Reform Commission in 2025 has made several recommendations, including the formation of a permanent health commission and a separate directorate for public health, but the current government is yet to start implementation of the suggestions. "Unless we reform the system, we will have to resort to emergency measures whenever the situation deteriorates," he opined.

Early rain brings misfortune

FROM PAGE 12

It stays like this for a few more days, the crop will be completely damaged," he said.

Md Jamal Uddin, additional director for monitoring and implementation at the DAE Field Service Wing, said preliminary information from seven haor districts shows limited impact so far, with some areas not yet fully submerged.

He added that data collection is ongoing and a final damage assessment will be prepared soon.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sylhet division, at least 3,640 hectares of cropland had been inundated as of Monday - 3,189 hectares in Sunamganj, 281 hectares in Habiganj, and 170 hectares in Moulvibazar.

However, experts estimate that at least 15,000 hectares of agricultural land across the division have been affected. Excessive rainfall in upstream Meghalaya and Assam, along with Bangladesh's northeast, typically triggers flash floods in haor areas, as seen in 2017 and 2022.

This year, however, there have been no significant early hill runoff. Instead, sustained late-spring rainfall since mid-March has caused waterlogging in low-lying areas. Crop protection dykes are also trapping stagnant water, prolonging the inundation.

Mohammad Omar Faruk, deputy director of the DAE in Sunamganj, said all upazilas except Chhatak are affected. "The initial expectation was that water would

recede once the rain stopped. But canals and water bodies that are usually dry in Chaitra are already full, hampering drainage," he said.

He added that four consecutive dry spring seasons had encouraged cultivation on previously unused haor lowlands, including water bodies where paddy farming is officially prohibited. "These lands have now been among the first to go under."

A Bangladesh Rice Research Institute expert said crop losses depend mainly on the duration of water stagnation and crop maturity, warning that fields submerged for more than 7-10 days face a high risk of rot.

The crisis has also triggered inter-village tensions in Sunamganj, mainly over embankments which hinder water flow from the haors.

On Friday, Paribesh O Haor Unnayan Sangstha organised a human chain in front of the Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet city, demanding sustainable management of the haor ecosystem.

"Embankments are being built without scientific research or surveys, causing waterlogging and damaging the haor ecosystem," said Kasmir Reza, president of the organisation and general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) in Sylhet.

He called for sluice gates, high-capacity pumps, and systematic excavation of haor canals and rivers based on scientific studies. Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner Dr Mohammad Ilias said the submerged area

currently accounts for less than two percent of total cultivated land.

Upazila-level committees have been formed to allow controlled embankment breaches, on the condition that farmers rebuild them later, he said.

"A 700-metre canal excavation is underway in waterlogged areas of Sadar upazila, while high-capacity pumps are being deployed in Pagnar haor in Jamalganj with support from the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO)," he added.

DAE data shows that 497,653 hectares of Boro paddy have been cultivated across Sylhet division this season - 276,848 hectares in haor areas and 220,805 hectares in non-haor areas.

The haor region contributes about 15 percent of Bangladesh's annual rice production.

Dr Md Mosharraf Hossain, additional director of the DAE in Sylhet division, said the submerged paddy has not yet been declared a total loss.

"If conditions improve, a significant portion can still be saved. Harvesting has already begun on a small scale - 182 hectares have been cut so far. Full-scale harvesting is expected from Pabela Baishakh," he said.

Agriculture Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid on Sunday directed officials to increase vigilance over the Boro harvest in haor areas, monitor weather conditions, keep harvesters ready, and arrange agricultural labourers to speed up harvesting.

Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh Project (LCUD)
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka

Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Services

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division	Power Division	
2. Agency	International Organization	
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
4. Title of Service	Individual Consultant- Procurement Associate -Time Based	
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant	Time - Based
7. EoI Ref. No.	27.02.0000.000.023.14.0008.26.18	
8. Date	07 April 2026	

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Sub-Method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)	
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget	
11. Development Partner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF	

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/Programme Code	224417700	
13. Project/Programme Name	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
14. EoI Closing Date and time	28 April 2026, Time: 15:00 (BST)	

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

16. Brief Description of the Assignment	Overall management and coordination of all activities for Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
17. Qualification and Experienced Required	Details is in the ToR, which is in SREDA website, (Notice Section & Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
18. Other Details	Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
19. Association with foreign firms is	Not Applicable	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

20. Name of the Official Inviting EoI	Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman	
21. Designation of the Official Inviting EoI	Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh	
22. Address of the Official Inviting EoI	Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka	
23. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EoI	02-55110343, lcud2024@gmail.com	

24. Submission Procedure	Interested parties are requested to submit the EoI in person in the EoI Box at the SREDA office or Via email, if the EoI is submitted by email, the subject line must be clearly specified.	
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The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all EoI(s).

Sd/-
Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman
Project Director, LCUD

GD-731

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Early closure will hurt business

Govt should shift trading hours, enforce smarter in-store energy use

Any government facing an energy crunch reaches instinctively for the most visible lever available. If the lights are on, switch them off. If shops are open, shut them early. The logic is simple. However, the economics of the early closure, more often than not, are far less convincing. The new administration first ordered shops and malls nationwide to close at 6pm, citing fuel shortages triggered by the Middle East conflict. After pushback from the business community, the deadline was extended by one hour. Retailers remain unimpressed, and with reason. An extra 60 minutes feels less like a solution and more like a token adjustment.

The problem lies in how retail actually works in Bangladesh. This is, fundamentally, an evening economy. After long workdays, oppressive heat, and relentless traffic, consumers arrive at markets and malls only after dusk. Per industry estimates, nearly 60 percent of daily retail sales take place during these evening hours. This is not a matter of preference but constraint. Cutting off that window does not shift demand into the daytime but simply erases it.

The cost of that decision is not trivial. Retail supports as many as 120 crore jobs across the country. A large portion of these are part-time workers—students, secondary earners, and young people from lower-income households—whose livelihoods depend precisely on evening shifts. When the hours shrink, so do their incomes. However, retail accounts for roughly three percent of national electricity consumption. Even the broader commercial sector consumes only 8-10 percent.

There is also a fiscal dimension. Retail is a steady source of value added tax revenue. Industry estimates suggest that early closure could cut these receipts by up to 20 percent. At a time when public finances are already under strain, this amounts to an odd form of self-inflicted pressure—a policy that weakens the state's own revenue stream for limited gains on the energy front.

Consumer sentiment, already fragile, is another casualty. Fuel shortages and transport disruptions began to dampen spending even before the directive. Retailers experienced a subdued Eid-ul-Fitr season. Now, with restricted hours and ongoing uncertainty, the run-up to Eid-ul-Azha, typically a peak retail period, looks increasingly uncertain. When sales slow at the storefront, the effects ripple backwards through distributors, manufacturers, and the informal networks that sustain them.

There is, however, a more workable path, one that balances energy savings with economic reality. Several industry groups have already outlined practical alternatives. Trading hours could shift later into the day, from around 1pm to 9pm, avoiding the peak midday electricity load. Air-conditioning could be capped at 25 degrees Celsius or higher. Non-essential decorative lighting should be curtailed. And there should be a concerted move towards energy-efficient equipment. The current closure order offers modest relief to the grid, but the economic cost it imposes is far heavier. Crises demand hard choices, but they also demand that those choices be the right ones.

Ensure justice for wildlife cruelty

Elephant calf stoned to death in latest human-wildlife contact

A heartbreaking image has been circulating on the web for the past few days—two grown elephants standing next to a dead baby elephant in a shallow ditch. The pair stood by the deceased calf for three days before finally walking away. Initially, it was thought that the calf might have fallen from a hill, or perhaps it was yet another of nature's cruel tricks. But turns out, the baby elephant was a victim of human cruelty—the calf was stoned to death. The ditch where the grieving elephants stood for days was later identified as an illegal fish enclosure in Naikhongchhari upazila in Bandarban.

Regardless of the circumstances that led to the stoning—multiple blows, in fact—the question remains: why? Why would anyone with an iota of humanity inflict such harm on a defenceless child, regardless of its species? And what does such cruelty say about the state of our society?

If we zoom out, cruelty towards wildlife and animals in general in Bangladesh is far from uncommon; it is becoming alarmingly frequent. In particular, human-wildlife conflict has been rising in recent years, often as a direct result of expanding human activities into forested areas. As development projects, settlements, and unregulated land use continue to shrink natural habitats, animals are increasingly forced into human localities.

This is particularly evident in the case of elephants. Their traditional corridors, used for generations, have been replaced by roads, settlements, and agricultural expansion. The situation has been further aggravated in recent years by large-scale deforestation linked to the influx of the displaced Rohingya population. With fewer safe pathways, elephants often wander into farmlands, destroying crops and livelihoods. For example, we may remember the case of an elephant that was electrocuted in 2023 in Sherpur, after locals set up live wires to keep animals away from crops.

So, we call upon the government to investigate the Bandarban killing and hold those responsible accountable. The widening gap between crimes committed against animals, including wildlife, and the justice delivered must be bridged. It is also imperative to protect elephant corridors, regulate illegal land use, and invest in conflict mitigation strategies that support both communities and wildlife. For example, beehives have proven to provide a natural fence from wild animals, and promising results have been seen in Teknaf. All in all, we must treat this incident with the urgency it requires. If we fail to do so, the images of grieving elephants may not remain disturbing anomalies but a haunting norm with a worrying indication as to where we are headed as a society.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

2001 Mars Odyssey launched

On this day in 2001, NASA launched the 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft, which reached Mars in October and transmitted photos and other data back to scientists on Earth.

Energy, ports, and logistics: Rethinking our supply chain



Ahamedul Karim Chowdhury, adjunct faculty at Bangladesh Maritime University, is a maritime, logistics, and supply chain policy analyst.

AHAMEDUL KARIM CHOWDHURY

Persistent tensions in the Middle East, the resultant disruptions in key shipping routes, and the volatility in fuel access and prices are once again reminding the world of a hard truth: that energy security is no longer just about supply but also about having durable systems and structures in place. For Bangladesh, this reality is becoming increasingly visible. Fuel shortages, load-shedding, and the emergency conservation measures being rolled out by the government are all symptoms of a deeper structural vulnerability.

At first glance, Bangladesh's situation may appear similar to that of many large economies that are also facing energy pressures. China, for instance, has experienced periodic power shortages and supply disruptions in recent years. But the similarities end there. While China manages energy stress as part of a complex system, Bangladesh experiences it as a crisis. The difference really lies in preparedness for such a situation as well as energy structure.

China's energy challenge is fundamentally one of scale. Temporary shortages arise when industrial demand spikes, hydropower is affected by drought, or price controls distort supply incentives. But these disruptions rarely escalate into systemic crises. China has built layers of resilience: strategic petroleum reserves, diversified import sources, strong domestic production, and rapidly expanding renewable capacity.

Most importantly, it treats energy as an integrated national system. Coal, gas, renewables—both domestic and imports—are managed within a coordinated framework. The state retains the capacity to redirect supply and intervene quickly when imbalances emerge. Its investments in solar and wind power, battery storage, and electric mobility are aimed at sustainability and reducing vulnerability.

Closer to home, India has strengthened energy security through strategic petroleum reserves, diversified sourcing, and rapid renewable expansion. It has invested in solar power and LNG infrastructure, supported by improved port capacity. Although the Middle East crisis created a localised supply disruption of LPG in

India—used largely for cooking—the country has been successfully aligning its energy planning with logistics and infrastructure development. In contrast, Pakistan offers a cautionary example. Its heavy reliance on imported fuels, coupled with foreign exchange constraints and limited domestic production, has periodically forced emergency measures.

Bangladesh, too, imports around 95 percent of its fuel needs—oil, LNG, and coal. This means global disruptions translate almost immediately into domestic pressure. When prices rise or shipping routes become uncertain,

the economy. Yet, our energy planning has historically remained largely disconnected from logistics and port infrastructure.

This has real consequences. Congestion at terminals, draft limitations, and coordination gaps between port operations and downstream distribution can delay the clearance of energy cargo. During global disruptions, even minor inefficiencies can escalate into supply delays. For a country without strategic reserves, such delays quickly translate into shortages.

China again provides a contrast here. Its energy security strategy extends beyond procurement or production to logistics integration. Investments in ports, shipping capacity, and overland corridors reduce exposure to disruption. Energy is secured not just at the source but across the entire supply chain.

Bangladesh has yet to adopt such an integrated perspective. Investments have focused largely on

supply routes must be diversified. Overreliance on limited maritime corridors increases exposure to geopolitical risk. Expanding routing options and improving regional connectivity can provide flexibility. Third, Bangladesh should develop strategic reserves. Even modest storage capacity can buffer short-term disruptions and reduce immediate vulnerability.

Fourth, our renewable energy transition must be accelerated as a strategic necessity. In this regard, the rooftop spaces of industrial and logistics infrastructure can be used for solar power generation. Ports, inland container depots, off-dock facilities, and large warehouse clusters already possess vast, contiguous rooftop spaces that remain largely unused. A targeted rooftop solar programme based on on-grid systems with net metering can allow these facilities to generate power for internal use while feeding surplus into the grid.

Fourth, our renewable energy transition must be accelerated as a strategic necessity. In this regard, Bangladesh's most immediate opportunity lies not in residential rooftops—often constrained by ownership complexities—but in industrial and logistics infrastructure. Ports, inland container depots, off-dock facilities, and large warehouse clusters already possess vast, contiguous rooftop spaces that remain largely unused. A targeted rooftop solar programme based on on-grid systems with net metering can allow these facilities to generate power for internal use while feeding surplus into the grid.

To accelerate adoption, the government could introduce structured incentives, such as linking solar investments with future electricity bill adjustments or targeted subsidies, thereby turning major energy consumers into distributed producers. In a land-scarce country, this industrial rooftop model offers one of the most practical pathways to reducing import dependence while strengthening energy resilience.

Finally, institutional coordination must improve. Energy, ports, and logistics remain fragmented across multiple agencies; a unified framework aligned with national logistics reform can bridge these gaps. Bangladesh does not need to replicate other countries' models, but it can draw key lessons from them. Energy security is achieved through systems that integrate infrastructure, logistics, finance, and policy, not just supply contracts. The ongoing crisis, despite being challenging, also offers the opportunity to prepare well for disruptions.



FILE PHOTO: MD RAJIB RATHAN

the country has limited capacity to absorb the shock. This explains why government responses often appear reactive. Cutting office hours, closing markets early, rationing fuel, and a potential shift to online classes are necessary in the short term, but they do not address the structural issue. They are demand-control measures in a system that lacks supply-side resilience.

At the heart of this vulnerability lies a dimension often overlooked: logistics. Energy does not simply exist in reserves or contracts; it moves through supply chains. For Bangladesh, those supply chains begin and end at its ports. More than 90 percent of the country's trade, including energy imports, is transported by sea. Every shipment of oil, LNG or coal must pass through maritime gateways before it can power

power generation capacity, while supply chain resilience has received less attention. In stable times, this gap remains hidden. During crises, it becomes critical.

There is also a financial dimension. Rising fuel import costs place immediate pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Bangladesh operates under tighter constraints. This increases sensitivity to both price volatility and supply disruptions.

Going forward, we must rethink energy security as a system-level issue. It must be embedded within logistics and supply chain strategy. First, port infrastructure must be strengthened. Improving handling efficiency, expanding storage capacity, and reducing vessel turnaround time are essential to energy security. Second,

Why the Ganges water treaty needs a climate-ready reset



Zillur Rahman is a political analyst and president at the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and hosts 'Tritiya Matra' on Channel i. His X handle is @zillur.

ZILLUR RAHMAN

The 1996 Ganges Water Treaty (GWT) is approaching the end of its life cycle, with the 30-year treaty set to expire in December 2026. While there are several questions floating around—including whether this treaty should be continued or terminated—the most important one is this: how can Bangladesh reach a fair and efficient agreement with India regarding the water use in the Ganges basin once the treaty expires? Currently, the main challenges posed to the GWT are related to climate change, upstream development, and the treaty's inherent flaws.

The treaty established a scheme for sharing flows of the Ganges during the dry season between January and May, and its design relied on hydrological data from 1949 to 1988. One of the problems with this treaty was its reliance on historical average water flow data to decide water allocation in an ever-changing system. Most of the annual precipitation in South Asia is accumulated during the monsoon season, and the rest flows through the Ganges during the low-flow period. Thus, any shift in precipitation rates or upstream consumption or withdrawal

will significantly affect this system, rendering historical average data irrelevant.

Over the last two decades, empirical evidence has shown that the water regime in the Ganges has shifted in India's favour. In many cases, Bangladesh received lower water flow per 10-day period at Hardinge Bridge than the amounts allocated under the agreement—especially during the dry season—according to releases from the Farakka dam. According to a study that compared the actual yearly release from Farakka and the corresponding flow at Hardinge Bridge between 1997 and 2016, around 31 percent of the time (or, 94 out of 300 events), Bangladesh received less water at Hardinge Bridge compared to what presumably was released from Farakka.

The fact that a part of Bangladesh receives less water than it is supposed to receive under the treaty poses severe problems for the country. For the agricultural sector, fisheries, and ecosystems, what is crucial is the actual amount of flow at the downstream rather than its allocation at the upstream point. On the other hand, India's perspective in negotiating over

this issue should also be considered. The increasing upstream water demand, the water security of states in the region, and India's emphasis on complying with the treaty frame its negotiation strategy.

These factors indicate one of the major flaws in the treaty design—the lack of a sound method for resolving disputes. Although joint monitoring and periodic discussion of disagreements can be considered a solution, no effective verification of release volumes nor dispute resolution mechanisms are envisioned in it. Thus, any dispute ends up in negotiations, often resulting in procrastination.

Climate change is intensifying these challenges by introducing even greater variability in the Ganges' hydrological cycle. It is known that decreased snow persistence in the Himalayas and altered river regimes have resulted in lower flows and increased interannual variability. According to research, flows at Hardinge Bridge have fallen dramatically since the establishment of the treaty. Against the backdrop of this changing hydrologic picture, there is a need to rethink the whole framework of the treaty. Therefore, four major priorities arise for Bangladesh in negotiating over this agreement.

First, it is essential to achieve full data transparency to create mutual understanding between the two parties regarding the situation and to facilitate further cooperation. Second, the idea of guaranteeing flow volume should be revised, with Bangladesh emphasising the importance of guaranteed flow at Hardinge Bridge

rather than at Farakka. Third, the allocation should be revised to account for climatic variability using a rolling baseline of hydrological data. Fourth, the dispute resolution mechanism should be introduced.

Apart from technical solutions, another challenge emerges concerning the strategic approach to negotiating the agreement. The current treaty is based on bilateral agreements, which may be too limited to address the problem at hand. Indeed, there are good grounds for considering cooperation with Nepal to manage flows of the Ganges River during the dry season. Nevertheless, while negotiating this kind of cooperation, it is important for Bangladesh to recognise several pitfalls, namely, substantial investments, a lengthy decision-making process, and political alignment among all parties involved. Therefore, the most practical solution would be to renegotiate the agreement in a bilateral format but incorporating recent changes into its provisions.

It goes without saying that allowing the treaty to expire without negotiating anything would be a dangerous choice. In the event of the termination of the existing agreement, Bangladesh will lose an already-established monitoring system, leaving it in an even more vulnerable position than before. On the other hand, merely renewing the agreement would mean repeating previous mistakes, thereby locking Bangladesh into a lengthy, problematic deal. The key lies somewhere in between.

For Rohingya camps, measles control requires tailored interventions



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MD NURUZZAMAN KHAN

Bangladesh is once again facing a public health threat that is both familiar and preventable. Since early January 2026, the country has seen a surge in measles cases, with thousands of suspected infections and a rising number of deaths. What is particularly concerning is where this outbreak began and continues to intensify: the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The camps are extremely overcrowded, hosting over 1.1 million refugees (UNHCR, December 31, 2025), around 190,000 of whom are children under five years of age. This demographic and living context creates conditions highly conducive to the rapid spread of a contagious disease like measles. The background of Rohingya refugees further amplifies vulnerability, as they arrived in Bangladesh with extremely low measles immunity. Many children had never been vaccinated due to long-standing gaps in immunisation in Rakhine State, creating a large susceptible population that rapidly fuelled the 2017 measles outbreak, with over 1,700 suspected cases within months of their displacement.

In response, the Bangladesh government and partner organisations launched rapid, large-scale measles rubella vaccination campaigns. These campaigns reached thousands of children aged six months to 15 years within months, substantially increasing first-dose coverage and quickly reducing transmission. Follow-up campaigns were rolled out to reach children who had been missed in the first one.

While effective in containing the immediate outbreak, these efforts were largely emergency responses. Sustaining high levels of immunity through a complete two-dose schedule and strong routine immunisation has remained challenging. At the same time, high birth rates, population movement, and periodic service disruptions continue to generate susceptibility. Moreover, Rohingya refugees continue to enter Bangladesh,



Healthcare workers administer vaccine to a child on the first day of the government's emergency measles vaccination drive, in Kaunia, Barishal city, Bangladesh on April 5, 2026.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

many of whom have similarly low immunity. These dynamics create a growing pool of partially immunised or unvaccinated individuals, turning the camps into a persistent hotspot where measles can spread rapidly and re-emerge despite earlier control. This epidemiological reality has direct consequences for Bangladesh beyond the camps. Cox's Bazar is closely connected with surrounding communities through markets, labour, transport, and shared services. Daily interactions between refugees and the host population

This pattern is already evident: the first wave of infections was identified in the Rohingya camps on January 4 this year, after which cases increased and spread beyond Cox's Bazar. Within weeks, transmission was reported across multiple districts, including major urban centres, with current estimates indicating as many as 7,600 suspected cases of infection and at least 113 suspected deaths nationwide between March 15 and April 5. Although early signals suggest widespread transmission,

more severe complications and higher mortality among infected children.

This interconnected reality means that the health of Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi nationals cannot be separated. Protecting one group protects the other, while neglecting one undermines both. In epidemiological terms, refugee camps can act as high-risk reservoirs that sustain transmission and spread infection beyond their immediate geography. In public health terms, they represent a frontline that must

be secured if national containment is to succeed. At the same time, ensuring equitable attention to Rohingya refugees is not only a public health necessity but also a responsibility of Bangladesh as a host country, grounded in the principles of human rights and dignity. In response to the current

dynamics within the Rohingya camps. While refugees are included in district-level planning, the camps require more sustained and tailored interventions. Ensuring full two-dose coverage is difficult due to continuous births, mobility, and gaps in routine services. Children born after earlier campaigns and those previously missed are not always systematically reached. As a result, a sizeable cohort of susceptible children continues to accumulate within the camps.

This creates a critical gap in Bangladesh's outbreak response. As long as transmission persists within the Rohingya population, measles can continue to circulate and spill over into the surrounding communities. Without placing the camps at the centre of response planning, the national effort remains incomplete.

What needs to be done, then? Vaccination efforts in the Rohingya camps must be intensified and sustained as part of a continuous strategy, ensuring all children, including newborns and those previously missed, receive full immunisation. Surveillance systems should be integrated across refugee and host populations to enable rapid detection and coordinated response. Public health messaging must reach both communities, addressing misinformation and encouraging vaccine uptake. Equally important is stronger alignment between humanitarian and government-led initiatives. Refugee health services should be embedded within national planning, with clear coordination and shared accountability.

Ultimately, addressing measles in the Rohingya camps is not a peripheral task—it is central to containing the outbreak in Bangladesh. The current situation is both a warning and an opportunity: a warning that unresolved gaps can drive widespread risk, and an opportunity to adopt a more inclusive and effective response. Bangladesh has demonstrated leadership in public health before. It can do so again by ensuring that no population is left behind. If measles anywhere is a threat everywhere, then safeguarding the country must begin in Cox's Bazar.

How hoarding and panic buying are deepening the fuel crisis



Dr Sabbir Ahmad is a researcher and expert in project delivery and engineering. He can be reached at sabbir@iecc.org.

SABBIR AHMAD

There is a well-known concept in economics called the "tragedy of the commons." To understand this, let's imagine a village with a common well. Every family draws a little more than they need, reasoning that their extra bucket is too small to matter. Each family applies the same logic. The well runs dry. The tragedy is not that any one family was cruel or even particularly greedy. The tragedy is that individually rational behaviour produced a collectively catastrophic outcome, and nobody could stop it because there was no rule, no enforcement, and no shared understanding that the well belonged to everyone.

Walk into a filling station anywhere in Bangladesh these days, and you are standing at that well. The Middle East conflict that erupted in late February 2026 has disrupted global fuel supply chains. Bangladesh relies on imports for 95 percent of its fuel oil, making it highly vulnerable. But looking carefully at the numbers, a disturbing truth emerges: the shortage on the ground is not solely the consequence of the Middle East conflict. A significant part of it is due to our behaviour.

District administrations conducted 391 raids across 64 districts in 24 hours on March 31. They recovered 87,700 litres of illegally hoarded fuel, 191 cases were filed, and several people

were sentenced. Meanwhile, the government's reserve stands at 1,93,000 tonnes of fuel, enough for April, with fresh cargoes arriving and emergency purchases of 2,60,000 tonnes already approved. The well is not empty, but the queues stretch for hours because people in need often have to stand behind the people filling extra buckets.

At one filling station in Chattogram, daily octane sales have doubled since the conflict began, from a normal 2,500 to 3,000 litres to around 6,000 litres every day. Rural stations have seen demand surge fourfold. Pump attendants report customers rejoin the queue within hours of purchasing fuel. Tag officers stationed at pumps cannot track who has already filled up and who has not. Fuel is leaving the stations quicker than it arrives, leading to empty pumps. The official data suggests an adequate reserve. Both might be true with a single contradicting factor: "panic hoarding."

It has already cost one life—a filling station manager in Narail was killed when a truck driver, unable to secure diesel, chased him down the highway and ran him over at 2am. The driver has been arrested, but a family has lost their breadwinner. This is how a "tragedy of the commons" unfolds in the middle of the night.

While many private vehicle owners in Dhaka are filling extra canisters, Mostak Ali in Lalmonirhat, who needs 13 litres of diesel every single day to irrigate his 33 bighas of Boro paddy, is allowed to get two litres under rationing. He travels 12 kilometres to get them. Boro rice accounts for 55 percent of Bangladesh's total annual rice production. The cultivation target this season is 50.53 lakh hectares, and 62 to 65 percent of those fields depend on diesel-powered irrigation pumps. In the 16 northern and northwestern districts already reporting acute shortages, diesel is being sold in the open market at Tk 15 to Tk 20 above the government price. Farmers, unable to pay the premium, are left out. But the proper formation of paddy largely depends on irrigation. An expert suggests that the country could face a food crisis like the 1974 famine if Boro production falls by 20 percent.

At this point, 55 percent of our rice production sits in those fields and missing one irrigation cycle at this stage can cause major damage. The businessman storing over 5,000 litres in a warehouse in Meherpur is not thinking about Mostak Ali's paddy. He is thinking about his margin. But in a connected economy, his buffer and Mostak Ali's bankruptcy are the same transaction.

The enforcement drives are crucial but apparently insufficient. Fines such as Tk 9,35,070 collected across 64 districts on March 31 are not a deterrent to those who consider fuel as an asset appreciating faster than a bank deposit. The sentences are usually short and rare. The penalties need to reflect that hoarding is a high-risk activity, not a rational hedge against uncertainty.

More importantly, the distribution system must be restructured around a need-based rather than a first-come, first-served approach. There is no technical reason why diesel for irrigation cannot be distributed through a priority channel with a farmer-designated lane at every filling station during the Boro season. India has managed agricultural input subsidies through Aadhaar-linked systems for years. Bangladesh government's own Farmer Card initiative is in the right direction, which should be implemented before the paddy crop reaches the flowering stage.

The transparency dimension is equally urgent. When the energy division spokesman says there is no national shortage, but farmers in 16 districts are paying more than the official price to irrigate their fields, the gap between official reassurance and ground reality breeds the fear that drives panic buying. Real-time, district-level fuel availability data published daily would allow people to make rational decisions instead of fear-driven ones.

Bangladesh's fuel supply is under genuine pressure from a faraway conflict. But the queues stretching for kilometres, the midnight violence at filling stations, or a farmer travelling 12 kilometres for two litres are not all due to what is happening in the Gulf. These outcomes largely result from our collective actions. The well had enough for all, but it ran dry because we stopped being a community and started being competitors. We need effective governance to ensure that the farmer's bucket is filled before any extra canisters are. We can't afford a food crisis on top of an energy crisis.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RHD
JHALAKATI ROAD DIVISION, JHALAKATI.
E-mail: eejha@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No-35.01.4240.432.04.001.25-506 Dated: 05/04/2026

"Invitation of RHD Quotation for Bridge Toll Collection (5th Call)"

1	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-01/2025-2026/JRD
2	Name of Quotation	Lease for Toll Collection from "Gabhkan Bridge" at 22nd km of Barisal-Jhalakati-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna National Highways (N-807) during 3 (three) financial years under Jhalakati Road Division.
3	Lease Implementation Period	3 (three) financial years (1095-days)
4	Price of Lease Quotation Schedule	Tk. 5,000.00 (five thousand) per set.
5	Security Money	10% of Quoted Rate. (including VAT and Tax) (In favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft.)
6	Quotation Last Selling Date	21/04/2026 up to office hour (4-00 PM)
7	Tender Closing Date and Time	22/04/2026 at 12-00 PM
8	Eligibility of Lease Quotationer	All interested Persons/Firms regardless of whether enlisted or not with the employer may submit quotation provide that they are otherwise qualified who can fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the quotation's document.
9	Selling Quotation Document	Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/ D.C. office, Jhalakati EE (RHD), Road Division-Jhalakati/Barisal/ Bhola/ Pirojpur/Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhabon, Dhaka SDE (RHD) Road Sub-Division, Jhalakati.
10	Receiving Quotation Document	EE (RHD), Road Division, Jhalakati. SE (RHD), Barisal Road Circle, Barisal. D.C., Jhalakati
11	Quotation Opening Place, Date & Time	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati 22/04/2026 at 2-00 PM
12	a.	The concern authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all quotations.
	b.	If it is not possible to receive/open the quotation the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue.
	c.	The quotationer will quote the rate in figures & words.
	d.	This quotation notice will also be seen at RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd.

(Shahriar Sharif Khan)
ID No-602247
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD,
Road Division, Jhalakati.

GD-737

Won't be typecast, won't be set aside: SHOHEL MONDOL

SHARMIN JOYA

There's a certain spontaneity to Shohel Mondol's journey, one that mirrors the very characters he gravitates towards. Unconventional, layered, and often quietly transformative, his rise in the industry has been anything but fixed. From making his presence felt through OTT platforms to commanding attention on the big screen with a complex antagonist role as Shayan in *Rakkhosh*, Shohel is steadily redefining himself with each project.

He recalls that the journey to playing the character was anything but straightforward. Initially approached by director Mehedi Hasan Hridoy through mutual acquaintances, he was sent the script but found himself unconvinced. "At that stage, I couldn't quite grasp where my character was heading," he admits. It was only after a detailed sit-down with the director that things began to shift. Hridoy walked him through the entire narrative—scene by scene, emotion by emotion—painting a vivid picture of his vision. "Hearing it from him directly made all the difference," he says. "That's when I was convinced."

The real surprise came after the release. Audiences responded with overwhelming enthusiasm—cheering at his very first screen appearance. "We carefully planned it," he reveals. His presence had been deliberately concealed in promotional material, barely hinted at in the trailer, allowing viewers to discover him organically in theatres. "People didn't know I was in the film. That reveal became an experience in itself," he says.

Reflecting on why the character resonated so strongly, Shohel believes its power lies in its narrative function. "This character is the catalyst. Without him, the story wouldn't move forward. He creates the circumstances that ultimately transform the protagonist into a 'monster'. In a way, if he didn't exist, neither would that transformation."

Speaking about his collaborations with Siam, he points out a crucial difference between their projects. In *Taan*, the antagonist reacted to the protagonist's actions. "This time, the antagonist drives

the story. He provokes the protagonist into action—that's the real difference," he explains.

If the big screen has recently amplified his presence, OTT platforms were where his foundation was built. Shohel speaks candidly about this phase of his career. "In many ways, my journey stands on OTT," he reflects. "It's through these platforms that I've been able to reach audiences as Shohel Mondol." For many actors in Bangladesh, OTT has been more than just an alternative—it has been a



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

breakthrough space.

He is equally convinced that OTT has emboldened filmmakers to think bigger. "Because of OTT, creators now have the confidence to attempt larger-scale projects," he says. This cultural shift—one that television had long struggled to establish despite decades of effort—has clarified what audiences truly respond to.

"For audiences who truly love cinema, this will be a different kind of experience," he says. "And for those who want to rediscover Jibanananda through another artiste's perspective, it will be something special."

With growing recognition, however, comes a different kind of challenge—the risk of being typecast.

Following his recent success, audiences are eager to see him return as an antagonist, drawing inevitable comparisons to industry stalwart Misha Sawdagor, whose name has long been synonymous with villainy in Bangladeshi cinema.

Shohel acknowledges the expectation but remains measured. "For me, it always comes down to the story," he says. He has no interest in repeating himself unless the character genuinely serves the narrative in a meaningful way. "I don't want to do another *Musafir* or *Rakkhosh* type role just

for the sake of it."

Instead, he is driven by a desire to explore. "My journey will be my own," he reflects. Open to diverse roles and collaborations, he remains committed to pushing his boundaries as an actor. That commitment is also evident in his on-screen dynamics.

Looking ahead, Shohel is preparing to surprise audiences once again with *Bonolota Sen*, set for release this Eid-ul-Azha. Directed by Masud Hasan Ujjal, the film marks a significant departure from his recent roles. Rather than a conventional narrative, it unfolds as a poetic journey inspired by the life and philosophy of celebrated poet Jibanananda Das.

"It's not a literal biopic," Shohel clarifies. "It's more like walking through his poetry." The film blends elements of the poet's work with cinematic storytelling, creating an immersive big-screen experience. Featuring Khairul Basar, Masuma Rahman Nabila, Rupanty Akid, and Priyontee Urbee alongside Shohel, the project aims to offer something distinctly artistic.

"For audiences who truly love cinema, this will be a different kind of experience," he says. "And for those who want to rediscover Jibanananda through another artiste's perspective, it will be something special."

He also opens up about a passion project he is backing as a creative producer—his first in that role. Describing it as a low-budget yet deeply personal film, he shares that it is directed by Al Mukitil Bari and features performances from Shirin Shila, Afsana Mimi, and Shilpi Sarkar Apu, among others.

"We've completed the shoot, and post-production is currently underway," he says. Initially envisioned with a theatrical release in mind, the team is now leaning towards an OTT platform, though a final decision is yet to be made.

"At its core, it's a film about an artiste's journey," he explains, expressing quiet confidence in the project. "Despite the limited budget, we've tried to create something meaningful. Now it's about finding the right space where it can reach its audience."



Star Cineplex launches new branch in Narayanganj

Star Cineplex is set to open its new branch in Narayanganj today (April 7), marking another step in its expansion beyond Dhaka. The launch, initially planned for Eid-ul-Fitr, was delayed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The multiplex will begin with two daily shows – afternoon and evening – before moving to full operations within a few days. Located at Shimanto Tower in Jalkuri, the branch includes three auditoriums equipped with modern sound systems and advanced facilities.

AGM Mesbah Uddin Ahmed said the expansion reflects growing audience demand for quality cinema experiences.

Star Cineplex currently operates several outlets in Dhaka and Chattogram, with more branches under construction as it plans to expand further across major cities and districts.

Chorki to celebrate Pahela Baishakh with 'Cha Gorom'



Chorki is set to release its original web-film *Cha Gorom* this Pahela Baishakh on April 14. Directed by Shankha Dasgupta, the film stars Partho Sheikh, Safa Kabir, Rezwan Pervez, and Sarah Jabin Aditi, among others.

The story explores the lives and realities of tea plantation workers, moving beyond their usual portrayal as scenic backdrops. The director said the project aims to highlight both the visible and overlooked

aspects of plantation life. The official poster, released on April 5, has already generated audience interest, with a teaser expected soon.

Actors described the film as a unique and socially relevant project, with challenging roles and a powerful narrative rooted in an often overlooked part of Bangladeshi society.

NEWS

Failure of AL, interim govts to blame

FROM PAGE 12

have remained outside vaccination coverage, leaving them vulnerable to infection, he added.

He also said the poor decisions of those governments had caused shortages in stockpiles of measles and six other vaccines.

In his notice, Akhter asked why vaccinations had not been conducted, expressing concern over the rising death of children from the disease and thousands of infections.

He questioned whether the health minister's claim of no measles vaccination in eight years was accurate.

Earlier, on March 29, the minister had told journalists that measles vaccines had not been administered in the country for the past eight years.

Children aged nine months and 15 months receive measles vaccinations twice under the regular immunisation programme. Special campaigns are held every four years to cover those missed by the regular drive, with the last campaign conducted in December 2020. The

2024 campaign could not be carried out due to the political changeover.

Akhter also said measles treatment requires isolation, yet hospitals lack isolation facilities, even in major and district-level hospitals, especially in Rajshahi, where ICU and NICU facilities are absent.

He added that measles vaccines are given starting at nine months of age, but now even six-month-old infants are being infected. He urged an investigation into why epidemiologists failed to identify the cause.

He said the government began an emergency measles rubella vaccination campaign on Sunday in 18 districts and 30 high-risk upazilas, targeting all children aged six months to five years.

Regarding hospital facilities, the minister said isolation wards have been arranged in all government hospitals, with 250 additional isolation beds being prepared in Rajshahi.

"ICU and ventilator facilities are being readied, and a new oxygen flow

system developed by icddr, b -- at a cost of only 300 taka -- is being used to deliver oxygen," he added.

He said vaccines are being procured urgently, with the World Bank promising support through loans and grants.

In a supplementary question, Akhter alleged mismanagement at the grassroots level, saying that despite allocations, ordinary people are not receiving isolation or ICU facilities.

He noted that about 25 percent of the health budget remains unspent, with Tk 11,000 crore unused in FY 2024-25.

In reply, the health minister said that Tk 604 crore of unspent Covid-era funds is being used to procure additional measles vaccines from Unicef.

He assured that the ministry is alert to prevent future shortages, has cancelled all staff leave to strengthen field monitoring, and is coordinating closely with development partners, including the World Bank and Unicef.

Election to women's seats on May 12

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Akhtar said EVMs were not used in the national election and would not be used in local polls.

He added that a decision on the issue would be made after receiving investigation reports from the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, and a commission reviewing the last three parliamentary elections.

EC officials said there are 148,401 EVMs in its inventory, while 1,599 cannot be traced. With each costing around Tk 2.35 lakh, the missing machines are worth about Tk 37.5 crore. The EVMs are currently stored at multiple locations, including 86,233 units at Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BTMF), which has asked the EC to pay Tk 70.40 crore in storage charge.

Asked if the EVMs were faulty, he replied, "We will wait for the

investigation reports. The public has lost confidence in EVMs, and questions remain about their lifespan."

Asked about the submission of election expenditure returns to the EC by candidates, Akhtar said the EC has extended the deadline by another month.

According to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972, they are required to submit their expenditure returns within 30 days of the gazette notification of election results.

"Several candidates applied for extensions, and we granted them more time," Akhtar said.

When asked how many candidates submitted their election expenditure returns or sought extensions, the secretary said he could not provide figures but confirmed the extension.

Asked whether the EC would take action for violating RPO, the EC secretary said, "We have extended the

deadline further. Once this period expires, we will decide on the next course of action."

Meanwhile, the EC said there is no reason for concern regarding holding of Sherpur-3 general election and Bogura-6 by-polls, both slated for April 9.

Law enforcement agencies and presiding officers have assured the commission of a normal situation in both constituencies. Sherpur-3 has 129 polling centres and Bogura-6 has 151, he added.

The EC secretary said the commission is also awaiting the High Court verdict for the publication of the gazette containing the results of Chattogram-2, 4.

Akhtar said 50 post-election cases have been filed over the 13th parliamentary polls. "The election materials for these 50 constituencies must be preserved until the court disposes of the cases."

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 12

of the Dhabalsuti BOP camp under BGB-61 Teesta Battalion, said a Bangladeshi man, Mizanur Rahman, 28, was injured in the shoulder by rubber bullets fired by the BSF at Gatiar Vita around 10:00am this morning.

Following the incident, local people became agitated and brought Indian citizen Sahodev Barman along with cattle into Bangladesh.

"The Bangladeshi youth had gone to cut grass for cattle near the border and had mistakenly crossed the zero line, entering about 10 yards into Indian territory," added Badsha.

He said additional BGB personnel were deployed as tension rose along the border from morning until noon. "At the meeting, the Indian citizen along with the cattle was handed over to the BSF. A strong protest was lodged over the shooting incident that injured the Bangladeshi youth."

Patgram Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nazmul Haque said, "When I spoke to the family members of the youth injured by BSF firing, they informed me that he was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Rangpur and was currently out of danger."

Targeting civilian sites 'illegal'

EU chief says after Trump's fresh threat of strikes on Iran

AFP, Brussels

Striking civilian infrastructure installations during war is illegal, EU chief Antonio Costa said in a social media post yesterday.

The warning came after US President Donald Trump threatened to devastate civilian infrastructure in Iran if it did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

"Any targeting of civilian infrastructure, namely energy facilities, is illegal and unacceptable," Costa, the president of the European Council, said.

"This applies to Russia's war in Ukraine and it applies everywhere. The Iranian civilian population is the main victim of the Iranian regime. It would also be the main victim of a widening of the military campaign," he said.

I want to come home immediately

FROM PAGE 12

Canada, with the hope to return to Bangladesh soon.

"After the fall of Hasina regime, I wanted to return but the Yunus government didn't cooperate with me ... didn't issue travel documents [which I] applied [for] with an emergency fee of \$610 for both of us [me and my wife]. The present government is also not responding to my request. I am facing financial restraints here. My pension has also not been paid. Now my mother-in-law is on her deathbed. We want to return to Bangladesh on an emergency basis if our travel documents are issued."

Replying to a question, Sinha said he requested the current government through ruling BNP members to help ensure his and his wife's return to the country. "But it appeared to me the government was killing time for obvious reasons. My health condition is deteriorating; I want to take last breath in my country."

Asked about the status of any case filed against him, he said he has been convicted by a court in Bangladesh in a case which "is a sham" and with "no

evidence at all".

"I will face the court. I don't bother about the case. If I start talking about the 'merit' of the case, it will be seen how Hasina's regime used the judiciary for blackmail."

Former chief justice SK Sinha faced a barrage of harsh criticism from Awami League leaders in 2017 following a Supreme Court verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment, with lawmakers even calling for action against him in parliament. He went on leave in October that year and left the country, later resigning from abroad in November amid the controversy.

The 16th amendment, passed by the parliament on September 17, 2014, would give power to Jatiya Sangsad to remove SC judges if allegations of incapability or misconduct against them are proved.

In 2019, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case against him and others on charges including money laundering. A court subsequently convicted him in a graft case and sentenced him in absentia to 11 years in prison.

Nigeria army kills 65 'bandits' in single operation

AFP, Kano

Nigeria's military has killed more than 60 members of criminal gangs known as bandits, blamed for most of the country's mass kidnappings, said a Sunday security report seen by AFP.

The offensive was carried out in the northwestern Zamfara state where police on Saturday confirmed a mass kidnapping carried out earlier in the week.

Police there confirmed there had been a "mass" abduction of villagers in raids by armed gangs on Thursday night, but gave no figures.

Residents estimate that seven people had been killed and 150 abducted when large numbers of heavily armed men invaded six villages Bukkuyum local government area.

Police said a hunt has been launched for the attackers.

Sunday's security report said at "least 65 bandits" had been killed, in what it called a "major breakthrough".

But the "massive seven-hour ground and air offensive" was in Tsafe, a district around 200 kilometres (125 miles) from where the recent kidnappings occurred.

Zamfara is one of several states in northwest and central Nigeria plagued by the criminal gangs. Known locally as bandits, they carry out deadly raids on communities, kidnap residents for ransom and burn homes after looting them.

Bandit violence started more than decade ago as clashes between herders and farmers in conflict over limited water and land resources impacted by climate change.

Man's body found in maize field in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Police recovered the body of a young man from a maize field in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur early yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Joy Islam, also known as Jalil, 25, is from the Damaikhetro Pramanikpara area in Nijpara union of the same upazila.

Quoting family members and locals, Birganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Islam said Jalil returned home from a local bazar around 10:00pm on Sunday, went out again shortly after, and came back about an hour later before going to sleep, saying he had already eaten outside.

Around midnight, his father, however, found Jalil's room empty. The family then informed neighbours and began searching for him, the OC said.

Around 3:30am, locals found Jalil lying face down on a ridge of a maize field about 500 yards from his house.

Police recovered the body, prepared an inquest report, and sent it to Dinajpur M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

"The exact cause of death will be clear after the autopsy," the OC said. A case is being filed in connection with the incident.

The victim's family has demanded a proper investigation to find the cause of death and hold the culprits accountable.



A man splashes water on his face to cope with the sweltering midday heat at TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. With Baishakh beginning next week, the heat is only set to intensify. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mosquito infestation worsens in Barishal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Residents of Barishal are grappling with a worsening mosquito infestation, alleging that the Barishal City Corporation's (BCC) anti-mosquito measures have failed to provide relief.

Patients at Barishal General Hospital said that the situation is particularly difficult, with mosquito bites making it difficult to rest or recover.

Firoza Begum, admitted with asthma, said she somehow copes during the day, but is left "helpless" against mosquito attacks in the evening.

Another patient, Md Raju, who was admitted to the diarrhoea ward recently, said the mosquito infestation has made conditions so unbearable that he plans to leave the hospital early.

Hospital authorities also acknowledged the problem.

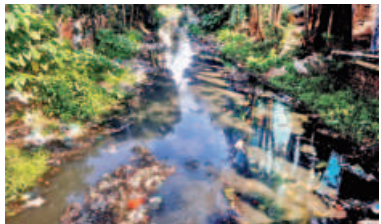
Residential Medical Officer Dr Moly Krishna Baral said clogged drains and stagnant water across the low lying hospital premises have created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

He said they have informed the civil surgeon's office and the Public

Works Department several times to raise the drainage level, otherwise it will continue to provide a favourable condition for mosquitoes, but to no avail.

Limited cleaning by the city corporation in recent weeks has not significantly improved the situation, he added.

The problem extends beyond the hospital, affecting residential areas, markets, educational institutions, and offices across the city.



SSC candidates are also among those affected.

According to the Barishal education board's exam controller's office, around 80,000 students are sitting for SSC exams, while over 60,000 are appearing for equivalent tests under the Technical Education Board, bringing the total to nearly 1,40,000 examinees in the region.

Many students say mosquito

infestations are disrupting their studies, particularly in the evenings.

BCC officials say they are continuing control efforts but face resource constraints.

Swapan Kumar Das, in charge of the mosquito control programme, said 42 workers are currently conducting operations in five wards daily on a rotational basis using 30 fogger machines.

"We cannot cover all 30 wards simultaneously due to manpower shortages," he said, adding that Barishal's numerous rivers, canals and drains create favourable breeding conditions.

BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Rezaul Bari said the effectiveness of the current insecticide may have declined after prolonged use.

"We suspect resistance has developed. We are trying to switch insecticides and strengthen routine programmes," he said.

However, residents say the measures are insufficient.

Gazi Jahid Hossain, convener of the Conscious Citizens Committee, said mosquito control efforts would not be effective unless all wards are covered simultaneously. "Otherwise, mosquitoes will simply move from one area to another," he said.

Court orders DNA test

FROM PAGE 12

it on April 6 (yesterday) and provide an update on the case progress.

Yesterday, Tonu's father, Yar Hossain, appeared before the court once again to demand justice for his daughter.

According to court sources, 79 hearing dates have passed so far, while six investigation officers from four different agencies have handled the case.

However, no arrests have been made, and the trial has yet to begin, even though more than a decade has passed.

On March 20, 2016, Tonu, a student of history at Cumilla Victoria College and also a theatre activist, went to give tuition at Sergeant Zahid's house in Cumilla Cantonment.

When she did not return home at her usual time, her father -- an

employee of the Cumilla Cantonment Board -- went out in search of her.

At one point, Tonu's lifeless body was found in the powerhouse area inside the cantonment. She was taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital, where doctors said she was brought dead.

An autopsy was conducted but objections were raised over the report. Her body was later exhumed for a second autopsy on March 30.

The victim's parents had said her long hair had been cut with scissors, and that there were bloodied injuries on her nose and face, as well as an injury at the back of her head.

A murder case was filed with Cumilla Kotwali Police Station on March 21, a day after her body was recovered. Initially, the investigation was handled

by the officer-in-charge of the Nazira Bazar police outpost.

The case was later transferred to Cumilla Detective Branch of police and then to the Criminal Investigation Department.

The exact cause of Tonu's death has yet to be determined, despite two autopsies, though CID officials confirmed through initial DNA tests that she was raped before being murdered.

Sperm from three unidentified individuals was found on her clothes, but investigators have not been able to match it with any suspects.

The killing triggered nationwide protests, with students and citizens taking to the streets demanding justice. At the time, authorities assured action, but the case remains unresolved.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur Beribandh Road, Adampur, Faridpur Sadar, Faridpur-7800

Memo No.: 49.01.2947.002.14.011.2024-122

Date: 05 April, 2026

Re-E TENDER NOTICE

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

Sl#	Tender ID	Package Name	Type Method	Date & Time		
				Publication	Last Selling	Closing
01	1250770	Supply of Lathe and Milling Machine.	NCT OTM	06-Apr-2026 17:00	28-Apr-2026 12:00	29-Apr-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 copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the Nation e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

Document can be downloaded till deadline of Tender submission.

(Signature)
05.04.26

Engr. Mohammad Khorshed Alam
Principal (In Charge)
Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur
Phone: 01781173431

GD-736

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Industries
Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
Maan Bhaban, 116/A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Website: <http://www.bsti.gov.bd>
Ref. No-36.05.0000.109.01.009.24/160 Date: 05-04-2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of Goods & Related Services	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	1244036	Procurement of microbiological equipment (Autoclave, Incubator, Analytical Balance, Water Bath, pH Meter & Desiccator) for Chemical Testing Lab of BSTI, Dhaka.	26 April, 2026 at 17:00 PM	27 April, 2026 at 09:30 AM
2.	1244050	Procurement of microbiological equipment (Biosafety Cabinet, Vertical Laminar Flow Cabinet, Dry Sterilizer, Fluorescence Microscope, Colony Counter, Homogenizer etc.) for Chemical Testing Lab of BSTI, Dhaka.	26 April, 2026 at 17:00 PM	27 April, 2026 at 10:00 AM

e-Tender detail can be downloaded from 07th April, 2026 after 17:00 (GMT+6) on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for purchase.

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, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) portal.

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

(Signature)
(Md. Tuhin Ahamed)
Deputy Director (Admin)

GD-739

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FROM PAGE 12

However, he said he still hoped the ruling BNP would move forward in line with its own commitments to ensure the independence of the judiciary, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and the Anti-Corruption Commission, bearing in mind its past experience.

The TIB chief welcomed the move to turn 98 of the 133 ordinances into law, calling it a positive development.

At the same time, he said not all 98 ordinances were free from weaknesses. "In some cases, they appear to have been deliberately weakened," he said.

He flagged the Public Audit Ordinance 2025 and four local government-related amendment ordinances.

About the local government ordinances, he said, "The power to remove elected representatives and appoint administrators in city corporations, municipalities, district councils, and upazila parishads has effectively been normalised. The TIB, he added, had expected an elected government to move away from that path, but instead it has continued a practice contrary to democracy, accountability, and local government empowerment.

On the NHRC ordinance, he said the issue was the commission's administrative independence. He alleged there was an effort to bring the body under government control and criticised the proposal for prior government approval before the commission investigates allegations against security forces.

"Why should prior approval of the government be needed? ... All citizens have equal rights," he said, and objected to proposals to move powers from the courts to the executive.

On the ACC ordinance, he said the interim government had ignored

recommendations of the anti-corruption reform commission.

Calling for the ordinance to be revised through consultation and turned into law without delay, he said a recommendation on creating an independent selection and review committee for the ACC had initially been accepted in principle but was later dropped, even though all political parties, especially BNP, had agreed on it.

He added that contradictory clauses in the ordinance had created room for compromise in corruption cases in the name of confession. The anti-graft watchdog said six ordinances, including those on the ACC, the Right to Information law, personal data protection, telecom regulation, public audit, and revenue policy and management, needed revision or reconsideration. It also called for the Police Commission Ordinance 2025 and the National Data Management Ordinance to be scrapped.

Replying to questions, Iftekharuzzaman said resistance to reform was coming "from within", both from politics and the bureaucracy. He said he would not say the government lacked goodwill, but added that examples already set showed internal resistance remained active.

Asked about the ACC, he said the body had become ineffective after the commission fell vacant, as many decisions legally require the commission itself. He called for a new commission without delay, saying, "We do not think all doors are closed."

TIB's Adviser for Executive Management Sumaiya Khair, Research and Policy Director Muhammad Badiuzzaman, and Outreach and Communication Director Mohammad Touhidul Islam were also present.

ট্রেডমার্ক নকল সংক্রান্ত সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণ তথা "ওটস/Oats" এর প্রস্তুতকারক, আমদানিকারক, ব্যবসায়ী ও ভোক্তাগণকে অবহিত করা যাচ্ছে যে, আমাদের মঞ্চের The Quaker Oats Company, 433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 350N, Chicago, Illinois 60607, United States of America যথা "QUAKER OATS" বা "QUAKER" ব্র্যান্ডের ওটসের প্রস্তুতকারক প্রতিষ্ঠান। তারা দীর্ঘদিন ধরে বাংলাদেশে তাদের পণ্য রপ্তানি ও বিপণন করে আসছে। The Quaker Oats Company হলো PepsiCo Inc.-এর একটি সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং এর পণ্যসমূহ বাংলাদেশে PepsiCo Inc. এর ভারতীয় সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান PepsiCo India Holdings Private Limited এর মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হয়।

আমাদের মঞ্চের ওটসের অধিকারক এবং সুরক্ষার লক্ষ্যে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন পেটেন্ট, ডিজাইন ও ট্রেডমার্ক অধিদপ্তর (DPDT) কর্তৃক "QUAKER" এবং "QUAKER" ট্রেডমার্কের রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত হয়েছে। ফলে উক্ত ট্রেডমার্কের উপর আমাদের মঞ্চের একক ও বৈধ মালিকানাধারিত অধিকারী। তাহাদের উৎপাদিত পণ্য উন্নতমানের হওয়ায় দীর্ঘদিন যাবৎ সুনামের সাথে বাংলাদেশের বাজারে একচেটিয়াভাবে বাজারজাত করে আসছেন।

আমাদের মঞ্চের অবগত হয়েছেন যে, একটি অসামান্য ব্যবসায়ী চক্র আমাদের মঞ্চের পেলে (প্যাকেজিং), নাম ও ট্রেডমার্ক/প্রতীকের অনুরূপ ও অভিন্ন চিহ্ন ব্যবহার করে নিম্নমানের পণ্য উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাত করে সাধারণ জনগণ ও ভোক্তাদের প্রতারণিত করছে। আমাদের মঞ্চের পক্ষে এতদ্বারা "ওটস/Oats" এর সর্বস্বত্ব প্রস্তুতকারক, আমদানিকারক, ব্যবসায়ী, পরিবেশক ও ভোক্তাগণকে অবহিত করা যাচ্ছে যে, আমাদের মঞ্চের The Quaker Oats Company, 433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 350N, Chicago, Illinois 60607, United States of America ব্যতীত অন্য কোনো ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান "QUAKER" ব্র্যান্ড/ট্রেডমার্কের অধীনে ওটস উৎপাদন, আমদানি বা বাজারজাত করার কোনো আইনগত অধিকার নেই। এই প্রেক্ষিতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ স্বার্থের অধীনে ওটস উৎপাদন, আমদানি, বিক্রয় বা বাজারজাত করা হতে বিরত থাকবেন।

ভোক্তাদের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে যে, "QUAKER" ওটসের প্যাকেজিংয়ে পণ্য ক্রয়ের সময় সতর্ক থাকবেন এবং পণ্যটি আসল কিনা তা নিশ্চিত করবেন। আসল ও নকল পণ্যের মধ্যে পার্থক্য নিম্নে প্রদর্শিত হয়েছে। এছাড়াও, উক্ত নকল পণ্যের উৎপাদন বা বিক্রয় সংক্রান্ত কোনো তথ্য থাকলে আমাদের মঞ্চের The Quaker Oats Company, 433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 350N, Chicago, Illinois 60607, United States of America অথবা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

পরিশেষে, আমরা মঞ্চের পক্ষ হতে সকল ভোক্তা, প্রস্তুতকারক, আমদানিকারক, পরিবেশক, ডিলার ও খুচরা বিক্রেতাগণকে সতর্ক করা যাচ্ছে যে, যদি কোনো ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান আমাদের মঞ্চের প্যাকেজিং ও ট্রেডমার্ক অনুরূপ বা নকল করে জাল বা বিভ্রান্তিকরভাবে সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ পণ্য উৎপাদন, আমদানি, বিক্রয় বা বাজারজাত করে, তবে বাংলাদেশের প্রচলিত আইন অনুযায়ী আমাদের মঞ্চের উক্ত ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবেন।

আসল QUAKER OATS নকল পণ্য

মোঃ মাসুম রানা, এডভোকেট
বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট
রানা অ্যান্ড অ্যাসোসিয়েটস
পেটেন্ট অ্যান্ড ট্রেডমার্ক অ্যাডভাইজার
নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকার প্যাডে, ৪৬২ মিনওয়ে, ৪৫/২ নং এ/২ (৩য় তলা)
মণিবাড়ার, ঢাকা-১২১৭ ফোন: ০২২২২২২৪০৮০

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)
বরিশাল অফিস
বরিশাল-৮২০০
বাংলাদেশ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: জডুসা: ০১/২০২৬ তারিখ: ১৬ চৈত্র ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
৩০ মার্চ ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ঠিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

পাবলিক প্রিকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রিকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ অনুযায়ী সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে এ অফিসের আগামী ২০২৬-২০২৭ অর্থবছরের নিম্নবর্ণিত শ্রেণির ক্রয়/মেরামত কার্য সম্পাদনের নিমিত্ত ঠিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য অগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী ঠিকাদার/প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, বরিশাল অফিস, বরিশাল-৮২০০।
আবেদন ফরম ক্রয়ের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০১/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ২১/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় জডুসামগ্রী শাখা, প্রশাসন-২, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, বরিশাল অফিস।
আবেদন ফরমের মূল্য	৬১০০.০০ (টাকা একশত মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও স্থান	২২/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টার মধ্যে অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২) এর কক্ষে রক্ষিত বাক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে।
আবেদনপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২২/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ টায়, অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২) এর অফিস কক্ষ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, বরিশাল অফিস। (আবেদনকারীর সম্মুখে, যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
কাজের সর্বশেষ বিবরণ/শ্রেণি	ক) আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়/মেরামত, খ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয়/মেরামত
ফি	শ্রেণি ভিত্তিক তালিকাভুক্তি ফি ৬৫,০০০.০০ (টাকা ষাট হাজার মাত্র) এবং শ্রেণি ভিত্তিক নবায়ন ফি ৬২,০০০.০০ (টাকা দুই হাজার মাত্র) (বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাত প্রযোজ্য)
প্রয়োজনীয় দপ্তরীয় (১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে)	১। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। ২। ভ্যাত রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ। ৩। TIN সনদ। ৪। হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ। ৫। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ। ৬। মালিকানা হস্তাক্রম। ৭। প্রতিষ্ঠানের সত্মিকারীর এনআইডি ও ছবি।

২। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৬-৭৯২
তারিখঃ ৪ ০৬/০৪/২০২৬

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সেরা পক্ষে স্বাক্ষরিত শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

(মোঃ আবুল বসার)
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)
টেলিফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৪৭৭৭৯৮৯১৯

GD-745

Bangladesh's obsession with age-level success

ASHFAQ-UL-ALAM

From being the centrepiece of first-ever historic achievements to gradually losing its sheen through frequent use – the open-top bus parade has undergone a noticeable devaluation in Bangladesh.

This mode of celebration was first introduced in the country in 2022, to welcome the country's maiden SAFF Women's Championship winning side.

It felt poetic to bring back the celebration when the girls retained their title in 2024. But when it returned in this year's January to felicitate the inaugural SAFF Women's Futsal Championship winners, it felt a bit repetitive.

Last Saturday, the open-top bus parade returned for the U-20 men's side for winning the SAFF U-20 Championship. But this time the celebration felt a bit over-the-top, considering this is not the first time Bangladesh have won this tournament.

In 2024, Bangladesh won the SAFF U-20 title for the first time, but no such grand celebrations had followed it back then.

In fact, Bangladesh is one of the most successful teams at the SAFF U-18/19/20 level, having finished in the top two in six of the eight editions so far.

Age-level tournaments are designed to uncover talents who can make it big in the future. But being great at this level hasn't yielded much success for Bangladesh at the senior level so far.



In 2024, Mirajul Islam from Bangladesh was adjudged the most valuable player of that edition. Since then, however, stats show that he has found life tough at the higher levels.

He has four goals in five matches at the U-20 level, one goal in five outings for the U-23 team and is yet to net his maiden goal for Bangladesh in three appearances.

It's still early days for the youngster, however, his performances for Abahani in the ongoing season of the Bangladesh Football League (BFL) don't paint an optimistic picture, with just one goal and one assist to his name after nine appearances.

Not all players who were successful at age-level find success at the senior level. But in Bangladesh, the number of prodigies failing to live up to their billing is unnaturally high.

Foysal Ahmed Fahim, a left winger of the national team, had also been considered an age-level prodigy, but has just one goal and two assists to his name after 32 appearances for Bangladesh.

In cricket, Anamul Haque is a popular example of an age-level prodigy falling short. The right-hander was the highest run-getter in the 2012 ICC U-19 World Cup, outscoring Pakistan's Babar Azam and South Africa's Quinton de Kock.

But while the latter two scaled to great heights in international cricket, Anamul has largely disappeared from the international scene.

The disparity in fortunes in age-level and international level is the most apparent in the current men's hockey scene.

Just last year, Bangladesh U-21 side qualified for the Hockey Men's Junior World Cup for the first time and put up a spirited showing in India.

Meanwhile, the national team failed to qualify for the final in the Men's AHF Cup, a second-tier Asian competition where they had become champions in the previous four editions, despite having many of the players from the U-21 side.

Similar scenes are unfolding in the ongoing Men's Asian Games Qualifier, with them losing to Sri Lanka and drawing against Uzbekistan, matches they were expected to win.

In one sense, Bangladeshi sports administration's over-fixation on age-level glories is quite acknowledgement that similar success at the next stage is still out of reach.

Until steps are taken to build on from age-level success, chances are that the open-top bus will keep appearing for lesser and lesser occasions.

Bangladesh hockey hits new nadir

SPORTS REPORTER

After failing to secure an Asia Cup berth for the first time last year – only to eventually participate following Pakistan's withdrawal – Bangladesh hockey hit a new low on Monday, missing out on the semifinals of the Asian Games Qualifiers after a 1-1 draw against Uzbekistan in Bangkok.

The result, Bangladesh's first-ever draw against the Central Asian side, coupled with a first defeat to Sri Lanka in two decades, has left them battling for a place in the top six through a playoff on Thursday – a stark contrast to a tournament they would once have been expected to dominate.

In the match against Uzbekistan, Bangladesh fell behind early after conceding a penalty corner in the sixth minute, which Mironshokh Ortikboev converted. Ashikuzzaman's men responded 30 minutes later, with Amirul Islam equalising from a penalty stroke.

Both teams created further opportunities but failed to make them count. Bangladesh, in particular, endured a frustrating outing from penalty corners, failing to convert any of their six attempts.

The men in red and green finished third in the four-team group with four points from three matches. Uzbekistan also collected four points but advanced to the semifinals as group runners-up due to a superior goal difference. Sri Lanka, despite losing their final match to



Chinese Taipei on Monday, topped the group, having earlier beaten Bangladesh 3-2.

Bangladesh had begun their campaign with a narrow 4-3 win over Chinese Taipei.

They will now face the fourth-placed team from Group A in Thursday's playoff, with their opponents to be determined among Hong Kong, Thailand and Kazakhstan. The top six teams from the II-team tournament – considered a second-tier competition in Asia – will qualify for the Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Japan later this year.

Regardless of whether Bangladesh ultimately secure a place in the Asian Games, their performances over the past year warrant serious scrutiny – particularly in areas such as team selection, the effectiveness of the coaching staff, and the overall competitiveness of the side in the absence of domestic competitions.

Bayern eye Real breakthrough

STAR SPORTS DESK

Vincent Kompany's Bayern Munich head to the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday for their Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Real Madrid, brimming with confidence and reinforced by the likely return of Harry Kane.

Bayern arrive as arguably Europe's most complete side. Their attacking output has been relentless, with 32 goals in 10 Champions League games this season, and only twice in their history have they averaged more per campaign. Much of that firepower stems from Kane, whose 48 goals in 40 appearances bring forth his transformative impact. The England striker is also the only player from his country to score 10 or more goals in consecutive Champions League seasons and has netted 29 times in 34 appearances since joining the German giants – the most by any player in the competition.

Real, by contrast, have endured an inconsistent season. Yet their affinity with this competition remains unmatched. Just when doubts surfaced, they produced arguably their performance of the season to dismantle Manchester City in the last 16.

The tie pits together the two most frequent quarterfinalists in Champions League history – Real for a 22nd time, Bayern a 24th. The Spanish side hold the edge at this stage, progressing 17 times, while Bayern have suffered elimination more often than any other club (10).

Despite Madrid's array of attacking talent – Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr, Jude Bellingham and Federico Valverde – Bayern's cohesion and intensity make them slight favourites. Kompany's side, driven by a high pressing system and supported by attackers like Michael Olise and Luis Diaz, dismantled Atalanta 10-2 on aggregate in the previous round and are unbeaten in 14 matches since January.

Yet history casts a long shadow. Bayern are winless in their last nine meetings with Real and have not eliminated them from a knockout tie

since 2012. Each of the last four times Madrid have knocked Bayern out, they have gone on to win the trophy.

Memories of Bernabeu heartbreak linger. From Sven Ulreich's costly error in 2018 to Joselu's late double in the 2024 semifinal – sparked by a rare Manuel Neuer mistake – Real have repeatedly found decisive moments when it mattered most.

No team has faced another more often in this competition, and Tuesday's clash – the 29th between the sides – adds another chapter to the mouthwatering clash amongst Europe's elites.

Form favours Bayern but against Real in the Champions League, history rarely follows the script.



In the other fixture of the evening, Premier League leader Arsenal travel to Sporting Lisbon aiming to halt a dip in form and reach a second straight semifinal. Sporting have never beaten the Gunners in seven attempts, though they famously knocked them out of the Europa League in 2023.

Mikel Arteta's side, recently beaten in both domestic cups, face a Sporting team buoyed by a remarkable comeback against Bodø/Glimt. All eyes, however, will be on Viktor Gyokeres, returning to face his former club after scoring 97 goals in 102 games, seeking to make an impact on familiar ground.

65 DAYS TO GO



Bigger than ever

From 1998 to 2022, every FIFA World Cup edition featured 32 teams and a total of 64 matches. However, with the tournament expanding to 48 teams for the upcoming 2026 edition, the competition will break new ground in its 96 year history by staging a 65th match for the first time. The World Cup, to be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, will feature a total of 104 matches.

**Visit The Daily Star website to also read "The Debutant Hall of Fame: When first-timers showed what they're made of".

BCB introduces spin bowling machine

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has introduced a spin bowling machine for the first time in the country, aiming to enhance players' preparation through modern training technology.

The machine, named Merlyn by BOLA, was used for the first time on Monday during the national team's skill camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur ahead of the New Zealand series.

Previously, bowling machines in Bangladesh were primarily used to simulate pace and short-pitched deliveries.

The introduction of a spin bowling machine addresses a long-standing need, as such devices are widely used in countries like England, Australia, and New Zealand to replicate quality spin bowling in training environments.

"This machine had been under discussion for a long time and was ordered recently," BCB cricket operations in-charge Shahriar Nafees told reporters in Mirpur.

"With this, you can play three types of deliveries – off spin, leg spin, and arm ball. The length of the ball can be adjusted, and the pace can be increased or decreased. It can be operated in both manual and automatic modes. In automatic mode, you can play 25-30 balls at a time."

According to the BCB official, the machine was purchased at a cost of approximately £10,000 (around Tk 16 lakh).

According to the manufacturer, Merlyn by BOLA is regarded as one of the most advanced and accurate spin bowling training aids in the world.

The machine received widespread praise from professional players and coaches when the ECB first introduced it in 2009.

BCL schedule hinges on April 8 DPL meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

A Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official said yesterday that the board is awaiting the outcome of an April 8 meeting between the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) and Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League (DPL) clubs before finalising the schedule for the longer-format Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL).

"There is a meeting with the Premier League clubs on April 8. If the DPL does not take place, the BCL will definitely start on April 21. If the tournament goes ahead, we will adjust the BCL schedule," BCB tournament committee in-charge AEM Kawser told The Daily Star.

"Since players' interests are involved in the DPL, we might have to give it priority. If players participate there, we naturally cannot involve them in the BCL," he added.

If the DPL is shelved, both matches of the BCL's opening round will be held in Sylhet, followed by the second round in Rajshahi and Bogura, and the third in Chattogram and Rajshahi.

The second round is expected to begin on April 28, with the final round set to start after a one-week break to accommodate national players joining a preparatory camp ahead of the Pakistan Tests.

Pakistan are scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh on May 4 for a two-Test series – part of the World Test Championship – with the first Test likely from May 8, according to a draft itinerary.

The last BCL four-day tournament was held in December 2023, while the one-day version took place earlier this year.

Last chance saloon for Bangladesh



PHOTO: BFF

Bangladesh players wear broad smiles in training on Monday ahead of Tuesday's final group fixture of the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup against Vietnam in Thailand. Despite losing their first two matches, Bangladesh could go into the quarterfinals of this 12-team competition as one of two best third-placed teams with a victory against the Vietnamese.



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Early rain brings misfortune for haor farmers

Thousands of hectares of Boro paddy submerged in Sylhet region

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

Farmer Tara Mia of Shailyani village in Rupeswar haor in Sunamganj's Madhyanager cultivated nearly six acres of Boro paddy, partly on his own and partly through sharecroppers.

More than half of his crops are now submerged due to off-season rain and poor drainage ahead of the harvest season.

"Even if the weather turns favourable, not even half of the paddy can be harvested. Fifty to sixty irrigation machines are pumping water out of the haor, but whatever drains one day fills up the next," he lamented.

Abdul Hakim of the Bhukshimoi Baramasjid area in Moulvibazar's Kulaura is another farmer facing losses, as his 15 acres of Boro fields in Hakaluki haor have been completely submerged.

"The water level was rising slowly, but heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday caused it to surge and submerge the

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A child receiving oxygen support at DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday, as measles cases continue to surge across the country. PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Govt appears to be stepping back on key issues

TIB raises concerns over moves on reform ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said the government appears to be stepping back on critical issues such as judicial independence, human rights, anti-corruption, and prevention of enforced disappearances through its move to repeal, delay, or revise several key ordinances framed during the interim government period.

Speaking at a press conference titled "TIB's position on the repeal and amendment of certain ordinances framed for state reform" at its office in the capital, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman expressed concerns over the parliamentary special committee's recommendation to repeal four ordinances and the decision not to turn 16 others into law for now.

"By repealing the ordinances related to the judiciary, the government risks entirely discarding the issue of judicial independence," he said, adding that no timeline has been set, nor has any indication been given for future action.

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Election to women's seats on May 12

No EVMs in local polls: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced that voting for the reserved seats for women in the 13th parliament will be held on May 12 and the election schedule for the 50 seats will be declared on April 8.

The commission also decided not to use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in upcoming local government polls. However, no timeline for the elections has yet been set.

Speaking to reporters after a commission meeting at Agargaon in Dhaka, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said the election schedule for women's reserved seat would include dates for nomination submission, scrutiny, and withdrawal.

According to the Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Seats for Women) Election Act 2004, the EC must complete the election within 90 days of publishing the final results of a national election in the gazette.

The 13th national election, along with the referendum, was held on February 12, and results were published the next day. Fifty parties, including the BNP, Jamaat, and Jatiya Party, contested the polls. Of them, only nine parties won seats. The remaining 41, including the Jatiya Party, failed to secure any.

Over the women's seats distribution, Secretary Akhtar said BNP and its allies will get 36 seats; Jamaat and National Citizen Party 13 seats; and independent candidates one seat.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday evening published the voter list for women's reserved seat election, containing the names of 296 parliament members eligible to vote.

The EC is also weighing options for about 1.5 lakh idle EVMs, amid a rising shortage, missing units, and uncertainty over disposal.

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I want to come home immediately

Ex-CJ SK Sinha tells Star from abroad

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, known as SK Sinha, who was allegedly forced to leave the country by the Sheikh Hasina-led government in 2017, has said he wants to return home immediately, adding that he has been struggling abroad.

Reaching out to The Daily Star on Sunday night via WhatsApp, he said, "The Hasina regime exiled me on October 13, 2017. Initially I stayed for two months in Australia, three months in Canada, 18 months in the USA, and then returned to Canada in July 2019 as a floating man with my wife. I don't have any status in

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Measles outbreak in year of elimination target

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh was successful in controlling rubella in 2018 and was supposed to eliminate measles and rubella from the country this year, but now it is struggling to deal with a measles outbreak.

Hundreds of children are now in hospitals with measles and related complications, and the authorities are scrambling to contain the surge of the highly infectious disease.

Experts said although the country has exhibited remarkable immunisation efficacy over the past few decades, vaccination gaps have left many children at risk.

In the absence of systemic reform, emergency measures like those taken in the current situation to control the measles outbreak will not yield significant benefits, they said.

A total of 118 suspected measles deaths, mostly children, have been reported since March 15, including five in the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

At least 8,534 suspected cases were reported nationwide since March 15, including 1,282 suspected ones in the last 24 hours, the directorate said.

As of yesterday, 2,006 suspected measles patients, mostly children, were undergoing treatment at

hospitals across the country, it said.

However, the DGHS has so far been able to test and confirm 20 measles deaths and 1,099 cases.

Samples from suspected measles patients are tested at reference laboratories in Dhaka, a process that takes a considerable amount of time. Meanwhile, suspected cases are included in the list, and confirmed cases are updated later, creating a

The government on Sunday launched an emergency vaccination drive at 30 upazilas of 18 districts where the infection rates were relatively high.

On the first day, 76,123 children from six months to under five years were vaccinated, which is 95.8 percent of the first-day target, officials said.

Against this backdrop, the country is observing World Health Day with the theme "Together

WORLD HEALTH DAY

"Bangladesh's immunisation achievements were lauded worldwide and had significantly reduced deaths among children under five. From that situation, we are now witnessing a measles outbreak in the country..."

Prof Be-nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the DGHS

discrepancy between the two figures.

Besides, rash and fever, the main symptoms of measles, are common to several other diseases, officials said. Therefore, not all suspected measles cases are ultimately confirmed, which contributes to the difference between suspected and confirmed deaths, they added.

for Health. Stand with Science". Different government and non-government organisations have planned programmes to mark the day.

UNMET TARGET

Prof Be-nazir Ahmed, a health expert and former director of disease control at the DGHS, said Bangladesh's immunisation

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

MEASLES OUTBREAK

Failure of AL, interim govts to blame

Health minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday blamed the country's ongoing measles outbreak on the previous Awami League government and the interim government.

"The outbreak is caused by the complete mismanagement and failures of past governments," he said, referring to the Awami League and the immediate past interim government.

He was responding to a notice from NCP lawmaker Akhter Hossen in parliament, who sought urgent measures to curb the outbreak.

"Their poor decisions caused shortages in vaccine stockpiles, affecting vaccines for measles and six other diseases," he said.

"After the last measles-rubella campaign in December 2020, no such campaign has been conducted in the last five and a half years," he said, adding that such special campaign are conducted in every four years.

As a result, newborns and other children

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TONU MURDER CASE

Court orders DNA test of 3 ex-army men

No arrests, no trial even after 10 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

In the decade-old Sohagi Jahan TONU murder case, a Cumilla court yesterday ordered the cross-matching of DNA profile of three retired army personnel.



Senior Judicial Magistrate Mominul Haque of Cumilla Sadar Cognisance Court-1 came up with the order after Inspector Tarikul Islam of the Police Bureau of Investigation filed a plea to that end.

The three army personnel, all currently retired, are Sergeant Zahid, Warrant Officer Hafizur Rahman, and Soldier Jahangir Alam.

Cumilla Court Inspector Mamunur Rashid said the court had earlier directed the investigation officer to appear before

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Evicted just a day earlier, makeshift stalls were seen crowding the sidewalk in Dhaka's New Market area yesterday. Hawkers often return to such high-traffic areas within hours despite regular eviction drives. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangladeshi shot by BSF along border

Indian national taken in by locals returned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A flag meeting was held yesterday between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) on Lalmonirhat border, following an incident in which a Bangladeshi youth was injured by rubber bullets fired by the BSF and an Indian citizen was brought into Bangladesh by angry locals.

At the meeting, BGB lodged a strong protest against the BSF, and demanded that such incidents of firing at the border must not occur in the future.

The hour-long battalion commander-level BGB-BSF meeting was held at Rahmatpur Gatiar Vita area, about 20 yards inside Bangladesh, near sub-pillar no. 5 of border pillar 887 at the Dhabalsuti border in Patgram upazila, in the afternoon.

The BGB team was led by Commanding Officer of BGB-61 Teesta Battalion Lt Col Syed Fazle Munim while the BSF team was led by Commandant of the BSF-98 Battalion Sunil Kumar.

Nayek Subedar Badsha Mia, commander

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