



"Such carnage, within hours of agreeing to a ceasefire with Iran, defies belief. It places enormous pressure on a fragile peace... desperately needed by civilians." UN rights chief Volker Turk on Israeli strikes across Lebanon

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2 sentenced to hang, 3 get life in Abu Sayed killing

ICT-2 sentences 25 others to varying terms



My heart has not found peace yet, and my soul has not been soothed.

MONOWARA BEGUM
Abu Sayed's mother

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

When Abu Sayed stood with his arms outstretched, he thought the humans standing before him would not shoot him, not realising they were "no longer human", a tribunal observed yesterday while sentencing two to death, three to life imprisonment, and 25 others to varying jail terms.

As the three-member International

Crimes Tribunal-2 took its seats in a packed courtroom at 12:10pm, Chairman Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury said Abu Sayed was the first martyr of the 2024 July uprising.

The two other judges, Md Manjurul Basit and Nur Mohammad Shahrir Kabir, read portions of the over-500-page judgment before the chairman pronounced the sentences.

Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya

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Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire following an Israeli strike at the Corniche al-Mazraa neighbourhood of Beirut yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Judiciary, NHRC reforms rolled back

JS repeals ordinances amid opposition uproar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid strong opposition, the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday repealed three Supreme Court ordinances and one on the National Human Rights Commission, delivering a major blow to judicial independence and the rights watchdog.

The ordinances related to the judiciary were the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025, the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025 and its 2026 amendment, all enacted during the interim government to buffer the courts from the influence of the state's executive organs.

The National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025, which had given the body expansive autonomy, was repealed, while the 2009 NHRC Act was reinstated.

The opposition bench walked out of the Jatiya Sangsad around 5:55pm after the bills were passed, in response to what they called "anti-people bills".

"Regrettably, despite our logical objections, several anti-people bills have been passed today. We do not want to take responsibility for them," said Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman.

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman tabled the Supreme Court Judges Appointment (Repeal) Bill; Supreme Court Secretariat (Repeal) Bill; and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Talks uncertain amid shaky truce

303 killed in Lebanon as world condemns violence; Hormuz remains closed

Countries, UN, EU say truce should include Lebanon

Holidays in Pakistan capital ahead of talks

Iran president says strikes render talks 'meaningless'

Netanyahu seeks Lebanon talks, rules out truce

AGENCIES

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday ordered his ministers to begin direct talks with Lebanon, but ruled out a ceasefire with Hezbollah amid mounting concern that ongoing Israeli strikes could unravel the fragile US-Iran truce.

His move came as international concern over the strikes that killed at least 303 people on Wednesday. Hezbollah said it was engaged in close-quarters combat against Israeli forces on

the ground in the south Lebanon town of Bint Jbeil.

Trump announced a ceasefire in the six-week-old Iran conflict late on Tuesday, just hours before a deadline after which he threatened to destroy Iran's entire civilisation.

In Pakistan, authorities were preparing for the first round of US-Iran talks, locking down parts of the capital, Islamabad. However, the fighting in Lebanon put enough doubt on the participation of the Iranian side. It's Speaker Mohammad

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Next year's budget may cross Tk 9,00,000cr

Biggest jump in outlay in recent years to meet electoral pledges

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The budget for 2026-27 fiscal year is likely to exceed the Tk 9,00,000 crore mark, as the government moves to fulfil its electoral pledges, partially implement recommendations to raise salaries of its employees, and shield the economy from the fallout of the ongoing Middle East conflict.

The preliminary framework for the budget is expected to be finalised at a high-level meeting chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today.

The original budget for the ongoing 2025-26 fiscal year was Tk 790,000 crore, which was later revised down to Tk 788,000 crore with sharp cuts in development spending but higher allocations for subsidies and non-development expenditure.

The new administration is preparing a significant expansion, with preliminary proposals reaching Tk 920,000 crore, marking one of the largest budget increases in recent history.

BUDGET OVER THE YEARS (IN TK CR) *PROPOSED

FY27*	920,000
FY26	788,000
FY25	750,000
FY24	714,418
FY23	660,507

"This budget carries special weight as it is this government's first. It will signal the administration's priorities and lay the financial groundwork for delivering on its five-year commitments," said a senior finance ministry official, requesting anonymity.

The planned expansion is largely driven by increased expenditure commitments, particularly in public sector salaries, subsidies and social protection, alongside the need to cushion external shocks from the US-Israel war on Iran.

The interim government had prepared a revised budget for this fiscal year and a draft proposal for the next, but the BNP government is introducing significant changes to both, finance ministry officials said.

Despite the ambitious expansion, revenue collection is unlikely to meet its target.

The revised budget had set revenue target at Tk 588,000 crore, including Tk 503,000 crore from the National Board of Revenue — projections that officials acknowledge will fall short. The revenue collection target for the next fiscal year may be raised to Tk 650,000 crore.

Although the deficit target had been set at 3.3 percent of GDP in the revised budget, weak revenue performance and rising expenditure are likely to push it beyond 4 percent, putting further strain on fiscal management in the coming year.

The deficit for the next fiscal year is expected to be set at around 5 percent of GDP.

The interim government had set a GDP growth target of 5 percent and an inflation target of 7 percent in the revised budget. The new administration is likely to retain the growth target while revising inflation target upwards to 8 percent.

For the next fiscal year, the government is expected to set a higher GDP growth target of 6.5 percent and bring inflation down to 7 percent, banking on the assumption that the US-Israel war on Iran will not persist.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A RIVER UNDER SIEGE

The Shoimari River in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna lies choked with silt. Once 150 metres wide, it has now shrunk to a narrow channel. On its banks, encroachers are carving out fish enclosures to seize the land. Without urgent action, locals fear, the entire river will be lost to encroachment. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

ATLANTIC WATERS UK tracked 3 Russian subs in alleged covert op

AFP, London

Britain said yesterday it had tracked and "seen off" three Russian submarines on an alleged month-long "covert operation" in Atlantic waters "north of the UK" near vital undersea cables and pipelines.

Disclosing details of the joint mission with Norway and other unspecified allies, British Defence Secretary John Healey said there was no evidence the Russian vessels had damaged the subsea infrastructure.

"I deployed our armed forces to track and to deter any malign activity by these vessels," Healey told a Downing Street news conference.

"Our armed forces left them in no doubt that they were being monitored, that their movements were not covert, as (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin planned and that their attempted secret operation had been exposed."



Residents clear debris from a house destroyed by a Russian air strike on the outskirts of Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

2 sentenced to hang, 3 get life

FROM PAGE 1

University, Rangpur (BRUR), was killed on July 16, 2024, near his campus during the quota reform movement.

A video showing him being shot by police while standing with his arms outstretched in defiance went viral, turning him into an icon of resistance and a symbol for the movement. His killing is widely seen as a turning point that galvanised the mass uprising, which culminated in the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5, 2024.

This is the fourth judgment in cases filed on charges of crimes against humanity committed during the uprising, with two each delivered by ICT-1 and ICT-2.

Speaking at a press briefing at their Rangpur home following the verdict, Sayed's mother Monowara Begum said the family was not satisfied.

"My heart is not at peace, and my soul is not calm," she said, adding they would have been satisfied if more of the accused had received harsher punishment, particularly the death sentence.

His father Mokbul Hossain said, "We cry every day; every moment passes in pain. Today's [yesterday's] verdict has only intensified that pain."

Sayed's brother Abu Hossain and Romjan Ali, who were present in the courtroom, also expressed dissatisfaction as some high-ranking officials with command responsibility for the killing and the BRUR BCL president Pomel Barua were not given the death sentence.

Two were sentenced to the gallows for directly shooting Abu Sayed: former assistant sub-inspector of police Amir Hossain and constable Sujon Chandra Roy.

Those sentenced to life imprisonment are Md Arifuzzaman, former assistant commissioner (Kotwali zone) of Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RMP); Rabiul Islam, former officer-in-charge of Tajhat Police Station; and

sub-inspector Bibhuti Bhusan Roy, who was in charge of the university's police outpost. They were also given an additional 10 years' rigorous imprisonment on other counts.

Former BRUR vice-chancellor Md Hasibur Rashid and former RMP commissioner Md Moniruzzaman were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on charges of command responsibility.

The university's associate professors Mashiur Rahman and Asaduzzaman Mondol, and BCL leader Pomel Barua were also given 10 years' imprisonment after being found guilty under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973.

Eight others who received five-year jail terms are BRUR proctor Shariful Islam; former assistant registrar Rafiul Hasan Russell; former RMP deputy commissioner Md Abu Maruf Hossain and additional DC Md Shah Nur Alam Patwari; Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad's local president Dr Sarwar Hossain Chandon; BRUR BCL's joint general secretaries Imran Chowdhury alias Akash and Masudul Hasan alias Masud; and former BRUR office assistant Mahabubar Rahman alias Babu.

Twelve were sentenced to three years in jail. They are Hafizur Rahman alias Tufan; former BRUR assistant registrar Moniruzzaman Palash; BRUR BCL's general secretary Mahafuzur Rahman Shamim; vice-presidents Fazle Rabbi and Akhtar Hossain; organising secretaries Sezan Ahmed and Dhananjay Kumar alias Tagor; office secretaries Babul Hossain and Sezan Ahmed; former BRUR MLSS (Member of Lower Subordinate Staff) Mohammad Nurunnabi Mondol and AKM Amir Hossain Amur; and security guard Nur Alam Mia.

Meanwhile, Anwar Parvez Apel, a contractual employee at the proctor's office, was sentenced to the period he had already been in custody. The tribunal ordered his immediate release if he is not arrested in any other case.

The tribunal found all accused guilty on different counts of crimes against humanity, including command responsibility, aiding, abetting, and facilitating.

Six of the 30 arrested accused were present in the dock during the judgment: former ASI Amir; former constable Sujon; former proctor Shariful; former assistant registrar Rafiul; contractual employee Anwar; and BCL leader Imran. The rest remain absconding.

Following the verdict, Sujon was seen weeping with his head bowed. A few of the convicts made aggressive gestures while being escorted out of the courtroom.

Amir shouted, "I do not accept this verdict. I've been framed. I'm a government job holder. I only followed the command."

Two others shouted the slogan "Joy Bangla".

The prosecution submitted the formal charges on June 30 last year, a week after the investigation agency filed its report. On August 5 of the same year, the tribunal framed charges against all 30 accused, detailing their alleged roles in the shooting of unarmed Abu Sayed.

The trial began on August 27 with Sayed's father's deposition. In total, 25 prosecution witnesses testified in the case.

At a media briefing following the verdict, Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam said the punishments were not sufficient for some of the accused. "We had expected higher sentences for those responsible for command responsibilities."

He said after reviewing the full judgment, they will have the opportunity to appeal, especially against the lower sentences.

Azizur Rahman Dulu, the lawyer for the two convicts sentenced to death, said they will carefully review the full judgment once they receive a copy and, after a thorough analysis, they will file an appeal to the Appellate Division to secure acquittals for his clients.

nothing to do with them, and which the United States never once said was part of the ceasefire, that's ultimately their choice," he said.

Separately, the head of Iran's nuclear energy agency, Mohammad Eslami, dismissed Washington's suggestions that the truce deal would halt Tehran's nuclear programme.

"The claims and demands of our enemies to restrict Iran's enrichment programme are merely wishes that will be buried," he said.

The bellicose rhetoric came ahead of high-stakes talks in Pakistan expected on Friday or Saturday.

Iran yesterday announced alternative routes for ships travelling through the strait, citing the risk of sea mines.

The EU yesterday said that freedom of navigation in the strait must be ensured with "no payment or toll whatsoever", after Iran suggested it could charge for letting ships through.

The war has also strained US ties with Nato, with Trump threatening to quit the alliance if it doesn't join its effort to open Hormuz.

Three European diplomats yesterday told Reuters that Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte has briefed some capitals that Trump wants concrete commitments within the next few days for help securing the strait.

Rutte met with Trump in Washington on Wednesday, amid tensions within the alliance over the Iran war.

Meanwhile, an Israeli court yesterday said corruption trial against Netanyahu's will resume on Sunday, hours after Israel lifted a state of emergency imposed over its war with Iran.

Netanyahu, the first sitting Israeli prime minister to be charged with a crime, denies charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust brought in 2019 after years of investigations. His trial, which began in 2020 and could lead to jail terms, has been repeatedly delayed due to his official commitments, with no end date in sight.

Israel is due to hold elections in October, and Netanyahu's coalition, the most right-wing in Israel's history, is likely to lose.

Next year's budget may cross Tk 9,00,000cr

FROM PAGE 1

It also expects both public and private investment to gradually recover under an elected government.

Meanwhile, the government has begun piloting the several electoral commitments, with full scale implementation planned next fiscal year. The flagship Family Card programme alone is expected to cost Tk 13,000 crore in its first year, targeting 40 lakh families.

The other promised initiatives will also require large sums, though the finance ministry plans to manage rising demands by consolidating existing social safety net schemes.

The Ninth Pay Commission estimated that an additional Tk 106,000 crore would be required annually to fully implement the new pay structure.

The government is now planning a phased rollout of the Pay Commission's recommendations, officials said. However, a phased implementation would still demand a substantial outlay. A committee led by the cabinet secretary will draw up proposals on implementation.

"In this circumstance, major

Judiciary, NHRC reforms rolled back

FROM PAGE 1

the National Human Rights Commission (Repeal and Reinstatement) Bill on April 6 and yesterday sought the House's consideration.

Although the constitution requires a law for appointing judges, no such law existed before the 2025 ordinance; the executive previously selected candidates, with the president giving final approval.

The 2025 ordinance had established a Supreme Judicial Appointment Council, led by the chief justice, to recommend candidates for the Appellate and High Court divisions.

Another ordinance provided for an independent Supreme Court Secretariat with budgetary discretion and authority over the transfer, promotion, and discipline of lower court judges.

Similarly, the 2025 NHRC Ordinance had overhauled the top human rights custodian, unshackling it from a 15-year bar on probing members of the security forces, and granting it autonomy over budgets and appointments.

The repeals followed recommendations from a 13-member parliamentary committee, chaired by BNP MP Zainul Abedin, which reviewed 133 ordinances issued by the interim government.

A report analysing the ordinances, which was given to the lawmakers for perusal, recommended repealing the 2025 ordinance to dissolve the current NHRC.

It also recommended attaching the NHRC to the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division and increasing government representatives in the selection committee tasked with appointing commissioners.

The report noted that the cabinet secretary is the sole bureaucrat in the committee and suggested adding two more bureaucrats instead of civil society representatives.

It also proposed making government permission mandatory for investigating or arresting members of disciplined forces or government officials.

The committee further argued that the 2025 Supreme Court ordinances gave the chief justice excessive powers that could "hinder coordination with the government's operations".

It said that appointments and transfers are recommended by the government and accepted by the Supreme Court, to maintain "checks and balances" and ensure that nobody falls victim to a senior judge's "unfair decision".

Regarding the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025, the report said that judicial appointments will be made as per the "subjective satisfaction of the Chief Justice" and concluded that the ordinance "conflicts with the constitution and so there is no chance of passing this in parliament."

DEBATE AT JS
Before walking out, opposition MPs sparred with law minister Asaduzzaman, noting that he was the interim government's attorney general when the ordinances were passed.

NCP MP Akhtar Hossen objected to repealing the judges' appointment ordinance, alleging that "partisan" appointments in the past led to the

2025 CRACKDOWN

Freed Nepal ex-PM Oli issues defiant message

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's ex prime minister KP Sharma Oli offered a defiant message yesterday after he was released from custody following questioning over his alleged role in a deadly 2025 crackdown on protesters.



Oli and former interior minister Ramesh Lekhak were arrested on March 28, a day after Prime Minister Balendra Shah took office following the first elections since the September uprising brought down Oli's government.

Lekhak was also released from custody yesterday, police said. Neither man has been formally charged, and both deny responsibility for the violence.

"Although the government filed a criminal case with prejudice and vindictiveness and illegally detained me... I have finally been released after not having enough grounds and evidence to prosecute," 74-year-old Oli said in a statement posted on social media.

The arrests came after an inquiry commission recommended prosecuting Oli — a four-time prime minister — and other officials for failing to stop security forces from opening fire on demonstrators.

initiatives must be taken to boost revenue."

He stressed the urgency for reforms, particularly modernising the tax system, expanding digitalisation, curbing tax evasion and widening the scope of direct taxes without overburdening ordinary citizens.

On the development side, he urged reprioritisation of spending, including scrapping long-stalled "zombie projects" and exercising caution in approving new ones.

Mustafizur also warned that the budget deficit must be kept within 4 to 5 percent to avoid unsustainable debt pressure, noting that interest payments on domestic and foreign loans have already surpassed education as the largest item in the revenue budget.

Reducing reliance on borrowing, using foreign aid more efficiently, and making the ADP realistic are now critical, he said.

"While cutting expenditure will be difficult, failure to increase revenue flows risks pushing the budget deficit beyond control, and that is the government's biggest challenge."

without accountability, and invited the opposition to join a special committee for constitutional amendments to define criteria for judicial appointments.

He explained that he had defended the ordinance as attorney general because "the state's lawyer follows government instructions".

Responding to Hasnat's objection, he retorted, "These speeches are much more 'juicy' and relevant for street rallies like Paltan Maidan, the Press Club, or Muktagong. I think he [Hasnat] has read everything except the bill itself."

"If any law is made with such a malafide intent that it will prevent the BNP from functioning upon coming to power, such a biased law will be ineffective from the start," he said.

He maintained that the government was not scrapping the 2025 provisions but seeking time for broader consultations, alleging that the ordinance had been enacted without adequate stakeholder input.

He claimed that the commission will not be accountable to the government or anyone, because the 2009 law too gives it supremacy.

31 BILLS PASSED

In total, the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed 31 bills to ratify or repeal ordinances issued by the interim government, including the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Bill, which expands the coverage of the Labour Act, particularly by extending freedom of association and collective bargaining rights to include workers who were previously excluded from these rights.

The bills also included National Sports Council (Amendment) Bill; Bangabandhu Sports Welfare Foundation (Amendment) Bill; Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute (Amendment) Bill; Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill; Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill; Overseas Employment and Migration (Amendment) Bill; Local Government (Union Parishad) (Amendment) Bill; and Legal Aid Services (Amendment) Bill.

Among the others are Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council (Amendment) Bill; Land Use Control and Agricultural Land Protection Bill; Bangladesh Telecommunication (Amendment) Bill; Bangladesh Gas (Amendment) Bill; Human Organ Transplantation Bill; Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation (Amendment) Bill; Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Bill; Forest and Tree Conservation (Amendment) Bill; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre (Amendment) Bill; Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship Trust (Amendment) Bill; Zila Parishad (Amendment) Bill; Local Government (Municipalities) (Amendment) Bill; Local Government (City Corporation) (Amendment) Bill; Upazila Parishad (Amendment) Bill; Rajdhani Unnayan Karatapakha Bill; Personal Data Protection Bill; Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill; Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill; and Bangladesh Building Regulatory Authority Bill.

"Under the 2009 act, prior government permission is required to conduct investigations against these forces. Every member of this parliament knows how transparent an investigation into human rights violations will be if government permission is required to investigate the government itself," the NCP MP said.

The law is also related to the Enforced Disappearance Ordinance and the July Mass Uprising Indemnity Ordinance, he said, adding that by letting the Human Rights Commission ordinance lapse, the other two ordinances will "effectively be made ornamental".

The law minister acknowledged the opposition's concerns about judicial independence but defended the move.

"The transparency you demand in judicial appointments, the standards you want in judges, the judiciary you envision — we want the same. We too do not want another 'Manik' to be born in Bangladesh," he said.

He argued that no state organ, including the judiciary, can function

No masks, gas balloons, vuvuzelas

Govt issues directives for Pahela Baishakh celebrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wearing masks in the Baishakhi Shobhajatra will be barred, while sky lanterns, fireworks, gas balloons, and vuvuzelas will remain banned nationwide as the government tightens security for Pahela Baishakh celebrations this year.

All programmes across the country will also have to end by 6:00pm, and no new visitors will be allowed into major venues after 5:00pm, under a set of directives issued at a law and order meeting held at the home ministry conference room at the Secretariat on April 8.

The meeting, chaired by Senior Secretary Monjur Morshed Chowdhury, decided on the measures to ensure peaceful celebrations of Bangla New Year 1433 as well as the new year festivals of the Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo, and other ethnic communities.

Security will be especially tight around Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Baishakhi Shobhajatra, one of the main attractions of the celebrations

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Customers queue up with their vehicles for over 12 hours in the capital's Asad Gate area amid uncertainty over fuel availability as supplies run out. *Inset*, the station stands deserted after exhausting its stock. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Lack of plan stalled reforms under interim govt

Says Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the immediate past interim government, many important economic reforms faded out, as it had no economic philosophy or planning, said eminent economist Debapriya Bhattacharya yesterday.

The interim government was legitimate, but it was not elected and lacked both economic philosophy and planning, he said.

Debapriya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), stressed that the continuation of reforms, especially economic reforms, is very important for development.

For instance, just after Bangladesh's independence in 1971, the then finance minister, Tajuddin Ahmad, carried out economic reforms.

Similarly, reforms were implemented during President Ziaur Rahman's regime.



SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

'BNP has not learned from the past'

Badiul Alam slams the party for repealing key ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The way the BNP government is repealing laws related to transparency, accountability, and protection of rights shows it has not learned from the past, said Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar yesterday.

He was speaking at a discussion, titled "Citizens' Thoughts and Challenges Regarding Ordinances on Protection of Human Rights and an Independent Judiciary", organised by Human Rights Support Society at the Jatiya Press Club.

Badiul, former chief of the Election Reform Commission, questioned why the BNP government is repealing such laws and whether this reflects the "curse" of a more than two-thirds majority in parliament.

Referring to the repeal of ordinances on Supreme Court judge appointments and the Supreme Court Secretariat, he said, "We do not understand why BNP did this."

Recalling 2018, he said he had seen "thousands of BNP leaders and activists waiting at the High Court

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Administrators can now be picked indefinitely

Parliament passes interim govt-era ordinances; opposition slams move, calls it 'black law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed four separate bills allowing the appointment of administrators for an indefinite period in municipalities, upazila parishads, district councils, and city corporations under "special circumstances".

Despite objections from the opposition, the provisions were approved by voice vote.

The provision for holding elections in local government bodies under party symbols has also been removed. The opposition, however, did not object to this change.

Originally, during the interim government, ordinances were issued introducing a clause that allowed the appointment of an "appropriate person" as administrator indefinitely under "special circumstances". Later, the provision for elections under party symbols was removed from the relevant laws.

To approve those ordinances, parliament passed the Local Government (District Council) (Amendment) Bill, the Local Government (Municipality) (Amendment) Bill, the Local Government (City Corporation) (Amendment) Bill, the Local Government (Upazila Parishad) (Amendment) Bill, and the Local Government (Union Parishad) (Amendment) Bill.

Opposition members objected to the provision allowing the appointment of

administrators under special circumstances.

Objecting to the City Corporation (Amendment) Bill, NCP MP Hannan Masud said it would remain a "black law".

Referring to the interim government's ordinance, he said, "What does 'special circumstances' mean? Does it mean that if party agendas cannot be implemented or illegal benefits are not given, then removal will follow? There is no explanation. This is a stab at democracy."

He also questioned the term "appropriate person", asking, "Does it refer to a party leader, a hired thug, or simply the children of ministers and MPs?"

Objecting to the District Council (Amendment) Bill, Jamaat-e-Islami's Gazi Enamul Haque said the amendment directly violates three articles of the Constitution.

Citing several court rulings, he argued that appointing administrators instead of elected representatives is unlawful.

State Minister for Local Government Mir Shahe Alam responded to the objections

separately. He said the current "special circumstance" is that elections cannot be held as the law has not yet been finalised.

Since the provision for party symbols has been removed, administrators have been appointed, he said.

During the interim government, ordinances were issued introducing a clause that allowed the appointment of an 'appropriate person' as administrator indefinitely under 'special circumstances'.

What does 'special circumstances' mean? Does it mean that if party agendas cannot be implemented or illegal benefits are not given, then removal will follow? There is no explanation. This is a stab at democracy.

HANNAN MASUD
NCP MP

'BNP's rhetoric is all about deceiving the people'

Shafiqur criticises laws passed at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday slammed the BNP government after staging a walkout in protest against what he described as "anti-people and anti-democratic" laws passed in parliament.

"All of BNP's rhetoric was about deceiving the people — they are now heading down the same path of fascism," he alleged.

At a press conference after the walkout, opposition leaders accused the government of enacting laws that could curtail citizens' rights, undermine the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, and weaken the electoral system.

Shafiqur said the opposition was given limited time to raise objections, while ministers were allowed "unlimited time". "This is not fair," he added.

He also said government moves on issues such as judicial appointments and an independent secretariat amounted to "executive interference", which he said contradicts the constitution and court rulings. He criticised local government laws, alleging that institutions were being politicised through the appointment of administrators instead of elected representatives.

At the same briefing, Opposition Chief Whip and NCP Convener Nahid Islam



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Govt to display AC bus fares digitally

Rabiul Alam tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam yesterday told parliament that a fare chart for AC buses and minibuses will soon be prepared.

The fare list will be displayed digitally inside public transport vehicles, he said in response to a query from independent MP Rumeen Farhana.

Replying to another question from ruling party MP Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui, the minister said to restore discipline in the transport sector, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has taken steps to introduce GPS technology in public transport operating on highways.

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ARMS CASE

Hadi murder accused Faisal jailed for 10yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Faisal Karim Masud, the prime accused in the killing of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi, to 10 years' imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge Md Mahmudul Mohsin of the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-18 delivered the verdict in Faisal's absence, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi said.

The court also issued a conviction warrant against Faisal, who is currently absconding.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Unico starts care project for senior citizens

CITY DESK

Unico Hospital recently launched a comprehensive senior citizen care programme, offering special discounts and dedicated healthcare services for elderly patients, according to a press release.

Under this initiative, senior citizens will receive special benefits and discounts on both OPD and IPD services, including doctor consultations, laboratory services, radiology imaging, diagnostic procedures and dialysis services. The "Unico@Home" initiative, will allow seniors unable to travel to the hospital to receive healthcare services at home.

The project was inaugurated by Prof Sardar A Naem, chairman of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Retirement Home, along with Unico Hospital Managing Director Tazul Islam Dhali and CEO Adra Kurien.



A new 'Senior Citizen Care Program' was launched by Unico Hospital recently, aimed at ensuring seniors can receive quality care with dignity and compassion. The programme offers special discounts and dedicated healthcare services for elderly patients.

PHOTO: COURTESY

ROAD, FOOTPATH OCCUPATION

DSCC declares zero-tolerance policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday announced a zero-tolerance policy against encroachment of roads and footpaths to reduce traffic congestion and ensure pedestrians can freely navigate sidewalks in the capital.

As part of this initiative, two separate mobile courts conducted drives in the Sayedabad Bus Terminal and the GPO Link Road in Gulistan yesterday.

The operations, led by DSCC executive magistrates, resulted in the removal of a large number of illegal structures and unauthorised vendors.

In the Sayedabad Bus Terminal area, an operation was carried out for the second consecutive day, during which around 100 illegal bus counters were removed. Long-standing illegal structures built by occupying footpaths

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

LAND FOR SALE
Baridhara Diplomatic Zone

* 8.8 Katha * Near Lake Side & American International School.

Contact: Direct Owner

Email: Baridhaseller@gmail.com

Jibon Tari celebrates 27th anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jibon Tari, the first floating hospital in Bangladesh, celebrates its 27th anniversary today in Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila.

This floating hospital is an innovative project of Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), which focuses on taking affordable and specialised healthcare services to the doorsteps of rural, marginalised people.

Over the last 27 years, it has treated over eight lakh patients and performed more than 58,000 surgeries, according to a press release from IFB.

The three-deck hospital started its journey from the bank of the Padma river at Mawa Ghat in Munshiganj on April 10, 1999. Since then, the vessel has travelled to over 35 locations across the country's riverine districts. Recently, it has been anchored in Kaliganj since May 2025.

According to IFB, the hospital particularly focuses on providing healthcare services to women, children, and people with disabilities, who would otherwise have little or no access to treatment.

Jibon Tari is well-equipped with modern medical and surgical equipment. Its facilities include two operation theatres, a patient ward, digital X-ray machines,



Dhaka City Corporation authorities conduct a drive at the Gabtoli bus terminal area in Dhaka to remove illegal structures and unauthorised vendors. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Seven die with measles symptoms in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

Seven people died with measles symptoms in the last 24 hours till 8:00am Thursday in three districts, report our correspondents.

Four patients with measles symptoms died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), raising the total number of such deaths at the hospital to 50 this year.

Besides, 27 new patients were admitted and 24 discharged, said hospital spokesperson Dr Shankar K Biswas.

Currently, 132 patients with suspected measles are undergoing treatment at the hospital. A total of 479 such patients have been admitted to RMCH so far this year, according to hospital data.

Meanwhile, two children died with measles symptoms at Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH), raising the death toll there to three, according to the Civil Surgeon's Office.

Both had been admitted three days earlier with symptoms of measles. Their samples have been sent to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said Civil Surgeon Mahmudul Hasan.

In Faridpur district, 17 new patients with measles symptoms were admitted, including nine at FMCH. Since January 1,

185 such cases have been recorded in the district.

In Sylhet, a five-month-old child died with measles symptoms at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital on Wednesday night.

The infant, from Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj, had been admitted to Shaheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital on April 6 and was later shifted to the ICU of Osmani Medical College Hospital as her condition deteriorated, said Dr Mohammad Nure Alam Shamim of the Sylhet Divisional Health Office.

On April 6, another infant died of measles at the same hospital.

Two new measles cases were confirmed through laboratory tests in the 24 hours until 8:00am Thursday. During the same period, 36 new suspected patients were admitted to hospitals in the division.

In Gazipur, 10 new patients with measles like symptoms were admitted to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

A total of 137 children were admitted with such symptoms over the past week, of whom 103 have recovered and been discharged. Currently, 31 patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital, according to the hospital.

APARTMENT SALE

Own 4450 sft south-facing luxury apartment in Gulshan North With infinity pool, movie room, BBQ, Gym facilities and marble floors.
Cont: 01970555542

পুট বিক্রয় হবে

মিরপুর পল্লবীতে সাগুজা হাউজিং এ ডি ব্লকে ২৫ ফুট রাস্তার পাশে ৩ কাঠার নিকটক পুট বিক্রয় করা হবে। পানি, বিদ্যুৎ লাইন আছে।
01712716777

Hadi murder

FROM PAGE 3

During the trial, 13 prosecution witnesses testified in the case.

On November 8, 2024, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) filed an arms case against Faisal with Adabor Police Station. On March 28 last year, investigator Jahid Hasan, a sub-inspector of the same police station, pressed charges against him.

According to the case documents, members of Rab-2 conducted a raid on November 7, 2024, at an apartment in Baitul Aman Housing Society in Dhaka's Adabor area. Faisal was detained while attempting to flee. A subsequent search of his residence led to the recovery of a foreign-made pistol along with four rounds of ammunition.

On December 12 last year, Hadi was shot in Dhaka's Paltan area while campaigning. He died on December 18 while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

On December 14, Inqilab Moncho's Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber filed an attempted murder case with Paltan Model Police Station against Faisal and several unnamed individuals, which later turned into a murder case.

On January 6 this year, investigating officer Faisal Ahmed, a Detective Branch (DB) inspector, submitted a charge sheet in the case before the court, naming Faisal, four of his family members, and 12 others.

On January 15, Abdullah Al Jaber filed a no-confidence (naraji) petition with the court, rejecting the probe report submitted by the DB of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. On the same day, the court directed the CID to conduct a further investigation into the case after granting the petition.

BNP's rhetoric is all about

FROM PAGE 3

said parliament has been "tainted" by the passage of laws through the scrapping of several key ordinances and ignoring objections.

He said several ordinances related to human rights, judicial independence, and judicial appointments were scrapped or altered despite the opposition's "reasonable objections".

"These laws were passed without satisfactory explanations," Nahid said, adding that the move forced the opposition to walk out.

Criticising by-elections in Sherpur and Bogura that were held yesterday, Shafiqur

said the situation resembled past controversial polls and condemned reported violence. He also demanded justice and accountability.

However, he clarified that the opposition had not boycotted parliament. "We will return and speak for the people. If anything goes against public interest, we will protest again," he said.

Meanwhile, NCP MP Hannan Masud alleged that opposition polling agents were driven out of centres in Bogura-6 and Sherpur-3 polls, with some injured.

"Even children were lined up to cast votes. This is pushing the country

towards crisis again," he said in the parliament.

Referring to the 1994 Magura by-election, he accused ruling party leaders of repeatedly trying to undermine democracy. "But they have failed," he claimed.

Responding to allegations of vote rigging, State Minister for LGRD Mir Shahe Alam said the opposition rejected the election only after realising defeat was certain.

"You claimed rigging after 4:00pm and then announced a boycott," he said, urging the opposition to move away from the culture of boycotting polls.



modern pathology, and accommodation for 32 full-time residential staff members – including doctors, nurses, paramedics, and medical technologists. The floating hospital also features marine generators for uninterrupted power and a reverse osmosis plant for safe drinking water.

Besides medical and surgical services, Jibon Tari also provides capacity-building training to raise community awareness, so that rural people are left with the knowledge to seek healthcare for themselves once the vessel departs.

ANTI-CORRUPTION Investigative Journalism Awards 2026

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH Social movement against corruption

ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AWARDS 2026

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is inviting submissions of both print, online and electronic media reports for its Anti-Corruption Investigative Journalism Awards 2026. Reports published or broadcast between 01 January to 31 December 2025 in print, online and electronic media owned and operated from Bangladesh will be considered for the awards. Reports must meet the basic requirements of investigative journalism to be eligible for assessment. For submission of reports and further details including relevant rules please visit: <https://ti-bangladesh.org/ija>

Last date for submission : 17 May 2026

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
Planning & Development Department

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1	Invitation for	Selection of Contractor for Construction of Five-storied Student Dormitory Building including a Semi Basement at Plot No-13, Road No-4, Sector-15/H, Uttara-3 rd Phase, Dhaka
2	Procuring Method	Open Tender Method (OTM) 2 Envelope System. (Separate Technical & Financial offer)
3	Last Selling Date & Time of Tender Document	Date: 30-04-2026 (Thursday) Time: 3:00 PM
4	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: 03-05-2026 (Sunday) Time: 11:30 AM
5	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	Date: 10-05-2026 (Sunday) Time: 2:00 PM
6	Date & Time of Tender Opening	Date: 10-05-2026 (Sunday) Time: 2:30 PM
7	Selling & Receiving of Tender Document	At the Office of the Planning & Development Department, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Plot # 16, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Block # B, Bashundhara, Dhaka.
8	Opening Tender Document	At the Office of the Registrar, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Plot # 16, Block # B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara, Dhaka.
9	Brief Description of Works and Related Services	The work consists of all structural works including piling, plumbing and sanitary works, finishing and internal electrification etc.
10	Eligibility of Tenderer	a) The Tenderer must have up to date Trade License, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, BIN, VAT Registration Certificate & Ownership evidence. b) The Tenderer must have experience of similar work of at least one, the value of which should be at least Tk. 10.00 crore over a period of 5 (five) years in a single work order. Similar would mean multi-storied buildings with at least one basement. c) Average annual Turnover of the Tenderer should be at least Tk. 15.00 crore, over a period of 3 years. d) Minimum period of general experience should be at least 10 years as a Civil Contractor.
11	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable)
12	Earnest Money	2.5 (Two point Five) % of Quoted Price
13	Special Instruction	a) The Tender is to be submitted as per the instructions in the Tender Document. b) IUB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Engr. Kazi Din Muhammed
Dy. Director and Head, Planning & Development
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka 1245
Phone: +880 9612-939393 | Ext: 1720

ADB Asian Development Bank
Bangladesh Resident Mission
Plot E-31, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207 Tel: 02-55667000

Sale Notice

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), Plot E-31, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka intends to sell some used furniture, IT and Office Equipment on as-is-where-is basis. Interested parties may inspect the items at the ADB-BRM premises and collect the Bid Form during 10AM to 4PM from 12 April to 19 April 2026 except holidays and weekend (Friday & Saturday). Sealed bids must be dropped in the Bid Box at the ADB-BRM office within 2PM on 20 April 2026. The bids will be opened at 3PM on the same day.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM (DLP)
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS)
Website: www.dlp-badas.org

ADMISSION NOTICE
CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (42nd Batch)

Applications are invited from physicians (MBBS or equivalent with BMDC registration) for admission into the 42nd batch of Certificate Course on Diabetology (CCD), Session July to December-2026. The course was designed by a joint committee of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) and Distance Learning Programmers of Open University of UK for providing standard diabetes care. Students can join the course in Online mode or Offline mode according to their preference. Doctors willing to get admitted into 42nd batch are requested to do online registration for both online and offline modes through the DLP website (www.dlp-badas.org). Selected candidates will subsequently get instruction to complete admission procedure. Students are requested to register early as seats are limited. Intern doctors can get admitted with temporary BMDC registration. Offline centers will be conducted in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Sylhet and Faridpur together with existing offline centers in Dhaka if sufficient number of students are available. For any query please call DLP office (01718851777). The Course will start on 31st July 2026.

National Prof A K Azad Khan
President, BADAS & Chairman, DLP
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

• Assistant Professor • Lecturer A/B

School of Law
Department of Law

• Lecturer A/B

Application Deadline
Thursday, April 23, 2026

For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code

Israel digs in for a 'forever war' Defence analysts say new strategy sees foes degraded, not eliminated

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Even as the US and Iran seek to cement a ceasefire, Israel is seizing more territory from its neighbours in preparation for a long, drawn-out conflict across the Middle East.

Israel's creation of "buffer zones" in Gaza, Syria and now Lebanon reflects a strategic shift after the attacks of October 7, 2023, one that puts the country in a semi-permanent state of war, six Israeli military and defence officials told Reuters.

The approach also acknowledges a reality the officials said had become increasingly clear after two and a half years of conflict: Iran's clerical leadership, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza and militias across the region cannot be eliminated outright.

"Israel's leaders have concluded that they are in a forever war against adversaries who have to be intimidated and even dispersed," said Nathan Brown, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Israel's creation of "buffer zones" in Gaza, Syria and now Lebanon reflects a strategic shift after the attacks of October 7, 2023

The US and Iran agreed on Wednesday to a pause in fighting while they negotiate a broader end to the war, which erupted on February 28. Israel agreed to halt its attacks on Iran but says it will not stop its campaign against Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Hezbollah joined the war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel, which then launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon to clear a buffer zone up to the Litani River - a broad swathe of land that makes up about 8 percent of Lebanese territory. Israel has ordered the area's hundreds of thousands of residents to flee and is in the early stages of destroying homes in Shia Muslim villages that it believes have been used by Hezbollah to store weapons or stage attacks.

A senior military official said the aim was to "clear" an area stretching 5-10 km beyond the border, putting Israeli border towns out of range of Hezbollah rocket-propelled grenade fire.



People march in New York City, US on Wednesday during a protest against US-Israeli tensions with Iran and conflicts in Lebanon and Gaza. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran bruised, but still powerful over Hormuz

REUTERS, Dubai

Nearly six weeks of war in Iran have ended, seemingly, with President Donald Trump claiming victory, but the US-Iran ceasefire locks in a harsh reality: an entrenched, radical government with control over the Strait of Hormuz and a powerful lever over global energy markets and Gulf rivals, analysts say.

The shockwaves have rippled outward, contributing to global economic strains and bringing conflict to Gulf neighbours whose

economies depend on stability.

"This war will be remembered as Trump's grave strategic miscalculation. One whose consequences reshaped the region in unintended ways," Middle East scholar Fawaz Gerges told Reuters.

Before the war, the Strait was formally treated as an international waterway. Iran monitored it and intermittently intercepted vessels, but it stopped short of asserting outright control.

In the new reality, Tehran has moved from shadowing tankers

to effectively dictating terms. It currently functions as de facto gatekeeper of the route. Iran wants to charge ships for safe passage.

Additionally, Iran has demonstrated resilience under sustained attack and retained the capacity to escalate further, projecting influence across multiple fronts and strategic choke points. Its reach extends through Lebanon and Iraq via Hezbollah and Shia militias, and into Bab el-Mandeb in the Red Sea, leveraging the sphere of influence of its Houthis allies.

Vitamin A

FROM PAGE 16

routine measles vaccinations, last year's health workers' strikes, and the prolonged gap in special campaigns for children who missed the routine programmes.

Epidemiologist Prof Mahmudur Rahman said, "Vitamin A strengthens immunity, so when children with deficiency are infected with measles, they suffer more severe complications."

"If deworming is not carried out, children cannot fully utilise the food they consume, leading to malnutrition and comorbidities," Prof Mahmudur, a former director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), also told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof Mushtaq Husain, a public health expert, noted that children from marginalised communities are especially vulnerable, as malnutrition and lack of supplements heighten complications.

"Vitamin A capsules make a big difference. Anyone can be infected with measles, but the lower the immunity, the higher the risk of complications," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof Husain also said worms prevent absorption of nutrients from food. "This is why there is a direct link between measles casualties and the absence of the two campaigns," he added.

The last Vitamin A Plus campaign, in March 2025, targeted 2.26 crore children aged six to 59 months.

Prof Anjuman Ara Sultana, the former line director of National Nutrition Services, said that although the tenure of the 4th Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP) ended in June 2024, there was enough capsule in stock to carry out the March 2025 campaign.

Since 1998, four HPNSPs have been implemented, with the latest ending in June 2024. The interim government scrapped the proposed fifth programme in March 2025, opting instead to integrate sectoral programmes into regular ones.

Several projects were later approved to continue unfinished tasks and ensure the supply of medicines and vaccines, but approvals were significantly delayed - some until November last year - causing funding shortages for vaccines, medicines and even the salaries of many health workers, health officials said.

After the expiry of the sector programme, the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) was supposed to carry out the

Vitamin A Plus campaign.

Contacted, Mohammed Eunos Ali, director of IPHN, said they had planned to distribute Vitamin A capsules in November or December last year but did not receive the supply.

He said that in the absence of an operational plan, a fund was arranged from the DGHS to procure capsules through Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD).

But CMSD had to cancel two bidding processes because the bidders quoted unusually high rates, he told this correspondent early last week, adding that the third bidding process is now awaiting administrative approval.

Asked when the campaign could be carried out, he said, "Once the tender process is completed, the campaign schedule can be announced."

Back in 2005, the government launched the soil-transmitted helminth (STH) control programme after stool tests showed 80 percent of children had worms, a DGHS official said.

Since then, the national deworming campaign has been carried out under the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) programme, providing deworming tablets twice a year to school going children aged 5 to 16, he said, requesting anonymity.

The stool positivity rate fell to below eight percent in 2018-19, he said, adding that the last campaign was held in May 2024, with coverage reaching around 96 to 98 percent.

He said the campaign cost is relatively low, as the tablets are supplied free of cost through the World Health Organization, yet the campaign has not been held in the past two years.

Contacted, Prof Halimur Rashid, DGHS director (Disease Control) and the last line director of the CDC programme, said the campaign could not be held in the absence of an operational plan.

However, they have supplied around four crore deworming tablets to hospitals.

When asked how all school-going children would receive the tablets from hospitals, since medical facilities usually provide them only to those who come for treatment, Prof Halimur Rashid did not respond.

Replying to another question, he said the campaign would be carried out again if the operation plan is revived or the government decides to do so. "The matter is not that urgent at the moment," he added.

Advertisement for 'জরুরি নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Urgent Auction Notice) for a car, including contact information for CHC and a list of terms and conditions.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) e-Tender Notice for the procurement of accessories for a power transformer.

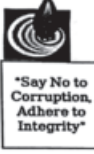
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) TENDER NOTICE NO: 28.05.0000.000.231.07.0032.26.241 Date: 09.04.2026 e-TENDER NOTICE Procurement Method : OTM (NCT)

BANGLADESH GAS FIELDS COMPANY LIMITED (A Company of Petrobangla) Birashar, Brahmanbaria e-Tender Notice for the procurement of following works.

Sl No.	Package No	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & Time of selling Documents	Last date & Time of submission Documents
1.	CCC.MECH F 38-002-62	Details of supplying and Renovation/Repair various parts of departmental track no. 274302 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243803	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
2.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-453	Details of Repairing Body Cabin of Volvo truck no. 11-0043 engaged in road repairing under Chattogram City Corporation	1243802	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
3.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-454	Details of Engine overhauling, Body/cabin, renovation and repair related parts of truck (Model China) Chassis no. 1000082 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243801	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
4.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-606	Details of supplying spare parts of 26 four stroke CNG Taxi under Chattogram City Corporation	1243799	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
5.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-596	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 46 vehicles engaged in official works under Chattogram City Corporation	1243800	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
6.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-538	Details of engine overhauling, body, cabin, denting painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of NKR Truck no. 05-0095 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243797	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
7.	CCC.MECH 26 Parts	Details of engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of microbus no. 11-0716 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243796	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
8.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-484	Details of engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of microbus no. 71-0034 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243793	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
9.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-174	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 27 CNG Taxi engaged in official works under Chattogram City Corporation	1243790	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
10.	CCC.MECH FN 222	Details of repairing Navana and Intraco dispenser of CNG plant situated in Dampara yard under Chattogram City Corporation	1243788	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
11.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-178	Details of supply/repair spare parts and outfitting of Microbus no. 54-1447 and Jeep no. 11-4722 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243787	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
12.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-65	Details of supply and renovation/repair various parts of 3 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243785	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
13.	CCC.MECH FN 278/14	Details of body, cabin, denting, painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of car no. 11-0722 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243782	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
14.	CCC.MECH FN 13/2011	Details of supply and addition various parts of official and garbage vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243780	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
15.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-168	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 8 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243779	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
16.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-107	Details of renovation/repair various parts of Microbus no. 51-0903 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243777	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
17.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-183	Details of supply and renovation/repair various parts of Jeep no. 11-4832 and Aerial Lift no. 001033 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243776	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
18.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-68	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 40 CNG Taxi under Chattogram City Corporation	1243774	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
19.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-188/23	Details of supplying compressor oil for Machines of CNG plant situated in Dampara under Chattogram City Corporation	1243773	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
20.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-169	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 11 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243772	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
21.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-607	Details of supply and renovation/repair spare parts of 37 four stroke CNG Taxi under Chattogram City Corporation	1243771	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
22.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-182	Details of supplying and renovation/repair various parts of Jeep no. 11-4722 and 11-2964 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243769	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
23.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-63	Details of supply and renovation/repair various parts of 24 vehicles and issue book of dampara pool office under Chattogram City Corporation	1243767	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
24.	CCC.MECH 10	Details of engine overhauling and repair related parts of Hino Bus no. chitto metro Ja 11-0331 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243765	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
25.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-608	Details of supplying and renovation/repair spare parts of 32 four stroke CNG Taxi under Chattogram City Corporation	1243813	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
26.	CCC.MECH 45/13	Details of supplying and addition various parts of 9 vehicles engaged in departmental and road developing works under Chattogram City Corporation	1243764	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
27.	CCC.MECH 1068/Kha	Details of supplying and renovation/repair various parts of 3 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243761	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
28.	CCC.MECH 38-002-191	Details of renovation/repair various parts of 12 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243760	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
29.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-192	Details of renovation/repair various parts of 15 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243759	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
30.	CCC.MECH 38-002-209	Details of body, cabin, denting, painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of ISUZU (NKR) truck no. 05-0030 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243757	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
31.	CCC.MECH 38-002-117	Details of supplying and addition various parts of 13 vehicles engaged in departmental road developing works under Chattogram City Corporation	1243749	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
32.	CCC.MECH 38-002-202	Details of supplying/repair spare parts of 11 vehicles and 4 generators under Chattogram City Corporation	1243741	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
33.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-176	Details of renovation/repair new hood body and related parts of Four stroke official CNG Taxi (ten) under Chattogram City Corporation	1243736	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
34.	CCC.MECH 3042/17	Details of engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of 250kVA generator no. 5 situated at Mostafa Hakim Hospital under Chattogram City Corporation	1243735	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
35.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-198	Details of supplying/repair various spare parts of 14 vehicles and 3 generators under Chattogram City Corporation	1243734	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
36.	CCC.MECH 38-002-199	Details of supplying/repair various spare parts of 13 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1243733	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
37.	CCC.MECH 38-002-200	Details of supplying/repairing spare parts of 12 official vehicles, 1 generator and Vulcanizing machine under Chattogram City Corporation	1243805	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
38.	CCC.MECH 38-002-201	Details of engine overhauling, body cabin denting painting and renovation/repair related parts of Mitsubishi Lancer Car no. 11-1879 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243811	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
39.	CCC.MECH 111/2013	Details of body, cabin, chassis and renovation/repair related parts of Forland dump truck no. 13999 under Chattogram City Corporation	1243808	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
40.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-203	Details of supply/repair spare parts of 13 vehicles and 2 generators under Chattogram City Corporation	1250346	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
41.	CCC.MECH FN 2008-28	Details of denting painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of microbus no. 11-2347 under Chattogram City Corporation	1250347	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
42.	CCC.MECH 38-002-112	Details of engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of Mitsubishi Car no. 11-1880 under Chattogram City Corporation	1250343	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
43.	CCC.MECH 38-002-478	Details of renovation, Denting, Painting and repair related parts of Double Cabin Pickup no. Chatto Metro Tha 11-0389 under Chattogram City Corporation	1250341	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
44.	CCC.MECH 38-002-109	Details of engine overhauling, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of NKR Truck no. 11-0302 under Chattogram City Corporation	1250340	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
45.	CCC.MECH 38-002-111	Details of engine overhauling, cabin, body denting painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of double cabin pickup no. 63-4569 under Chattogram City Corporation	1250338	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
46.	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-479	Details of supplying and Repairing various parts of 8 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1254315	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
47.	CCC.MECH 504-KHA	Details of engine overhauling, suspension and renovation/repair related parts of Mitsubishi Double Cabin Pickup no. 02-0105 under Chattogram City Corporation	1254317	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30
48.	CCC.MECH 38-002-205	Details of Engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of double cabin pickup no. 11-0404 under Chattogram City Corporation	1255833	23-April-2026 13:30	23-April-2026 14:30

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)
C.C.C/P.R.D-122/25-26(20)*4

Md. Imran Hossain Khoka
Executive Engineer (Mech.)
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram



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

Energy security is the top priority

Amendment of e-Tender Notice

Reference No.: 28.18.0000.000.039.07.0015.2025-26/807

Date: 08/04/2026

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 Gas Line Pipe, Pipeline Fittings & Filter Separator	1236429	05-May-2026 at 10:00 AM	05-May-2026 at 2:00 PM	05-May-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-41/2025-2026 (3 x 4")

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

People's Republic of Bangladesh
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Court, Dhaka

Present: Mr. Md. Sabbir Faiz
(Metro Sessions Judge)
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka.

Order on Petition for Confiscation: arising out of Permission Petition-200/2025

Motijhel Police Station Case No. 27 dated 26.04.2023: Under Sections 4(2)/4(4) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015)

ORDER No. 04. Dated:-19 January 2026.

উপ-পুলিশ পরিদর্শক, ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা হতে স্মারক নং অর্গা:ক্রাইম/ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম/ডেসপাস/৫১৪, তাং ১৯/০১/২০২৬ ইং মূলে আসামির নামে থাকা ছাব্বর সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত এবং সরকারী গেজেট ও অনূ্য ০২ (দুই) টি বহুল প্রচারিত জাতীয় পত্রিকায় ০১ (এক)টি বাংলা ও ১টি ইংরেজী বিজ্ঞপ্তি আকারে প্রচার করার আদেশ দানের প্রার্থনা করেন।

নথি আদেশের জন্য পেশ করা হলো।

This order arises out of an application filed by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Financial Crime Unit, CID, Dhaka, seeking an order under section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) read with Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rules, 2019, praying for Confiscation in favour of the State of the movable and immovable properties mentioned against accused persons serial no. Ka to Kha, and for publication of such attachment by notification in the Government Gazette and in two widely circulated daily newspapers.

Heard the learned Public Prosecutor and perused the application along with the relevant case records and materials placed before the Court.

It appears that the case involves allegations of money laundering offences as defined and punishable under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015). During investigation, certain movable and immovable properties standing in the names of accused persons serial no. Ka to Kha, have been identified and attached, which are prima facie suspected to be proceeds of crime derived from money laundering activities.

The investigating officer has stated that there exists a reasonable apprehension that, if the properties are not formally attached in favour of the State and publicly notified, the accused persons may attempt to transfer, alienate, conceal, or otherwise deal with the said properties, thereby frustrating the object of the law. Section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) empowers the Court to pass appropriate orders for attachment of proceeds of crime, while Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019 provides for publication of such attachment through the Government Gazette and newspapers to ensure public notice and prevent unlawful dealings.

Upon careful consideration of the facts, circumstances, and the materials on record, this Court is satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out and that the prayer sought is reasonable, lawful, and necessary for safeguarding the proceeds of crime and for ensuring effective administration of justice.

Accordingly, the application is allowed.

- The movable and immovable properties described in the schedule of the application, standing in the names of accused persons serial no. Ka to Kha, are hereby Confiscation in favour of the State, in accordance with section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- The investigating authority is directed to take immediate steps to publish this Confiscation order:
 - in the Government Gazette, and
 - by way of public notice in two widely circulated daily newspapers, in compliance with section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- All concerned registering, maintaining, and financial authorities are directed not to permit any transfer, registration, mutation, encumbrance, or withdrawal of the Confiscation properties and monetary assets until further orders of this Court.
- This order will be implemented by Deputy Commissioner which the property is located Rule 50(5) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019.
- The investigating officer shall submit a compliance report before this Court within the time prescribed by law.

জন্মকৃত গাড়ীর বর্ণনাঃ

ক) রেজিঃ নং- ঢাকা মেট্রো-চ-৫৬-২৮৫৮, ইঞ্জিন নং- 1TR-1192411, চেচিস নং- TRH200-0164745,

খ) রেজিঃ নং- ঢাকা মেট্রো-চ-১৫-৯৭৬৩, ইঞ্জিন নং- 1TR-1089763, চেচিস নং- TRH200-0150183।

This order shall remain in force subject to the final outcome of the case. Pronounced in open Court.

Dictated & corrected by me.

Sd/-
(Md. Sabbir Faiz)
Metro. Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Momo Number: 3875(7)/26

Date: 29/3/26

The role that changed Mousumi Mou as an actress

"I would constantly observe Al Pacino's performance — how he ate, spoke, expressed anger, vulnerability, and even silence. I tried to 'consume' his character in every possible way."

SHARMIN JOYA

Known for her fluent and lively anchoring, Mousumi Mou steps into one of her most striking roles yet as Jenny in *Chokro 2*, directed by Vicky Zahed. Portraying a character that balances innocence with an unsettling brutality, her performance has earned widespread praise from acclaimed personalities, firmly establishing her as a promising talent ready to take on bold, challenging roles.

"To begin with, the character itself was incredibly different," shares the artiste. "When Vicky *bhaiya* first sat down with me, even before going into the detailed brief, he said, 'Mou, this is a very different character—not something we usually see. It's going to be difficult, and your role is completely grey. So first listen to the story, then decide whether you can actually pull it off.'"

When she heard the story, she was immediately intrigued. "The character is a blind girl, someone who, after a certain point, is perceived as extremely innocent, almost fragile, especially following an accident that takes away her sight. But then, as the narrative unfolds, there's a transformation, and that shift was something entirely new for me."

Mentioning that the preparation process was quite intense, she revealed that a director friend of hers suggested Mou watch *Scent of a Woman* (1992), and Vicky *bhaiya* also strongly recommended it. He simply told me, "Watch Al Pacino and absorb him."

"I would constantly observe Al Pacino's performance — how he ate, spoke, expressed anger, vulnerability, and even silence. I tried to 'consume' his character in every possible way."

At the same time, the 'devil' aspect of the character came from within. "I believe all of us carry a certain darkness, suppressed anger,

frustration, unspoken emotions. I tried to tap into those parts of myself and channel them into that side of the character, and it's needless to mention how cooperative my co-actors were, especially Tawfik Mahub."

There's a thing about the director, she admits, that if the artistes couldn't meet the director's expectations, he won't compromise. "What stands out is how deeply he belongs to every character, and creates his own world on the sets. Jenny was one of his personal favourites, and he told me that this role would be an Eid gift for me. I am grateful to him that he believed in me for this role."

On a personal level too, the character stayed with her. "Jenny's journey is about trust, vulnerability, and survival. It made me reflect on how easily we place blind faith in people and how important it is to value oneself, to be aware, and to choose the right relationships. Friendship, in particular, can shape your life in profound ways — for better or worse."

She shares that directors like Srijit Mukherji, Maksud Hossain have sent her message praising her work! "It was really an honour for me that these talented filmmakers have extended their wishes and praised my work."

Meanwhile, Mou was featured in the Eid drama *Sakhina*, directed by Abul Hayat. "I was really surprised to get a call from Dolly Zahur *maa*, she really appreciated my work."

Before wrapping up, the conversation turned

to an amusing coincidence. Many noticed Mou's resemblance to Susmita Chatterjee, and when they finally met, it made for a delightful moment. "She's warm and lively, and we instantly connected," Mou shares. Since then, they've stayed in touch, exchanging messages and laughing over audience reactions. She added that Siam Ahmed had also pointed out the similarity. Recalling a funny incident, Mou said, "A couple who regularly watch my shows went to see *Rakkhosh* thinking I starred in it—only to realise later it wasn't me, much to their surprise!"



PHOTO: ZAHID HASAN ZIBON

Nuhash Humayun begins filming debut feature 'Moving Bangladesh'

Filmmaker Nuhash Humayun has begun shooting his debut feature film *Moving Bangladesh*, after six years of development. Backed by Goopy Bagha Productions Limited, the project entered production following an eight-day countdown campaign and will be filmed across 20 locations in Dhaka until mid-May.

The film follows the struggles of a bike rider and features a new face in the lead role, selected after extensive auditions.

Nuhash said he took time to develop the script, budget, and story on his own terms. The project has received international backing, including \$89,800 from the Taipei Film Commission and Tk 25 lakh from Screencraft Film Fund, along with support from Cannes, Locarno, and India's Film Bazaar.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Chitrangada'



Swarnadal returns with a lucid, finely controlled staging of *Chitrangada*, directed by Zahid Repon. Drawing on Rabindranath Tagore's original poetic text, the production sharpens its focus on identity, illusion, and emotional truth, unfolding a woman's struggle between desire and dignity with quiet force and intellectual clarity.

DATE: TUESDAY | APRIL 14, 2026
TIME: 5 PM AND 7 PM ONWARDS
VENUE: STUDIO THEATRE HALL, BSA

NEWS

Classes 3 days online, 3 days in person

FROM PAGE 16
taken after further discussion.

According to the ministry, the new model will be launched at institutions such as Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Rajuk Uttara Model College, and Residential Model School and College, among others.

The ministry, however, did not publish an official list of the institutions as of yesterday. The minister said the plan was intended for well-established schools with large student populations, particularly those to which many students commute by car.

He said that institutions with the capacity to adopt the system would be able to join voluntarily.

Teachers will be required to remain present at their respective institutions even while conducting online classes, he said, adding that the government would take steps to address technical

challenges, including improving internet connectivity and Wi-Fi facilities.

At the briefing, teachers stressed the need for uninterrupted power supply, internet access, and proper monitoring to ensure students' participation.

Asked about English-medium schools, where O-level and A-level examinations are scheduled from July, with authorities reluctant to move online, Milton said he had already discussed the matter with all stakeholders.

This move comes despite concerns raised by students and guardians at a seminar on Wednesday attended by educationists, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Kamal Hossain, a student of Nayatola Anwarul Uloom Numania Model Kamil Madrasa, said online classes could increase students'

dependence on mobile phones and encourage distractions such as social media and gaming.

Fahmida Akter, a guardian of a student at Motijheel Ideal School and College, said many families do not have access to quality smartphones needed for platforms such as Zoom, making online classes difficult.

Shahida Begum, a guardian of a ninth-grader at Shah Ali High Girls' School in Mirpur, said reducing classroom hours would be better than shifting to online classes, as students would still be able to study directly at school.

On March 31, the minister first mentioned introducing a mix of online and in-person classes for schools in metropolitan areas. At the time, he said a survey had found that around 55 percent of respondents supported some form of online education.

'Only Allah knows who did what in 1971 war'

FROM PAGE 16
Al-Shams, the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezam-e-Islam, and "Shanti Committee" — between March 26 and December 16, 1971, to achieve Bangladesh's independence.

The category specifically mentions "Biranganas" — women who suffered torture at the hands of the occupation forces and their collaborators — as well as medical staff who served in field hospitals.

A newly added category, "Associates of the Liberation War", will now officially include individuals who played organisational roles, built international public opinion, or provided diplomatic and psychological support.

Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman raised objections to the bill, while the National Citizen Party, a key partner of the Jamaat-led II-party alliance, formally informed the Speaker that it had no objections.

The Jatiya Muktiyoddha [National Freedom Fighter] Council (Amendment) Bill, 2026, was later passed by voice vote.

After being given the floor, Shafiqur said only the Almighty knows who played what role in the 1971 Liberation War. "Allah alone is the complete witness; the rest of us

are partial witnesses," he told the House.

"Our region has gained independence twice — once in 1947 and then again after 23 years through the Liberation War. I pay respect to all those who fought bravely for the country and the nation during the great Liberation War," he said.

Although the country was born with great hopes, those aspirations were not fulfilled by the rulers at the time, Shafiqur continued.

He said multi-party democracy was killed through the establishment of BAKSAL soon after independence.

"Following the political changeover of 1975, late president Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy. The nation benefited from it in subsequent periods, and today's parliament is part of that continuity," the Jamaat ameer said.

The Jamaat ameer said, "What is in this bill? It mentions the names of three organisations: the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Nezam-e-Islam Party. Alongside the Pakistan army and some ancillary forces, the names of these three political parties have been included, and the current proposal refers to these organisations."

Reiterating his earlier point, he said his party wanted every political

organisation in the country to operate with a sense of responsibility and compassion towards the people.

Saying they did not want divisions in the nation, he added, "In 1979, the Awami League itself was revived in Bangladesh through the Political Parties Revival Act. At that time, all political parties regained the opportunity and the right to engage in politics. We, too, regained that right then."

Earlier in the special parliamentary committee's report, members of Jamaat gave a note of dissent, stating, "If the ordinance is passed in its current form without bringing any changes, then existing political parties like the Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Nezam-e-Islam will continue to exist as part of Pakistan, which is not logical."

The note also said the ordinance requires changes in the definitions of "Bir Muktiyoddha" and the "Liberation War".

Jamaat further argued that during Khaleda Zia's government in 2002, the law did not identify these parties as collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces.

"It was Sheikh Hasina, a distorted symbol of fascism, who incorporated it into the definition. The subsequent interim government maintained the provision with slight modifications."

Dhaka, KL discuss

FROM PAGE 16
of excessive labour supply and high cost of recruitment.

Between 2022 and May 31, 2024, Malaysia recruited about 4,50,000 Bangladeshi workers through a syndicate of 101 recruitment agents, selected unilaterally by Malaysia despite Bangladesh's call for making it a syndicate-free recruitment mechanism.

The recruitment cost for an individual was fixed at Tk 79,000 (\$750), but each migrant worker spent between \$4,500 and \$6,000 for a job in Malaysia, according to a UN report.

This is the first ministerial visit to Malaysia since the BNP government took office, aimed at reviving talks on Bangladeshi access to Malaysia's labour market.

Dhaka expressed full support and readiness to collaborate in implementing the technology-based platform as a global initiative engaging all other sending countries.

The details of the digital platform could not be known, but the two countries committed to a fair, ethical, and transparent recruitment process, including addressing structural challenges to reduce intermediaries and migration costs.

Fuel Pass app launched for 2 Dhaka pumps

FROM PAGE 16
The digital system will integrate fuel distribution with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's database to track vehicle specific allocation and usage.

Users will receive a QR code linked to their vehicle registration, allowing filling stations to digitally record fuel distribution. Consumers will be able to view their quota and collect fuel by scanning the code, while a centralised dashboard will enable authorities to monitor nationwide supply in real time.

To ensure accessibility, users without smartphones can register at the official website (<https://fuelpass.gov.bd/>) and download or print their QR codes.

Energy Division Joint Secretary Monir Hossain Chowdhury briefed the media about the app at the Secretariat yesterday. The initiative would reduce misuse, improve efficiency, and strengthen fuel management, particularly during crises, he said, urging stakeholders to support its rapid expansion.

Meanwhile, a major consignment of fuel has arrived at Chattogram Port,

They also discussed utilising credible and qualified recruitment agencies, as well as establishing measures to quickly facilitate the recruitment of several thousand Bangladeshis who could not travel to Malaysia despite having work visas, as Malaysia had set a cut-off date and frozen the entry of foreign workers after May 31, 2024.

The two sides exchanged views on addressing challenges faced by irregular workers and enhancing cooperation in skills development, training, certification, and information sharing, to better align labour supply with market demand and improve productivity.

They also discussed concerns regarding ongoing legal cases related to human trafficking in worker recruitment in Malaysia.

The joint statement, however, did not mention specific cases. On April 23 last year, Malaysia wrote to Bangladesh, requesting the review or withdrawal of the cases.

During the interim government, a number of recruiting agencies were sued on human trafficking charges related to labour recruitment.

At the meeting, the Malaysian side stressed addressing any unfounded or malicious actions that may affect

its international reputation, while the Bangladesh side reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, accountability, and timely justice.

A migrant rights researcher, wishing not to be named, said Malaysia is sensitive about media reporting on irregularities in foreign worker recruitment as it has already affected its image internationally.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has extended an invitation to his Bangladeshi counterpart Tarique Rahman to visit Malaysia at a mutually convenient time.

He extended the invitation as Ariful and Mahdi called on him at his office in Putrajaya yesterday. He also extended warm felicitations to Tarique on his election victory.

Mahdi conveyed warm personal greetings of Tarique to Anwar and handed over a letter from the Bangladesh leader.

The two sides also explored avenues to enhance bilateral trade and investment, with both parties expressing interest in expanding economic engagement for mutual benefit, cooperation in education sector, including the exchange of teachers and academic collaboration.

raising hopes of easing the ongoing octane shortage.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker MT Central Star, carrying 26,000 tonnes of refined octane from Malaysia, anchored at the outer anchorage on Wednesday night.

Port Secretary Syed Rafayet Hossain said five vessels carrying octane, diesel, and LPG from Malaysia, India, and China have already reached the port, with more expected in the coming days. BPC will unload the shipments as scheduled.

According to BPC data, around 34,000 tonnes of diesel arrived from Malaysia on Wednesday, while about 7,500 tonnes of LPG from India, China, and Malaysia has also reached the port.

Officials said contracts were signed in March to import 440,000 tonnes of diesel and 200,000 tonnes of crude oil, though several shipments were delayed due to the war. With a ceasefire now easing vessel movement, supply is expected to stabilise soon, Monir said.

Over the past month, a severe octane shortage for motorcycles and cars has disrupted the retail market,

forcing motorists to queue for hours, often without securing adequate fuel.

At the same time, enforcement drives have intensified. On April 8 alone, authorities conducted 361 drives across the country, recovering 1,362 litres of illegally hoarded fuel. The authorities filed 192 cases, jailed two individuals, and imposed fines of Tk 579,050 during the drives.

Between March 3 and April 8, a total of 7,342 drives led to the recovery of 469,042 litres of fuel, with 3,011 cases filed, 36 individuals jailed, and fines totalling Tk 14,384 million.

Despite the market strain, officials maintain that supply remains sufficient. As of April 9, the country holds 143,143 tonnes of diesel, 16,812 tonnes of petrol, and 9,569 tonnes of octane in stock.

"There is no shortage of diesel," Monir said, attributing continued pressure on filling stations to panic buying. "Fuel is being supplied regularly in line with demand."

"The government has ensured fuel supply for the next two months, and there will be no shortage," he added.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Economy caught in the crossfire

Govt must fix fragile economy to weather shockwaves from Middle East

The economic shockwaves from the Iran war are rippling far beyond the Middle East. Heavily dependent on the Gulf for energy and sustained by remittances from the same region, Bangladesh remains particularly exposed, and a new World Bank assessment warns that this external shock could amplify our existing vulnerabilities, slowing growth, fuelling inflation, and pushing thousands back into poverty.

The growth outlook has already dimmed. Real GDP expansion, previously downgraded to 4.6 percent for the current fiscal year, is now projected to fall further to 3.9 percent. For an economy that needs momentum after three consecutive years of rising poverty, this is a serious setback. An estimated 12 lakh people who were expected to move out of poverty will now remain trapped, while about 600,000 jobs risk disappearing altogether.

Bangladesh imports 60-65 percent of its crude oil from the Gulf and also sources up to 75 percent of its LNG from the region, primarily Qatar. As energy prices climb, the import bill swells, widening the trade deficit and putting pressure on the taka. These costs ripple quickly through the economy, raising the price of transport, food production, and industrial output. Inflation, already elevated, is likely to gather further pace, hitting the poorest households hardest. At the same time, a second pressure point looms: remittances. Millions of Bangladeshi workers are now employed in economies that are themselves vulnerable to prolonged instability. If hiring slows or wages weaken, the impact will be felt directly in Bangladesh's villages and towns. The flow of remittances could begin to thin.

What makes this moment more precarious is the condition of the domestic economy. Bangladesh is entering this external storm with structural weaknesses already exposed. The new government has inherited tight fiscal space, a fragile banking system, and persistently weak revenue mobilisation. These constraints leave little room to absorb additional shocks.

Higher global energy prices will inevitably deepen fiscal pressures. Subsidy requirements for power, gas, and fertiliser are set to rise sharply. If domestic prices are not adjusted, subsidy spending could climb to 2.8 percent of GDP in FY26 from 2 percent now, crowding out investment in health and education and forcing the government to depend more on borrowing. In an already constrained financing environment, that path is risky. Public debt, if left unchecked, is projected to exceed 45 percent of GDP by FY28.

The policy response, therefore, cannot be timid. The central bank must resist the temptation to rely on unsterilised money creation to prop up weak banks and instead maintain a firm monetary stance to contain inflation. At the same time, relief measures should be carefully targeted, reducing import duties on essential food items and expanding safety nets for the most vulnerable households. The authorities must also move on long-delayed reforms. Energy subsidies need to be gradually rationalised to ease fiscal pressure. Tax policy and administration must be overhauled to broaden the revenue base and reduce dependence on domestic borrowing. Without these steps, short-term firefighting will only deepen long-term fragility. If the government is to withstand the current turbulence and return to a path of inclusive growth, decisive reform is urgent.

RMCH's ICU crisis is unacceptable

Govt must act to curb preventable deaths from ICU shortages

We are shocked and outraged by a report that some 229 lives were lost in March alone—nearly half of whom were children—due to not receiving timely intensive care unit (ICU) treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). This is an institution that has been coming under constant scrutiny in recent weeks for failing its patients by not ensuring access to critical treatment at a time when they needed it most. It does not, unfortunately, come as a surprise that public hospitals outside of Dhaka are failing to provide critical care and continuously suffer from an acute shortage of skilled labour, which hinders treatment processes despite there being necessary equipment and infrastructure.

However, for a division-level hospital like RMCH (which is the largest health facility in the country's northwest region), such a failure to ensure treatment for critical cases cannot be dismissed as just negligence, given the fatal consequences. It is also particularly worrying that so many lives have already been lost there this year alone, which begs the question: why is the matter not being taken more seriously, especially amid the recent measles outbreak? What are the authorities waiting for?

According to an RMCH spokesperson, some 119 children and 278 adults were admitted to the hospital's ICU last month. From the waiting list of 386 children, 91 died and among adults, some 138 patients died out of 614 on the waiting list. These figures make one thing clear: the hospital is operating far above its capacity. With just 40 ICU beds—12 for children and 28 for adults—the shortfall becomes a glaring one during public health crises. And, this scenario is not exclusive to RMCH, nor is it only prevalent outside of Dhaka, as we have observed in the case of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, which recently hit capacity amid rising measles cases.

We call upon the government and all relevant authorities to treat the lack of ICUs with greater seriousness. It is also high time for the authorities to realise that it is not enough to build infrastructure if the facilities are not made operational in time. The 200-bed children's hospital in Rajshahi, completed yet unused, is a stark example of failure in planning and execution. At the same time, nearly 32 percent of sanctioned posts in the health sector remain vacant, undermining existing capacity. Therefore, the priority is clear: operationalising idle facilities, filling critical vacancies, and ensuring resources reach overlooked regions when needed. We expect the government to leave behind the tradition of blame shifting and instead focus on stopping the preventable deaths which continue in a system that rarely ceases to fail its most vulnerable populations.

Were we close to a nuclear catastrophe?

When a superpower is driven by a blind expansionist power



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is editor and publisher of The
Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expected Iran to crumble when they launched the surprise attack on February 28 while negotiations were going on, killing the latter's supreme leader and several others. The Israeli PM reportedly told the US president that, with the decapitation of its leadership, Iran would collapse and a US-friendly and Israel-compliant regime would take over.

But Iran surprised its attackers and gained the respect of the world through its resilience. Yes, it attacked several Gulf neighbours, but this was limited to US military installations hosted by them, and some energy infrastructure after the states in question continued to allow US-Israeli attacks from their territories. The people of Iran deserve our commendation for proving that, however militarily powerful a country or camp may be, without moral and ethical justification for its actions, the victim country can resist, survive, and even retaliate. This adds an interesting story for any society.

What was stopped through the recently agreed two-week ceasefire was not so much a war as it was madness. Madness that seemingly brought the world to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe that could lead to World War III. The people of countries that have nothing to do with the conflict had to suffer immensely. We, in Bangladesh, have had our economic activities severely disrupted, with a World Bank report released on Wednesday predicting a slowdown in our GDP growth, 12 lakh people remaining below the poverty line who were supposed to have risen above it, 600,000 jobs being lost, and public debt exceeding 45 percent of GDP by FY2028—all because of this madness.

"The Middle East conflict is likely to materially affect Bangladesh's economy, compounding existing vulnerabilities," the World Bank said in its report, adding that higher import costs, weaker exports, and falling remittances are expected to strain the current account balance, while rising energy prices and pressure on the exchange rate could intensify already elevated inflation.

Did Bangladesh and the many other countries in similarly economically vulnerable situations deserve this? Did even the developed countries deserve to come so close to a nuclear conflict?

The war that we saw was an instance of a superpower being unduly influenced by a blindly ambitious, expansionist power. The former being led by a man who follows instincts, not facts, logic, experience, or rationale, and the latter by a man who dreams of

Unfortunately, the US today appears to have become a believer in an international order that is based on raw power and physical dominance instead of a law-based international system. The kidnapping of the Venezuelan president, the open announcements to take over Greenland, and threats to 'run' Cuba seem to have set the stage for the US president to think that the world is his 'plaything' and that he can dictate it to run as he wishes.

expanding his country by occupying others, even if it jeopardises its future security.

Pakistan seems to have succeeded in gaining the trust of both sides and is set to host the negotiations in Islamabad. As announced, the discussion is scheduled to start on Friday or Saturday. We sincerely hope that the negotiations will succeed and normalcy will return to the region and the world. But of course, Israel will try

to disrupt it. Early signs are already visible.

Unfortunately, the US today appears to have become a believer in an international order that is based on raw power and physical dominance instead of a law-based international system. The kidnapping of the Venezuelan president, the open announcements to take over Greenland, and threats to "run" Cuba seem to have set the stage for the US president to think that the world is his "plaything" and that he can dictate it to run as he wishes.

On April 7, before the expiry of his arbitrary deadline to launch massive

the US, the UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The core idea was to limit Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting economic sanctions. The main goal was to stop Iran from building a nuclear bomb. Iran agreed to limiting uranium enrichment to 3.67 percent (far below weapons-grade levels of 90 percent), reduce its stockpile by about 98 percent, cut nuclear infrastructure, and allow strict inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This agreement was termed by experts as one of the strongest inspection regimes ever agreed to. In return, Iran was to receive sanctions relief and economic integration.

The JCPOA is considered one of the most important modern diplomatic efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. Yet, years of collective efforts of all the permanent members of the UN Security Council—with the UK, France, and Germany being US allies and Nato members, who themselves

and 2025, trust totally collapsed. On June 22, 2025, the US bombed Iran's nuclear sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. This was the moment that the US directly joined the Israeli military confrontation with Iran, saying it had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear capabilities. This transformed US pressure and proxy actions into direct confrontation.

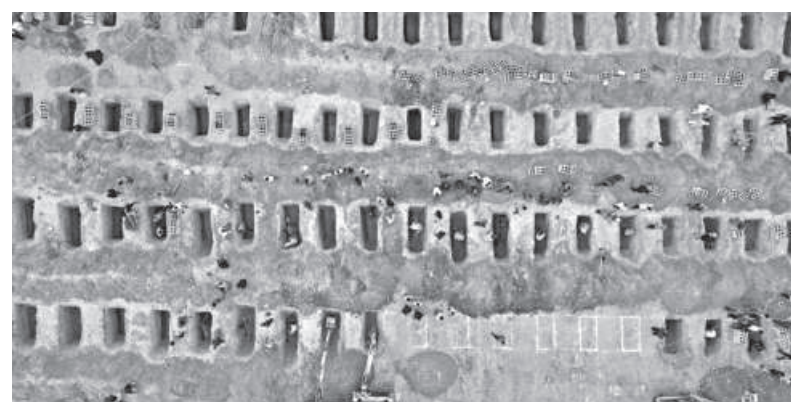
The real reason for all this, one can say with the benefit of hindsight, was that Israel never wanted any peaceful process to succeed. That way, it could always persuade the US towards military action.

In a very revealing report published on April 7 titled "How Trump Took the US to War with Iran," *The New York Times* shows how, during a meeting at the White House on February 11, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu persuaded President Trump to attack Iran, building a scenario that the CIA director present termed "farcical" and Secretary of State Marco Rubio called "bullshit." Though many of



'The Trump administration could easily have insisted on renegotiating with Iran instead of withdrawing from the treaty. But that's what Israel didn't want.'

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS



Graves are prepared for the victims following a strike on a school in Minab, Iran, on March 2. This photo was taken from Iranian Foreign Media Department.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump's other team members were not persuaded by the Israeli PM's narrative, they did not oppose or speak against attacking Iran.

The same report further states that the Israeli case was that, at the start, the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei would be killed along with some other senior leaders, which would lead to a mass uprising bringing about regime change and a return of Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's last shah, who would lead a post-theocratic Iran. In the meantime, US and Israeli forces would destroy Iranian military capabilities. Netanyahu and his team thus portrayed a scenario pointing to near-certain victory. Trump, reportedly, did not immediately agree but appeared far more persuaded than others present. On February 28, the sudden attack was launched, designed as a "decapitation strike" targeting Iran's top leadership and command structure, killing Ali Khamenei and several others. The suggestion was for a full-scale war.

The attack was launched when negotiations on nuclear issues were ongoing and reportedly making progress, which made it shocking and inexplicable to the rest of the world. Within the first 12 hours, the US and Israel carried out 900 air strikes. While the world was focused on the US and Israel attacking Iran, Israel used the distraction to pounce on Lebanon and has been relentlessly bombing it since, declaring that the present stoppage of war does not apply to its savagery in that small and vulnerable country.

How far President Trump will allow Netanyahu to dominate the current negotiations, and how long he will allow Israel to use the US as a "pawn" for its own ambitions, will play a significant role in the success or failure of the current talks. The new reality today is that the world is a different place from when President Trump started the war. Whether or not he will be able to accept that change, and how far Israel will allow him to do so, will determine the immediate future.

We came very close to a possible nuclear confrontation. We must prevent it from happening in the future at all costs.

strikes against Iranian energy and transportation infrastructure, he declared, "A whole civilisation will die tonight." How do you kill a civilisation without killing all its members? Was President Trump then planning to kill every Iranian man, woman, and child? This is only possible with the use of a nuclear bomb. Earlier, when he threatened to send Iran "back to the Stone Age," he seemed to suggest that he would bomb the country so intensely that every infrastructure of modern life—houses, schools, hospitals, roads, water supply, food sources, and implements of ordinary livelihood—would be destroyed. All this is indicative of a deep-seated hatred for the people of Iran.

There is one argument of the Trump administration that merits some consideration: preventing Iran from possessing nuclear weapons. But attacking Iran when the US's own top counterterrorism official, Joe Kent, publicly stated while resigning in mid-March that Iran posed "no imminent threat" to the United States creates Iran's own justification for developing such a deterrent. Today, the US does not utter a single word about North Korea while its ally South Korea is living in constant fear of its northern neighbour simply because it possesses a nuclear bomb.

We should recall here how a treaty guaranteeing that Iran does not develop a nuclear bomb was signed in 2015 in Vienna between Iran and

do not want Iran to have a nuclear weapon—amounted to little. In 2018, when Trump was elected president, he withdrew from it, citing that the provisions were not tight enough and that Iran could produce a nuclear bomb in, say, 10 or 15 years, and that it did not include Iran's missile capabilities. These reasons were Israel's, and not of the US, the former being always thoroughly opposed to any peaceful deal and always wanting a relationship of conflict with Iran so that someday the US would act on Israel's bidding. The fact that it was signed during Barack Obama's tenure was also a factor behind Trump's decision to scrap it. So, the US reimposed sanctions. Iran gradually moved away from compliance. This totally coincided with the Israeli position.

The Trump administration could easily have insisted on renegotiating with Iran instead of withdrawing from the treaty. But that's exactly what Israel didn't want. Thus, an important opportunity for a peaceful settlement was lost.

From then on, manipulated by Israel, there was a steep deterioration of relations with Iran and closer collaboration between Israel and the US. Between 2018 and 2019, the US put severe economic pressure on Iran, aiming to cripple its economy. From 2019 to 2021, the US indulged in indirect conflict, bringing both sides close to open conflict. Between 2021

'We must vaccinate 95 percent of the children to curb measles outbreak'

Dr Tajul Islam A Bari, a public health specialist and vaccinologist, who previously served as manager of the national immunisation programme, speaks with Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about the recent measles outbreak, immunisation gaps, and measures required to eradicate measles from the country.

There has never been such a high number of child deaths from measles in Bangladesh in the last couple of decades because of the success of our Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). How would you evaluate the government's response to this outbreak?

The measles vaccine is administered in two doses—one at nine months and the other at 15 months. When at least 95 percent of children in each district of the country receive both doses, transmission of the virus can be stopped. However, a significant immunity gap, as indicated by the coverage evaluation survey, has led to the current outbreak. Bangladesh is a densely populated country with relatively high rates of malnutrition, making children more vulnerable.

During the tenure of the interim government, Tk 458 crore was released on December 28, 2024, for the procurement of vaccines. The government also allocated Tk 1,451 crore for the next fiscal year (2025-26). However, due to lack of approval from the relevant authorities, the funds could not be released. As a result, no vaccines were purchased in 2025. However, the current government has taken steps to release that fund for vaccine procurement. The vaccines are expected to arrive soon for our EPI.

The interim government initially stated that half of the vaccines would be procured by the government and half by Unicef. However, the current government has decided that all vaccines will now be procured through Unicef.

By what year was measles supposed to be eliminated in Bangladesh? How far had we progressed towards that goal before the outbreak?

Before eradication, there are several stages. Bangladesh, along with several other South Asian countries, had planned to eliminate measles by 2026. This means reducing cases to zero per one million population. In 2024-25, Bangladesh had achieved a rate of 0.72 per million, which is close to the threshold level. In 2025, the target was to bring it down to zero—



Dr Tajul Islam A Bari

meaning no cases per million population. This is called elimination. If achieved by 2025, elimination certification could have been obtained in 2026.

To eliminate measles, large-scale supplementary campaigns must be conducted periodically to ensure broader protection. In 2005, such a campaign was conducted in one city corporation and two districts. In 2006, it was expanded to the remaining city corporations and 62 districts. One of the largest measles campaigns in the world was conducted from January 25, 2014, to February 13, 2014, vaccinating more than 50 million children aged nine months to under 15 years. This is known as the national MR catch up campaign. Following this, measles incidence declined significantly. The standard practice is to conduct such campaigns every 4-5 years to address immunity gaps. The last follow-up campaign took place in December 2020. All measles campaign costs were supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, covering both vaccine procurement and operational expenses.

Later, the government planned another campaign, which was scheduled for 2024. An application was submitted to Gavi, and it was approved after review. The decision letter confirming support was sent to Bangladesh on March 7, 2025. Gavi provided around Tk 600 crore to vaccinate 2.1 crore children,

along with Tk 1.78 crore for operational costs.

Although the campaign was supposed to be conducted in December 2025 or January 2026, it was delayed due to elections and other reasons. The same vaccine stock is now being used for the outbreak response campaign launched on April 5, 2026, in 30 high-risk upazilas.

Apart from the emergency vaccination programme, the government plans further campaigns. Are such initiatives sufficient?

The current campaign will be implemented in three phases. In the first phase, 30 upazilas

Gaps in routine immunisation—especially at nine months and 15 months—must be addressed. It must be ensured that at least 95 percent of children in every district receive both doses and that this coverage is maintained annually. Door-to-door child identification, community engagement, and awareness-raising efforts must be strengthened. Birth registration must be properly done so that every child can be vaccinated on schedule.

and high-risk areas across 18 districts will be covered. The second phase will begin on April 12 in various areas of Dhaka city, as well as in Barishal and Mymensingh. From May 3, a nationwide campaign will begin for children aged six months to under 10 years.

Measles is a highly infectious disease and 95 percent coverage is required at the district level, which has not yet been accomplished. The latest coverage evaluation survey (2023) shows that first-dose coverage is around 86.1 percent, while second-dose coverage is around 80.7 percent. As a result, the number of unvaccinated children continues to grow. Bangladesh has around 34.1 lakh births per year, but not all children are being vaccinated.

No vaccine in the world is 100 percent effective. The vaccine given at six months is about 50 percent effective, at nine months, about 85 percent, and at 15 months, more than 90 percent. Therefore, even after vaccination, full immunity is not always achieved.

Those who are unvaccinated are at even greater risk. Almost half a million children remain susceptible each year due to non-vaccination or failure to develop immunity after vaccination. When the number of unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children accumulates over the years, outbreaks of this type occur.

The ideal strategy is nationwide mass vaccination campaigns to ensure broader protection and ultimately close the immunity gap. This involves going door to door to identify eligible children and vaccinating them. Whether or not a child has previously been vaccinated, they should receive at least

one dose in this campaign. However, there is a condition: the vaccine used in this campaign cannot be administered within one month of the last dose of the MR vaccine.

What steps should the government take to prevent a similar outbreak in the future?

To prevent such situations in the future, surveillance must be strengthened. When measles cases occur, blood samples must be collected and laboratory results must be properly shared with the programme personnel. Wherever a case is detected, vaccination must be conducted in and around the affected area for unvaccinated individuals. Even those who have been vaccinated may require a repeat dose if more than one month has passed since their last dose.

Gaps in routine immunisation—especially at nine months and 15 months—must be addressed. It must be ensured that at least 95 percent of children in every district receive both doses and that this coverage is maintained annually. Door-to-door child identification, community engagement, and awareness raising efforts must be strengthened. Birth registration must be properly done so that every child can be vaccinated on schedule. These tasks are carried out by health assistants and family welfare workers. But a large number of these posts in multiple districts remain vacant. These vacancies must be filled urgently, requiring coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. Porters responsible for transporting vaccines from upazila health complexes to distribution points, from where field workers collect vaccines for administration at vaccination sites, are also employed within the immunisation system. Their salaries were previously paid from the government's development budget or from Gavi-supported Health System Strengthening (HSS) funds. However, for the last several months, their salaries have remained unpaid. That payment must also be ensured.

Decoding Pakistan's diplomatic win in Iran-US ceasefire



Asif Bin Ali is a geopolitical analyst and doctoral fellow at Georgia State University in the US. He can be reached at abinall2@gmail.com.

ASIF BIN ALI

On April 8, Pakistan pulled off something few thought it could do: it helped bring the United States and Iran into a temporary ceasefire, more than a month after the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, pushing the region towards a wider catastrophe. US President Donald Trump publicly said he acted after conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also thanked Pakistan's leadership for its efforts. Indeed, in diplomacy, public acknowledgement is a kind of currency, and this time Pakistan received it from both sides.

This was more than a symbolic intervention. Reuters reported that the talks were close to collapse after an Iranian strike on a Saudi petrochemical facility enraged Riyadh and threatened to blow up weeks of backchannel diplomacy. Pakistani officials then spent the night shuttling messages among Washington, Tehran, Riyadh, and others. Islamabad reportedly conveyed its gravest concern to Iran over the Saudi strike, while also pressing Washington for assurances that Israeli attacks would not continue in a way that made negotiations impossible for Tehran. Only after that did Iran agree to a temporary ceasefire and talks. That is not the work of a spectator state. That is crisis management under pressure.

It is also worth noting that this did not begin on April 8. By April 2, Pakistan's foreign ministry was already saying that both Washington and Tehran had expressed confidence in Pakistan's role as facilitator. Its spokesperson pointed to overlaps between the five-point peace plan discussed in Beijing and the outcome of consultations in Islamabad involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt. In other words, the ceasefire was not born from one dramatic phone call. It emerged from a layered diplomatic process that moved through Riyadh, Beijing, and Islamabad, with Pakistan trying to turn itself into the channel through which competing powers could still communicate.

Pakistan mattered because it occupied the right intersection of relationships. It has a long border with Iran and also maintains

For years, Pakistan has often been discussed internationally through the language of instability, militancy, and debt, and portrayed as one dominated by the military and marked by democratic fragility. Pakistan's success in talks with the US and Iran led to an agreement that briefly changed the script. The Guardian quoted analyst Michael Kugelman calling it Pakistan's 'biggest diplomatic win in years.' That may sound grand, but the broader point holds.

a mutual defence pact with Saudi Arabia. Moreover, it has working lines to Washington and, by several accounts, it also helped draw China into a more active role at a crucial stage. This combination is unusual. Most states in the region can talk to one camp or another. Pakistan, in this case, could talk to almost all of them without being immediately dismissed. That is what gave Islamabad relevance: not moral authority, but positional utility.

The first benefit for Pakistan is the most obvious one: self-preservation. The US-Israel-Iran war has been economically punishing, with businesses impacted worldwide. On April 2, Pakistan sharply raised fuel prices, with the price for petrol up 42.7 percent and that for diesel up 54.9 percent, as the conflict disrupted oil markets and threatened supplies moving through the Strait of Hormuz. For a heavily import-dependent economy already struggling with inflation, debt pressure, and fragile public patience, a prolonged war next door is a direct domestic threat. When the ceasefire news broke, global markets rallied and oil prices fell sharply. So, for Pakistan, its latest diplomatic move was an economic necessity rather than merely a prestige issue.

The second benefit for Islamabad is reputational. For years, Pakistan has often been discussed internationally through the language of instability, militancy, and debt, and portrayed as one dominated by the military and marked by democratic fragility. Pakistan's success in talks with the US and Iran led to an agreement that briefly changed the script. The Guardian quoted analyst Michael Kugelman calling it Pakistan's "biggest diplomatic win in years." That may

sound grand, but the broader point holds. If Islamabad hosts US-Iran talks and remains central to the process, it can present itself not merely as a troubled state asking for patience, but as a state that still offers geopolitical utility. In foreign policy, usefulness often opens doors faster than virtue.

There is also a more strategic dividend Islamabad will want to collect in the future. A successful mediation strengthens its hand

the most visible broker in the crowded and dangerous diplomatic field of the Middle East.

The real test begins now. Pakistan has shown that under pressure, it can still utilise geography, military channels, regional ties, and diplomatic relationships as leverage. The harder question is whether it can convert the temporary ceasefire

into lasting foreign policy credibility. This is the big challenge now, which requires steadiness, not triumphalism. It requires accepting a simple truth: Pakistan did not become stronger because it solved the US-Iran crisis. It became stronger because, for one critical week in April 2026, too many powerful actors discovered they could not move forward without Pakistan.

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আকেজো হার্ডজীপ গাড়ি ও মোটরসাইকেল নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	শিরোনাম	আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বরিশাল এর আওতাধীন সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী এর আকেজো যৌথিত ১ (এক) টি হার্ড জীপ গাড়ি (সেট-ক) ও সিনিয়র জেলা/জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার এবং উপজেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়ের আকেজো যৌথিত ৪৪ (চুয়াচিপুর) টি মোটরসাইকেল (সেট-ক)
০২	নিলাম দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বরিশাল অঞ্চল, বরিশাল (ভূগোষ্ঠী ভগ্না, কক্ষ নং: ০০৩)
০৩	নিলাম দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ১০/০৪/২০২৬ হতে ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
০৪	নিলাম দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বরিশাল অঞ্চল, বরিশাল (নেতৃত্বাবাদ বাসভবন সংলগ্ন কাশিপুর, বরিশাল)। তারিখ: ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৫	নিলাম দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বরিশাল অঞ্চল, বরিশাল (নেতৃত্বাবাদ বাসভবন সংলগ্ন কাশিপুর, বরিশাল)। তারিখ: ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা
০৬	নিলাম দরপত্রের মূল্য	২,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
০৭	দরপত্র জামানত	উল্লিখিত দরের ১০% আনেক্সমানি (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের সাথে পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
০৮	কর্তৃপক্ষের কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

২। (ক) দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয় বাস্তবায়ন কোন দরপত্র/দরপত্রের সিডিউলের ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
(খ) জামানত বাস্তবায়ন কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
(গ) বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলি দরপত্রের সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

(মোহাম্মদ জিহুর রহমান)
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ফোন: ০২৪৭৮৮-৩০০৮৬
reobarishal@gmail.com

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BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Love, wounds, and the making of 'Hemingway's Women'

Review of 'Hemingway's Women' (Panjeree Publications Ltd., 2021)

Mainuddin's writing style is clear, unpretentious, and the book avoids sensationalism while never losing narrative energy. It does not rely on overt wit or flamboyance. Rather, it invites the attentive reader to discover its quieter ironies and subtle humour.

SAFIUL AZAM MAHFUZ

Some books announce their ambition quietly. Others reveal it at a glance. The book *Hemingway's Women: In Love and Hate, Life and Literature* by Faruq Mainuddin belongs to the latter kind. Even before one turns to the first chapter, the architecture of the book suggests a carefully composed literary journey rather than a conventional biography.

The chapter titles themselves read like fragments of a long, unfinished poem. "First Love", "The First Novel After the Second Love", "No Passage Beyond the Breaking", "A New Dwelling in the Web of New Love", and "A Fragile Astonishment". Each heading hints at passion, rupture, longing, and reinvention. They do not merely map the chronology of Ernest Hemingway's life; they evoke its emotional weather. Through these titles alone, one senses that Mainuddin is not interested in presenting a dry record of dates and marriages, he is tracing the restless pulse of a writer whose life was as dramatic and conflicted as his fiction. What makes the structure even more compelling is its subtle intertextual resonance. The naming and literary sensibility suggest that the writer approaches Hemingway not only as a scholar but as a creative writer shaped by his own literary tradition. Thus, this layered consciousness enriches the narrative from the outset. The result is a biography that seems a bit expansive in scope yet intimate in tone.

Hemingway's Women begins not with fame, not with glory, but with a wound. A young Ernest Hemingway lies injured in a Milan hospital in 1918, decorated for bravery yet disarmed by love. The opening chapter, centered on Agnes von Kurowsky, sets the emotional blueprint for a life where passion, pride, insecurity, and art would remain inseparable.

Faruq Mainuddin does not approach Hemingway as a distant literary monument. Instead, he brings him down to the fragile terrain of human attachment. Agnes was older, composed, and realistic; Hemingway was 19, intense, and already prone to emotional absolutism. Their brief



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

romance, sustained through letters and illusion, ended with quiet rejection. That early heartbreak did not merely bruise a young soldier. It planted a pattern. Love, for Hemingway, would rarely exist without rivalry, overlap, impatience, or replacement.

The strength of this book lies in how it traces that pattern across the major women in his life without turning the narrative into gossip. Mainuddin places each relationship within its emotional and creative context. Hadley Richardson is shown not only as the devoted first wife but as a stabilising presence behind *The Sun Also Rises* (Scribner, 1926). Pauline Pfeiffer is placed alongside the creation of *A Farewell to Arms* (Scribner, 1929), her own words revealing both resignation and irony about loving a man who fell in love repeatedly. Martha Gellhorn

appears not simply as a spouse but as an intellectual equal whose presence shadows *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940).

One of the most compelling sections examines Hemingway's long and turbulent involvement with Jane Mason. Their intimacy, stretching over several years, ended in rejection that cut deeply into Hemingway's pride. Mainuddin carefully connects this emotional injury to its fictional echoes. In *To Have and Have Not* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937), the characters Tommy and Helen Bradley bear a striking resemblance to Jane and her husband Grant Mason. The portrayal is sharper, almost vindictive. Through these parallels, we witness not just artistic transformation but the author's wounded ego and possessiveness finding narrative form.

A major achievement of the book lies in its ability to humanise Hemingway without excusing his faults. Mainuddin's Hemingway is not merely a victim of his upbringing, fame, or war trauma. He is a man often unwilling to accept strong women, frequently insecure, and sometimes emotionally manipulative. And yet, he is also sensitive, passionate, and fiercely loyal, if only briefly. Mainuddin shows how Hemingway's bipolar tendencies, alcoholism, hunger for danger, and need for validation intersected with his romantic life. The women were not mere companions; they were catalysts, critics, muses, rivals, and sometimes mirrors. Their presence shaped tone, theme, and temperament in his writing.

In reading *Hemingway's Women*, one realises that Hemingway's literary landscapes—war zones, bullrings,

African plains—were never free from emotional undercurrents rooted in real relationships. The personal and the artistic were intertwined to the point of inseparability. His loves were often incomplete, sometimes overlapping, frequently restless. Yet from those fractures emerged some of the most enduring works of twentieth-century literature.

Faruq Mainuddin's achievement lies in presenting this complicated emotional mapmaking with clarity and restraint. He restores depth to the women who stood beside, behind, and sometimes against Hemingway. In doing so, he allows readers to see not only the celebrated writer but the vulnerable, impulsive, and often conflicted man whose art was inseparable from his affections. It is really great to observe its balance. Mainuddin neither glorifies nor condemns. He is well suited to this task. In this book, his combined expertise as a storyteller and researcher is on full display. He not only interprets Hemingway but also presents the women as complex, resilient individuals who defy the one-dimensional roles they are often assigned in literary histories.

Mainuddin's writing style is clear, unpretentious, and the book avoids sensationalism while never losing narrative energy. It does not rely on overt wit or flamboyance. Rather, it invites the attentive reader to discover its quieter ironies and subtle humour. Above all, it recognises that Hemingway's life, filled with romance, ambition, trauma, and self-destruction, needs no overstatement. It only needs careful telling.

For general readers, the book offers a fascinating portrait of a literary icon seen through the prism of his relationships. For serious students and researchers, it opens pathways for deeper exploration. Throughout the book, one understands that this is not merely a book about Hemingway's women. It is, in essence, a portrait of Hemingway himself, reflected through love and conflict, tenderness and rupture, life and literature.

Safiul Azam Mahfuz is a poet and translator.

ESSAY

On 'Bridgerton': When romantic escapism clashes with the realities of class

SHABABA IQBAL

Romance has never existed apart from inequality. The genre depends on distance—on obstacles that make love feel hard-won. Season four of *Bridgerton* (2026) understands this dynamic with precision. Rather than dismantling its fantasy world, the show uses class tension as romance's emotional engine. It gestures toward realism, but remains loyal to the genre's central promise: that love can be transformative without fully overturning the social order that makes it feel desirable.

The result is one of the show's most emotionally mature seasons—less glittering spectacle, more psychological restraint—though not without its blind spots.

Season four adapts Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman* (Avon, 2001), preserving its Cinderella-inspired romance while sharpening its focus on class and social mobility. By centring Benedict Bridgerton (Luke Thompson) and Sophie Baeck (Yerin Ha), the illegitimate daughter of an earl forced into domestic service, the show reframes the fairy tale through questions of structural inequality. Their relationship unfolds across economic and social fault lines, where affection is real but never free from imbalance.

Instead of relying on spectacle or melodrama, season four trusts emotional stillness—lingering glances, charged silences, and small humiliations carry as much weight as sweeping declarations. The writing allows vulnerability to develop slowly, making the romance feel genuinely earned.

Luke Thompson plays Benedict with a restless softness, his entitlement unconscious rather than cruel. Yerin Ha anchors the spectacle with emotional clarity; her Sophie carries quiet resilience, quick wit, and the fragile thrill of borrowed glamour. Ruth Gemmell's Violet Bridgerton becomes a subtle bridge between worlds. In her perceptive conversations with Benedict,



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

Violet recognises both the privileges that shield her son and the emotional courage required to challenge them—reinforcing the season's central tension between love and hierarchy.

That tension is embedded in the characters themselves. Sophie is educated and intelligent, yet constrained by gender and illegitimacy. After her father's death, her descent into servitude exposes how precarious security can be for women without wealth or protection. Benedict, by contrast, drifts through life with aristocratic ease—curious, unhurried, and insulated from hardship. The difference between them is not romantic tension alone; it is the friction between two worlds.

Their love develops inside a structure where opportunity is unevenly distributed, meaning desire itself is conditioned by what each stands to lose.

Violet's masquerade ball illustrates this imbalance. Disguised as the 'Lady in Silver' Sophie is briefly freed from her social identity. Masked and luminous, she meets Benedict as a near-equal. But the illusion shatters in a reflex: when she accidentally steps on his foot during a dance, she instinctively kneels to clean his shoe. Years of service surface in one intimate gesture. Power rarely announces itself; it lives in posture, habit, and instinct. As audiences grow more fluent in the language of privilege and power, even a Regency romance cannot

pretend hierarchy is invisible.

Elsewhere, intimacy deepens without dissolving those barriers. At My Cottage, Benedict's countryside retreat, connection unfolds in fleeting reprieves: a joyful kite-flying scene that momentarily levels their difference, a lakeside encounter charged with longing before their first real kiss. The romance swells—but the world around it remains intact.

And the stakes are real. Sophie risks unemployment, homelessness, reputational ruin, vulnerability to sexual assault, and even legal punishment. Benedict risks social fallout and family strain if he openly defies expectation. Their eventual union resonates because the show allows us to sit

with that imbalance before gently bending the rules in their favour.

The season's sharpest confrontation with power and gender dynamics comes through Benedict's proposal that Sophie become his mistress. The offer functions as a Regency-era compromise—acknowledging rigid class boundaries while allowing intimacy only within the limits of privilege. The show frames the gesture as sincere and emotionally grounded. Yet its implications remain stark. What appears protective still preserves his freedom while constraining hers.

As his mistress, Sophie would exist in the shadows—socially peripheral, discreet, dependent. Benedict, meanwhile, would remain securely within aristocratic life. Men of his rank can absorb scandal with little consequence; for Sophie, the cost would be total. His concession preserves his social mobility. Hers would require surrender. Even kindness, in this world, protects privilege.

The season also broadens its scope below stairs, echoing *Downton Abbey*-style portrayals of the domestic labour that sustains aristocratic comfort. Kitchens bustle, bells summon servants, gossip travels through narrow corridors, and 'maid wars' erupt when Sophie's stepmother, Araminta, poaches staff from various households. Where the season succeeds is in making this world feel textured and lived-in; where it falters is in how briefly it lingers there. The servants are vividly drawn but rarely given the sustained focus their stories deserve.

This is an excerpt. Read the full essay on *The Daily Star* and *Star Books and Literature's* websites.

Shababa Iqbal is a journalist with a background in entertainment, fashion, lifestyle, literature, and youth-focused stories. Reach her at shababa@icloud.com.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Thakurgaon, Gazipur, and Noakhali in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Thakurgaon Sadar, tailor Sunil Barman, 35, of Dakkhin Boikanthapur village, died when he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a roadside tree at Barunagaon around 7:00am yesterday.

He was taken to Thakurgaon General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case has been filed.

In Kapasia upazila of Gazipur, microbus driver Kamrul Hasan, 30, of Boyra village in Mymensingh Sadar, was killed Wednesday evening when the vehicle lost control and hit a roadside palm tree.

A child and other passengers were injured and taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

In Companiganj, Noakhali, businessman Abu Taher, 48, was crushed under a tractor around 9:00am Thursday in Bagdhara Bazar while trying to overtake it.

Lack of plan stalled reforms

FROM PAGE 3 The then finance minister M Saifur Rahman introduced two major reforms: the floating exchange rate of the local currency against the US dollar and the VAT system.

"Sometimes even economists hesitate to acknowledge such important reforms carried out by Saifur Rahman as both a political leader and finance minister," Debapriya Bhattacharya added.

But reforms during the interim government faded out, despite many initiatives being taken, he said. It undertook several initiatives but failed to implement them.

Debapriya Bhattacharya was speaking at the agreement signing ceremony between the Economic Reporters' Forum

(ERF) and Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, held at the ERF office in Dhaka.

Under the agreement, ERF and Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh will jointly work to train journalists both in Dhaka and outside the capital on reforms and the progress of commitments pledged in electoral manifestos.

At the discussion, Information Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan said his government has been working to introduce allowances for retired journalists, with his ministry currently drafting eligibility criteria for the benefit.

He added that the government is also working to formulate an advertisement policy so media outlets can benefit from government advertising.

Nurul Kabir, editor of

New Age, said economic reforms cannot take place without democratic reforms.

He also criticised the interim government's signing of the US Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with the United States.

Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express and a member of the media reforms commission of the interim government, expressed disappointment that not a single recommendation suggested by the commission was implemented.

Shawkat Hossain Masum, head of Online at Prothom Alo, suggested conducting impact analyses on reform progress so journalists can report based on the economic impact.

ERF President Doulot Akter Mala and ERF General Secretary Abul Kashem also spoke.

BNP has not Govt to display

FROM PAGE 3 seeking bail."

Despite facing repression, they could not get remedies from the courts, he said, adding that the current government appears to have forgotten that experience.

He also questioned whether BNP plans to reinstate "sworn-in judges" or appoint similar figures again. "This is a warning sign. If this continues, none of us will remain safe. Some ordinances approved by the government could be misused," he said.

On local government, Badiul said the interim government had issued four ordinances allowing the appointment of administrators after many elected representatives went into hiding following the mass uprising and the terms of several bodies expired.

He noted that the interim government had planned local government elections before the national polls but could not hold them due to BNP's opposition. BNP had promised to hold those elections after the parliamentary polls, but "the opposite has happened," he said.

He termed the appointment of administrators a violation of BNP's 31-point reform outline, its election manifesto, Article 59 of the constitution, and a High Court verdict.

"In my view, whichever party is in power should enact laws that will protect it when it goes into opposition. But BNP is moving in the opposite direction," he said, warning that the consequences would not be good for either citizens or those in power.

At the event, HRSS Chairman Sahjada Al Amin Kabir gave opening and closing remarks, while Executive Director Ijajul Islam presented a paper.

HRSS urged the government to keep the ordinances in force, publish a roadmap for revised laws, ensure participation of civil society and rights groups, and guarantee judicial independence.

It also called for prompt and impartial investigations into enforced disappearances and rights violations, greater transparency through regular progress reports, and alignment of laws with international human rights standards.

Among others, senior journalists, rights activists, lawyers, and political representatives also spoke at the discussion.

Rabiul, also the railways minister, said Bangladesh Railway will begin receiving 200 broad-gauge coaches from India, financed by the European Investment Bank, by this year.

Under a project, 200 broad-gauge carriages are expected to be added to the Bangladesh Railway fleet between June 2026 and December 2027, said the minister.

"Once the coaches arrive, new train routes will be determined," he added.

In response to a question from ruling party MP Mohammad Shamim Kayser, the minister said 15 intercity trains currently operate between Dhaka and the northern districts. Once the new coaches arrive from India, the number of intercity trains connecting Dhaka with the northern districts will be increased.

Strict measures will also be taken to stop motorcycle and car racing in the 300 Feet area.

As part of the security plan, dog squad sweeps will be carried out at Ramna Batamul, DU, and other key points, while watchtowers, CCTV cameras, and archways will be installed at important venues.

To prevent eve-teasing, snatching, and pickpocketing, plainclothes intelligence surveillance will be in place across the country, alongside mobile courts led by executive magistrates, reads the ministry directives for ensuring security. Fire service vehicles, ambulances, and medical teams will be deployed at all major venues.

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 10 Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-40 12-30 4-45 6-21 7-45 JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DSCC declares zero-tolerance

FROM PAGE 3 were also demolished.

Previously, during a meeting on March 10 at Nagar Bhaban, a decision was jointly reached by DSCC, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, transport owners and workers' leaders to remove all illegal counters outside the Sayedabad terminal and to allocate counters inside the terminal in an organised manner.

Meanwhile, in the GPO Link Road drive, roads and footpaths on both sides of the road near the south side of the Baitul Mukarram Market were cleared of encroachment.

Temporary shops and illegal structures that had occupied the footpaths for a long time were removed, reopening pathways for pedestrians.

To ensure roads and footpaths remain free from encroachment, DSCC issued an urgent public

notice yesterday. The notice states that no goods can be placed on the footpaths in front of any shopping malls or markets under DSCC jurisdiction.

Encroachers have been instructed to remove all goods immediately on their own initiative. Failure to comply will result in strict legal action, including cancellation of the trade licence of the concerned shop or establishment, according to the notice.

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ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন সম্পত্তি বিভাগ প্রট নং- ২৩-২৬, রোড- ৪৬, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা। www.dncc.gov.bd

Table with 2 columns: সনং (No.) and বিবরণ (Description). It lists various public works and services provided by the corporation, including road works, drainage, and electricity supply.

Table with 4 columns: ক্রম নং (Sl. No.), কোরবানীর পশুর অস্থায়ী হাটের নাম (Name of Temporary Market), সরকারী মূল্য (Govt. Rate), সিভিলিয়ান মূল্য (Civilian Rate), and পরিষ্কার ফি (Cleaning Fee). It lists various temporary markets and their associated rates.

বিশেষ নিবেদন (Special Notice) regarding the corporation's services and rates. It includes details about the corporation's commitment to providing quality services and the importance of timely payments.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার (Government of Bangladesh) announcement regarding the need for masks and safety measures. It includes details about the government's efforts to ensure public safety and health.

সমুদ্রবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ (Department of Oceanography) announcement regarding the admission process for the 2025-2026 academic year. It includes details about the application process, fees, and contact information.

**People's Republic of Bangladesh
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Court, Dhaka.**

Present: Mr. Md. Sabbir Faiz
(Metro Sessions Judge)
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka.

Order on Petition for Confiscation: arising out of Permission Petition-13/2026

Motijheel Police Station Case No. 27 dated 26.04.2023: Under Sections 4(2)/4(4) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015)

ORDER No. 03. Dated: 19 January 2026.

উপ-পুলিশ পরিদর্শক বিপি নং-৮৬১৩১৪৮৫০৮, ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিয়াইডি, ঢাকা হতে স্বরক নং অর্গা:ক্রাইম/ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম/ডেসপাস/৫১৮, তাং ১৯/০১/২০২৬ ইং মূলে মানিলভারিং প্রতিরোধ আইন ২০১২ (সংশোধিত-২০১৫) এর ১৭(২) ও মানিলভারিং বিধিমালা ২০১৯ এর ৫০(৩) ধারার বিধান সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্তে উল্লেখিত এজহার নামীয় আসামির নামে থাকা স্থাবর সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত এবং সরকারী গেজেট ও অনূনা ০২ (দুই) টি বহুল প্রচারিত জাতীয় পত্রিকায় ০১ (এক) টি বাংলা ও ১টি ইংরেজী বিজ্ঞপ্তি আকারে প্রচার করার আদেশ দানের প্রার্থনা করেন।

নথি আদেশের জন্য পেশ করা হলো।

This order arises out of an application filed by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Financial Crime Unit, CID, Dhaka, seeking an order under section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) read with Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rules, 2019, praying for Confiscation in favour of the State of the movable and immovable properties mentioned against accused persons serial no.1 to 12, and for publication of such attachment by notification in the Government Gazette and in two widely circulated daily newspapers.

Heard the learned Public Prosecutor and perused the application along with the relevant case records and materials placed before the Court.

It appears that the case involves allegations of money laundering offences defined and punishable under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015). During investigation, certain movable and immovable properties standing in the names of accused persons serial no. 1 to 12, have been identified and attached, which are prima facie suspected to be proceeds of crime derived from money laundering activities.

The investigating officer has stated that there exists a reasonable apprehension that, if the properties are not formally attached in favour of the State and publicly notified, the accused persons may attempt to transfer, alienate, conceal, or otherwise deal with the said properties thereby frustrating the object of the law, Section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) empowers the Court to pass appropriate orders for attachment of proceeds of crime, while Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019 provide for publication of such attachment through the Government Gazette and newspapers to ensure public notice and prevent unlawful dealings.

Upon careful consideration of the facts, circumstances, and the materials on record, this Court is satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out and that the prayer sought is reasonable, lawful, and necessary for safeguarding the proceeds of crime and for ensuring effective administration of justice.

Accordingly, the application is allowed.

- The movable and immovable properties described in the schedule of the application standing in the names of accused persons serial no. 1 to 12, is hereby Confiscation in favour of the State, in accordance with section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- The investigating authority is directed to take immediate steps to publish this Confiscation order:
 - in the Government Gazette, and
 - by way of public notice in two widely circulated daily newspapers, in compliance with section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- All concerned registering, maintaining, and financial authorities are directed not to permit any transfer, registration, mutation, encumbrance, or withdrawal of the Confiscation properties and monetary assets until further orders of this Court.
- This order will be implemented by Deputy Commissioner which the property is located Rule 50(5) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019.
- The investigating officer shall submit a compliance report before this Court within the time prescribed by law.

ক্রঃ	দলিল নং ও তারিখ	দাতা	গ্রহীতা	জমির পরিমান	দলিল মূল্য (টাকা)	তফসিল পরিচয়
১	দলিল নং-৮৩, তারিখ-০৮/০১/২০১৯ ইং	মোঃ আবুল হাসেন পিতা-মৃত সোনা মিয়া সরকার, বাড়ী-৬৯/বি, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা-পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	মোট ০০৬.১৮৫ অযুতাংশ ভূমির উপর নির্মিত ১০ (দশ) তলা বিশিষ্ট ইমারতের ৭ম তলায় উত্তর পার্শ্বের ১২৪৩ বর্গ ফুট আয়তনের ৭-বি নং ফ্ল্যাট এবং সেমি বেইজমেন্টে ১২৫ বর্গফুট কারপার্কিং ও ইউটিলিটিসহ মোট ১৩৬৮ বর্গফুট এজমালিতে ভোগের অধিকার।	৪১,৫৯,০০০/- (একচল্লিশ লক্ষ উনষাট হাজার) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার রমনা থানার ধানমন্ডি সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-সিদ্ধেশ্বরী, ঠিকানা- বাড়ী-৬৮/৮, ফ্ল্যাট-৭-বি, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, থানা- রমনা, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।
২	নামজারী মামলা নং-৬৩০ ৩/১৮-১৯	মোঃ আবুল হাসেন, পিতা-মৃত, সোনা মিয়া সরকার, বাড়ী-৬৯/বি, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা-পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	মোট ০০৬.১৮৫ অযুতাংশ ভূমির উপর নির্মিত ১০ (দশ) তলা বিশিষ্ট ইমারতের ৭ম তলায় উত্তর পার্শ্বের ১২৪৩ বর্গ ফুট আয়তনের ৭-এ নং ফ্ল্যাট এবং সেমি বেইজমেন্টে ১২৫ বর্গফুট কারপার্কিং ও ইউটিলিটিসহ মোট ১৩৬৮ বর্গফুট এজমালিতে ভোগের অধিকার।	৪১,৫৯,০০০/- (একচল্লিশ লক্ষ উনষাট হাজার) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার রমনা থানার ধানমন্ডি সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-সিদ্ধেশ্বরী, ঠিকানা- বাড়ী-৬৮/৮, ফ্ল্যাট-৭-এ, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, থানা- রমনা, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।
৩	চুক্তি দলিল নং-৩৬১, তারিখ-২১/০১/২০১৪ইং	মোঃ মনিরুল ইসলাম, পিতা-মৃত, আলী হোসেন, ৫২, চামেলীবাগ, (রেকা নীস প্যারাডাইস, ফ্ল্যাট এ-৬, শান্তিনগর, পল্টন, ঢাকা।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী: খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- সাং- সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।	বাসা নং-৪০.৪১ প্যারাডাইস আয়েশা মঞ্জিল, ৪র্থ তলার সি টাইপ ১৩৪০ বর্গফুট বর্গফুটের ০১টি ফ্ল্যাট	৭৪,৫২,৫০০/- (চুয়ত্তর লক্ষ বায়ান্ন হাজার, পাঁচশত) টাকা।	ঢাকা জেলার রমনা থানার সদর সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-সাবেক শহর খিলগাঁও হালে সিদ্ধেশ্বরী, জেএল সিএস-২৮৭, এসএ-৭, আরএস-২ সিটি জরিপে-২ ঠিকানা: বাসা-৪০/৪১, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।
৪	চুক্তি দলিল নং-৭৭, তারিখ-০৪/০১/২০১২ইং	আলাহাজ্জ শাহ নেওয়াজ, পিতা-মৃত, আব্দুল মান্নান, ১৪, ব্রক-সি, মেইন রোড, বনশী, রামপুরা, ঢাকা।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- ফ্ল্যাট-৭/বি, বাড়ী-২৬/এ, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।	পুট এফ/৪ এর টাইপ এ/৬ ও বি/৬ ফ্ল্যাট ৭ম তলা আয়তন ২৪৭০ বর্গফুট	৯৫,০০,০০০/- (পচানব্বই লক্ষ) টাকা।	ঢাকা জেলার রামপুরা থানার খিলগাঁও সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-মেরাদিয়া স্থিত, জেএল নং- ২৮৯ এসএ-১২১, সিটি জরিপে- ০৩ নং খতিয়ান। ঠিকানা: পুট-৪, ব্রক-এফ, মেইন রোড, বনশী, রামপুরা, ঢাকা।
৫	চুক্তি দলিল নং-৩৬৩, তারিখ-২২/১১/২০১৮ইং	মোঃ মনিরুল ইসলাম, পিতা-মৃত, আলী হোসেন, ৫২, চামেলীবাগ,	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী	বাসা নং-৪২, ৬ষ্ঠ তলার বি টাইপ ১০৭৫ বর্গফুট এবং ৯ম তলার বি টাইপ	৩২,০০০, ০০০+৩২,০০০, ০০০/- মোট ৬৪,০০,০০০/-	ঢাকা জেলার সবুজবাগ থানার খিলগাঁও সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-রাজারবাগ স্থিত, রাজারবাগ পূর্ববাসন

		(রেকানীস প্যারাডাইস, ফ্ল্যাট এ-৬, শান্তিনগর, পল্টন, ঢাকা।	ঠিকানা-৬৮/৪. সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।	১০৭৫ বর্গফুটের ০২টি ফ্ল্যাট	(চৌষটি লক্ষ) টাকা।	এলাকা-১৬২ নং পুট, লে-আউট প্রাট নং-পি-১৬/বি। ঠিকানা: বাসা-৪২, মধ্য বাসাবো, সবুজবাগ, ঢাকা।
৬	দলিল নং-১০৭৭৫, তারিখ-১৯/১২/২০১৮ ইং	আমাতুল ফাতেমা বদরুল নেছা চৌধুরী, স্বামী: মৌলভী সালেহ আহম্মেদ, সাং-পশ্চিম মাইয়ানী, থানা: মিরেশরাই, জেলা-চট্টগ্রাম।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা-পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	৪.৭৫ শতাংশ জমির মধ্যে ০০৯৭.৫০ অযুতাংশ ভূমির উপর মোট ০৩টি ফ্ল্যাট যথা-ফ্ল্যাট-২/এ (১৭৮৫ বর্গফুট) ফ্ল্যাট-৯/বি (১৫৮৫ বর্গফুট) ঠিকানা বাড়ী নং-৩৭/সি, মিরপুর, ঢাকা।	প্রতিটি মূল্য অনুঃ ৬০ লক্ষ করে-০১ কোটি ৮০ লক্ষ টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার মিরপুর মডেল থানার মিরপুর সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা- সেনপাড়া পর্বত, জেএল নং-২২০, এসএ-৯৯, আরএস-২৫, সিটি জরিপে- ১৭ নং খতিয়ান শ্রেণীঃ ফ্ল্যাট/বাড়ী
৭	দলিল নং-৫৩৯১, তারিখ-১০/৬/২০১৮ইং	ইমরান বিয়া, পিতা- মোঃ স্কুর মিয়া, বাড়ী- সিডলিউএস (বি) ৬৪, তমিজ ভিলা, রোড-২৫, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, ঠিকানাঃ বাড়ী নং সি সি সি কলোনী, রাস্তা নং চিটাংগ কেমিক্যাল কমপ্লেক্স, কাটিগড় ৪৯০, থানা- সীতাকুণ্ড, জেলা চট্টগ্রাম।	১৬৫০ অযুতাংশ ভূমির মধ্যে ০১৪৮.৩৮ অযুতাংশ ভূমি শেয়ার সংখ্যা-৪ ঠিকানা: পুট-এ/৪৬ ও এ/৫০, রোড-১ ব্রক-এ, আফতাবনগর, বাড্ডা, ঢাকা।	৩৫,৯৭,০৯০/- (পয়ত্রিশ লক্ষ সাতানব্বই হাজার নব্বই) টাকা।	ঢাকা জেলার বাড্ডা থানার বাড্ডা সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, বাড্ডা, জেএল সিএস-২৯১, এসএ-১২৪, সিটি জরিপে-৭৯ ঠিকানা: পুট-এ/৪৬ ও এ/৫০, রোড-১ ব্রক-এ, আফতাবনগর, বাড্ডা, ঢাকা।
৮	দলিল নং-২০৮২, তারিখ-২৪/০৪/২০১৯ইং	মোঃ শফিউল্লাহ হুইয়া, পিতা- আবক হুইয়া, ৫২/২, উত্তর মুগদা (খিলপাড়) ঢাকা।	১। লায়লা আক্তার, স্বামীঃ খন্দকার বোরহান উদ্দিন; ২। খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্বামী: খোন্দকার মহম্মদ ইকবাল ৪। মোহাম্মদ ইসমাইল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ	২৪৭৫ অযুতাংশ জমির মধ্যে ১। লায়লা আক্তার (০০৩১.৭৩০৩) অযুতাংশ ১টি শেয়ার ২। খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল (০০৩১.৭৩০৩) অযুতাংশ ১টি শেয়ার ৩। মোসাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, (০০৩১.৭৩০৭) অযুতাংশ ১টি শেয়ার ৪। মোহাম্মদ ইসমাইল (০০৬৩.৪৬১৪) অযুতাংশ ২টি শেয়ার, মোট-৫টি শেয়ার শেয়ার মূল্য ৭,৫০,০০০/-	৩৭,৫০,০০০/- (সাতত্রিশ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার মুগদা থানার শ্যামপুর সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-দক্ষিণগাঁও, জেএল সিএস-৩১৮, এসএ-১৪৩, আরএস-১৩ সিটি জরিপে-০৬ জমির শ্রেণী: বোর।
৯	দলিল নং-৩২৩৯, তারিখ-১৫/০৬/২০২১ ইং	এসএম গোলাম মোর্তজা, পিতা- হাজী কাবিল হোসেন সরকার, সরকার আবাসিক এলাকা, হাজী কাবিল উদ্দিন রোড, আলদ্বীরটেক, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট পল্লবী, ঢাকা।	১। শারমিন আক্তার, পিতা: আব্দুর রাজ্জাক, ঠিকানা: বাসা-১০৪৪, ইব্রাহিমপুর বাবিরুল্লাহ রোড, ঢাকা ক্যান্টন: কাফরুল, ঢাকা। ২। খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা- পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	সর্বমোট ৪৭১.৩৯ অযুতাংশ জমির মধ্যে ১। শারমিন আক্তার এর ০০৪২.৮৫ অযুতাংশ ২। খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল অযুতাংশ মোটঃ ৮৫.৭ অযুতাংশ।	৭৪,৫০০+ ৭৪,৫০০= ১,৪৯,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ উনপঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার পদ্মাশী থানার পল্লবী সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা- বাউনিয়া, জেএল সিএস-২১১, এসএ-৩৬, আরএস-১৩ সিটি জরিপে-০১ জমির শ্রেণীঃ পুকুর।
১০	দলিল নং-৪০০৮, তারিখ-০৫/০৬/২০১৭ ইং	মোঃ জাকির হোসেন, পিতা-মৃত, আরশাদ, সাং- পশ্চিম সিঙ্গাইর, থানা- সিঙ্গাইর, জেলা- মানিকগঞ্জ।	নূর জাহান বেগম, পিতা-মৃত, ফজলুর রহমান, স্বামী-মৃত, নজীর আহমদ খন্দকার, গ্রামঃ উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	১১১৩.৭৫ অযুতাংশ বা ৬.৭৫ কাঠা	৯০,০০,০০০/- (নব্বই লক্ষ) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার দক্ষিণখান থানার গুলশান সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-দক্ষিণখান, জেএল নং সিএস-১৯৩, এসএ-৩৪, আরদাস-১৭, সিটি জরিপে- ১৬নং খতিয়ান, জমির শ্রেণীঃ বোরো জমি
১১	দলিল নং-৬৮১৭, তারিখ-০৪/১০/২০১৭ ইং	নূর জাহান বেগম, পিতা-মৃত, ফজলুর রহমান, স্বামী-মৃত, নজীর আহমদ খন্দকার, গ্রামঃ উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা- পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত, নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা- সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা- পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	১১১৩.৭৫ অযুতাংশ বা ৬.৭৫ কাঠা	৩৮,০০,০০০/- (আটত্রিশ লক্ষ) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার দক্ষিণখান থানার গুলশান সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, মৌজা-দক্ষিণখান, সিএস-১৯১, এসএ-২৫৮, আরএস-১৪৮৬, সিটি জরিপে-২১০৩ নং খতিয়ান, জমির শ্রেণীঃ ডোবাজমি
১২	ফাইল নং-৭৩৩৯/এ আমিন মোহাম্মদ ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ মাস্তা প্রকল্প	আমিন মোহাম্মদ ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- নজির আহমদ খোন্দকার, সাং- উত্তর ধনীকুন্ডা, থানা- পরশুরাম, জেলা-ফেনী।	জমির পরিমান-১০ (দশ) কাঠা	১,৪৮,০০,০০০/- (এক কোটি আটচল্লিশ লক্ষ) টাকা	ঢাকা জেলার মুগদা থানার আমিন মোহাম্মদ ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ এর গ্রীন মডেল টাউন এর পুট নং-৩৪, ৩৬, ব্রক-বি, রোড-এভিনিউ-৪, উত্তরমুখী।

২৩.৫ কাঠা জমি এবং ৩৯২.৭৩২৩ অযুতাংশ জমির ১১টি শেয়ার ও ১২টি ফ্ল্যাট সহ সর্বমোট দলিল মূল্য ৮,৪৭,৬৬,৫৯০/-টাকা।

This order shall remain in force subject to the final outcome of the case. Pronounced in open Court.

Dictated & corrected by me.

Sd/-
(Md. Sabbir Faiz)
Metro. Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Momo Number:4093(9)/26

Date: 1/4/26

People's Republic of Bangladesh
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Court, Dhaka.

Present : **Mr. Md. Sabbir Faiz**
(Metro Sessions Judge)
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka.

Order on Petition for Confiscation: arising out of Permission Petition-423/2024

Motijhel Police Station Case No. 27 dated 26.04.2023: Under Sections 4(2)/4(4) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015)

ORDER No. 03. Dated:-19 January 2026.

উপ-পুলিশ পরিদর্শক, ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা হতে স্মারক নং অর্গা ক্রাইম/ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ক্রাইম/ডেসপাস/৫১১, তাং ১৯/০১/২০২৬ ইং মুলে দরখাস্তে উল্লেখিত আসামির নামে থাকা স্থাবর সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত এবং সরকারী গেজেট ও অন্যান্য ০২ (দুই)টি বহুল প্রচারিত জাতীয় পত্রিকায় ০১ (এক)টি বাংলা ও ১টি ইংরেজী বিজ্ঞপ্তি আকারে প্রচার করার আদেশ দানের প্রার্থনা করেন।

নথি আদেশের জন্য পেশ করা হলো।

This order arises out of an application filed by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Financial Crime Unit, CID, Dhaka, seeking an order under section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) read with Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rules, 2019, praying for Confiscation in favour of the State of the movable and immovable properties mentioned against accused persons serial no. 1 to 14, and for publication of such attachment by notification in the Government Gazette and in two widely circulated daily newspapers.

Heard the learned Public Prosecutor and perused the application along with the relevant case records and materials placed before the Court.

It appears that the case involves allegations of money laundering offences as defined and punishable under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015). During investigation, certain movable and immovable properties standing in the names of accused persons serial no. 1 to 14 have been identified and attached, which are prima facie suspected to be proceeds of crime derived from money laundering activities.

The investigating officer has stated that there exists a reasonable apprehension that, if the properties are not formally attached in favour of the State and publicly notified, the accused persons may attempt to transfer, alienate, conceal, or otherwise deal with the said properties, thereby frustrating the object of the law. Section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) empowers the Court to pass appropriate orders for attachment of proceeds of crime, while Rule 50(3) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019 provides for publication of such attachment through the Government Gazette and newspapers to ensure public notice and prevent unlawful dealings.

Upon careful consideration of the facts, circumstances, and the materials on record, this Court is satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out and that the prayer sought is reasonable, lawful, and necessary for safeguarding the proceeds of crime and for ensuring effective administration of justice.

Accordingly, the application is allowed.

- The movable and immovable properties described in the schedule of the application, standing in the names of accused persons serial no. 1 to 14, are hereby Confiscation in favour of the State, in accordance with section 17(2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- The investigating authority is directed to take immediate steps to publish this Confiscation order:
 - in the Government Gazette, and
 - by way of public notice in two widely circulated daily newspapers, in compliance with section 17 (2) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015).
- All concerned registering, maintaining, and financial authorities are directed not to permit any transfer, registration, mutation, encumbrance, or withdrawal of the Confiscation properties and monetary assets until further orders of this Court.
- This order will be implemented by Deputy Commissioner which the property is located Rule 50 (5) of the Money Laundering rule, 2019.
- The investigating officer shall submit a compliance report before this Court within the time prescribed by law.

ক্রঃ	দলিল নং ও তারিখ	দাতা	গ্রহীতা	জমির পরিমাণ	মূল্য (টাকা)	তফসিল পরিচয়
১.	দলিল নং-৪৭০৮, তারিখ : ১৫/০৫/১৯ ইং	আব্দুল হামিদ, মাহমুদ আলী বেপারী, উৎসাহ, কেরানীগঞ্জ, ঢাকা	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মৃত. নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা- নুরজাহান বেগম	৫৫ শতাংশ	৭৬,৩৪,০০০/-	গাজীপুর জেলার, শ্রীপুর সাব- রেজিঃ অফিস, ২৮ বরমী মৌজা, জেএল নং- ২৮, সিএস- ৬২, এসএ- ১৭৯, আরএস-১৯৭, জোত- ২৯৬৭ ও ২৮২০
২.	দলিল নং-৯৮৪৮, তারিখ : ১৭/০৯/২০১৯ ইং	হুমায়ুন কবির, পিতা- রমিজউদ্দিন, তোয়াজনগর, কাপাসিয়া, গাজীপুর।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান বেগম।	২১ শতাংশ	২৪,০০,০০০/-	গাজীপুর জেলার শ্রীপুর সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, ৩০ বরমী মৌজা, জেএল নং-৩০, এসএ-৫৮, আরএস-১২৭, জোত-৯৮১, দলিলের ধরন- সাবকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- চালা।
৩.	দলিল নং-১৮৫৮, তারিখ : ০১/০৪/২০১৯ ইং	হাবিবুর রহমান, পিতা- আব্দুল হাশেম, বরমী, শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত, নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান বেগম।	৪০ শতাংশ	৫০,০০,০০০/-	গাজীপুর জেলার শ্রীপুর সাব-রেজিঃ অফিস, ৩০ বরমী মৌজা, জেএল নং-৩০, এসএ-৫৮, আরএস-১২৭, জোত-১২৭৯, দলিলের ধরন- সাবকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- নালা।
৪.	দলিল নং-৮২০১, তারিখ : ২০/১২/২০১৮ ইং	মোঃ রবিউল্লাহ, পিতা-মৃত বার মিয়া, পাইনানয়াগাও, দক্ষিণ কেরানীগঞ্জ, ঢাকা।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান বেগম।	১৫ শতাংশ	১৪,১৭,০০০/-	জেলা-মুন্সিগঞ্জ, থানা-সিরাজদীখান, মৌজা : চরপশ্চিমদী, জেএল নং-৪৬, এসএ- ৮৮, আরএস-১১৭, ১২২, ১৪৯, ১১৩, ১৫০, ১৩৮, ১১৮, ১০৫, ৮৫, ১৫৩, ৬৯, ০৯, ১১৪, ১২৭, ৬২, ০৫, ১০১, ১২৬, ৭৯। জোত- ২৭৫, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- নালা।
৫.	দলিল নং-৬৫৯, তারিখ : ২৫/০১/২০১৮ ইং	শফিউল্লাহ, পিতা- মৃত বারমিয়া, পাইনানয়াগাও, দক্ষিণ কেরানীগঞ্জ,	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান	৭.৫০ শতাংশ	৭,১০,০০০/-	জেলা-মুন্সিগঞ্জ, থানা-সিরাজদীখান, মৌজা : চরপশ্চিমদী, জেএল নং-৪৬, এসএ- ৮৮, আরএস-১১৭, ১২২, ১৪৯, ১১৩, ১৫০, ১৩৮, ১১৮, ১০৫, ৮৫, ১৫৩, ৬৯, ০৯, ১১৪, ১২৭,

		ঢাকা।	বেগম।			৬২, ০৫, ১০১, ১২৬, ৭৯। জোত- ২৭৫, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- নালা।
৬.	দলিল নং-৬৯০৮, তারিখ : ৩১/১০/২০১৭ ইং	শফিউল্লাহ, পিতা- মৃত বারমিয়া, পাইনানয়াগাও, দক্ষিণ কেরানীগঞ্জ।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান বেগম।	৭.৫০ শতাংশ	৭,১০,০০০/-	জেলা-মুন্সিগঞ্জ, থানা-সিরাজদীখান, মৌজা : চরপশ্চিমদী, জেএল নং-৪৬, এসএ-৮৮, আরএস-১১৭, ১২২, ১৪৯, ১১৩, ১৫০, ১৩৮, ১১৮, ১০৫, ৮৫, ১৫৩, ৬৯, ০৯, ১১৪, ১১১২৭, ৬২, ০৫, ১০১, ১২৬, ৭৯। জোত- ২৭৫, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- নালা।
৭.	দলিল নং-৩২২৪, তারিখ : ০৪/০৩/২০১৯ ইং	সামসুদ্দিন, পিতা- ইসরাফিল সরকার, সাং- তোলাদিয়া, কোতোয়ালী ময়মনসিংহ।	খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা-মৃত নজির আহাম্মদ খোন্দকার, মাতা-নুরজাহান বেগম।	১৮.৫০ শতাংশ	৬৪,০০,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক- ৮৭, হাল-৭০ আরএস- ১৬৬, বিআরএস- ৭২ খারিজা- ২১৫১, দাগ নং- আরওআর- ১৩০৫, বিআরএস-২৭১৫ দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
৮.	দলিল নং-১১০৮, তারিখ : ১২/০৯/২০১৯ ইং	আজিজুল হক, পিতা- ইসরাফিল সরকার, মীরকান্দা, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	১৭.৫০ শতাংশ	৬০,৫২,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক- ৮৭, হাল-৭০ আরএস- ১৬৬, বিআরএস- ৭২ খারিজা- ২৩৬৬, দাগ নং- আরওআর- ১৩০৫, বিআরএস-২৭১৫ দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
৯.	দলিল নং-৭৩১৯, তারিখ : ১৯/০৬/২০১৯ ইং	তোফাজ্জল হোসেন, পিতা- ইসরাফিল সরকার, ২২৮ তোলাদিয়া, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	১৭.৫০ শতাংশ	৬০,৫২,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক-৮৭, হাল-৭০ আরএস-১৬৬, বিআরএস- ৭২ খারিজা- ২২৮২, দাগ নং- আরওআর- ১৩০৫, বিআরএস-২৭১৫ দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
১০.	দলিল নং-৩৭৮০, তারিখ : ০৭/০৩/২০১৮ ইং	মনোয়ারা আহমেদ, স্বামী-মকবুল আহমেদ, সাং- খাগডহর, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	৩৫.৬০ শতাংশ	১,২৬,৩৫,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং-৭০ আরওআর-৬৬৪, ৬৬৭, ৭৫, বিআরএস-৫৫৬, ১০৬৪, ১০৩৪, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
১১.	দলিল নং-৪৮৩৭, তারিখ : ২৯/০৩/২০১৮ ইং	জুলেখা খাতুন, স্বামী- আজহারুল ইসলাম, সাং- রহমতপুর, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	১৭.০০ শতাংশ	৫৮,৮০,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং-৭০, দাগ নং- আরওআর-৩৩০৪, বিআরএস-৪৯৭, ২৭১৪, খারিজা-২৫৯৮, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
১২.	দলিল নং-৬১৮৭, তারিখ : ১৮/০৪/২০১৮ ইং	মনোয়ারা আহমেদ, স্বামী-মকবুল আহমেদ, সাং- খাগডহর, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	২৯.৫০ শতাংশ	১,০২,০৫,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক-৮৭, হাল-৭০, আরএস-৬৬৪, ৬৬৭, ৭৫, বিআরএস-১০৩৪, খারিজা- ২৮৬২, ২৬৭৭, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
১৩.	দলিল নং-৯৯৪২, তারিখ : ২২/০৮/২০১৯ ইং	নাসিমা খাতুন, শেখ শাহজাহান, সাং-৪৬-বি, নিউকলোনী, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	৭.০০ শতাংশ	২৪,২১,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক-৮৭, হাল-৭০, খতিয়ান নং- প্রজিই-১১৫৪, বিআরএস-৯৯২, খারিজা- ৩০৩২, আরওআর-১০৮০, বিআরএস-২২৯৬, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।
১৪.	দলিল নং-৯৬২৭, তারিখ : ১২/০৭/১৮ ইং	আরিফুল হক, পিতা-ফজলুল হক, ৬০, হামিদউদ্দিন রোড, কোতোয়ালী, ময়মনসিংহ।	মোছাঃ হালিমা আক্তার, স্বামী : খোন্দকার মুহাম্মদ ইকবাল, পিতা- মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম, মাতাঃ মোছাঃ আকলিমা আক্তার।	১০.৫০ শতাংশ	৩৬,৩৫,০০০/-	জেলা- ময়মনসিংহ, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা : খাগডহর, জেএল নং- সাবক-৮৭, হাল-৭০, আরওআর-১২৯৩, বিআরএস-২৬৮৯, দলিলের ধরন- সাফকবলা, জমির শ্রেণী- কান্দা।

This order shall remain in force subject to the final outcome of the case.

Pronounced in open Court.

Dictated & corrected by me.

Sd/-
(Md. Sabbir Faiz)
Metro. Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Momo Number: ৩৮৭১(১১)/২৬

Date : ২৯/৩/২৬

LAW AND WAR

Iran crisis and the nuances of enforcing force majeure clause

SHAFQAT AZIZ

Following the United States-Israel war on Iran which started on 28 February 2026, one legal term has made headlines on several financial newspapers: 'force majeure'. In this write-up, I will explain what this term means, why it is being invoked in the current crisis and how it may affect global energy sector, shipping and trade.

Firstly, let us dive into the meaning of the term. Etymologically, the term 'force majeure' is a French phrase meaning 'superior force'. In the world of shipping, energy, and commodity trade, force majeure clauses are not boilerplate niceties but carefully negotiated protective shields. In commercial contracts, it refers to a clause that excuses one, or both parties from performing their contractual obligations when some extraordinary, unforeseeable events beyond their reasonable control make performance of the contract impossible or, in some cases, commercially impracticable.

The standard for what qualifies as force majeure event, the notice requirements, the duration of its operation, and the consequences of prolonged invocation of a force majeure clause are always debated. However, these events typically include natural disasters, pandemics, wars, and acts of state or government or any unforeseeable event of a sizeable magnitude. The clause may



In the world of shipping, energy, and commodity trade, force majeure clauses are not boilerplate niceties but carefully negotiated protective shields. In commercial contracts, it refers to a clause that excuses one, or both parties from performing their contractual obligations when some extraordinary, unforeseeable events beyond their reasonable control make performance of the contract impossible or, in some cases, commercially impracticable.

not always terminate a contract but may suspend party obligations for the duration of the disruptive event, protecting the defaulting party from liability for breach of contract. It ultimately depends on how the court

construes the contract as a whole and the wording of the clause itself. A standard common law contract, for example, tends to interpret force majeure narrowly: parties invoking it bear the burden of proving it.

Secondly, it may be asked when such clause comes into force. Usually, force majeure clause is activated when three conditions are met: (1) the event was unforeseeable at the time of signing the contract; (2) the party invoking it had no control over the unforeseen event; (3) the event directly prevents performance of the contract.

A shipping company that is

contractually bound to deliver liquefied natural gas through the Strait of Hormuz cannot do it anymore as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced closure of the strait. Since there has been an effective halt to shipping traffic in the region, the trading parties may take recourse to enforcing the force majeure clause in their contract.

The critical legal nuance, however, is that courts and arbitration panels will scrutinise whether the party took all reasonable steps to mitigate the impact of the unforeseen event. One option for the merchant ships could be

rerouting cargo around Africa's Cape of Good Hope. However, this would add significant time and cost to the performance of the contract before force majeure protection is granted. As major container shipping companies including Maersk, CMA CGM, and Hapag-Lloyd have suspended transits through the strait, the question of what 'reasonable alternative' looks like is one that will occupy judges and arbitrators for years to come.

Moreover, the current crisis has produced what the International Energy Agency has described as the greatest global energy

security challenge in history. The Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20% of the world's oil passes daily, has effectively been closed due to adversarial shipping. After the Iranian military attacks on 18th March 2026, Qatar Energy declared force majeure on all exports from Ras Laffan LNG facility, which has triggered a cascade of contractual suspensions across the global gas market. As a result, Brent Crude prices neared \$120 per barrel and oil prices have since been volatile. On the other hand, war-risk insurance premiums for vessels transiting the strait have surged dramatically in a matter of days. These facts directly affect the enforceability of every energy contract, shipping agreement, or commodity purchase order, forming strong grounds for effectuating the force majeure clause.

From Bangladeshi perspective, the implications would be immediate. As a country heavily reliant on imported energy and industrial raw materials, soaring freight costs, delayed deliveries, and supply shortfalls will test force majeure clauses across a wide range of commercial contracts. To avoid legal complications, Bangladeshi importers and exporters must urgently audit their existing agreements, identify force majeure triggers, and issue the requisite notices where applicable. Failure to do so within contractually specified timeframes (usually 48 to 72 hours) may result in forfeiting the force majeure protection entirely.

To conclude, force majeure clause is not a magic escape hatch, but a carefully drafted legal remedy for genuinely extraordinary circumstances. The military conflict in the Persian Gulf, which has effectively shut down a chokepoint through which one-fifth of the world's oil is transported, may qualify as such an exceptional case.

The writer is barrister (Lincoln's Inn) of England & Wales and an accredited Civil-Commercial Mediator (ADR-ODR International).

LAW REVIEW

OUR ANIMAL protection laws

SHAIKH MIRAZUR RAHMAN

In a couple of recent decisions, our courts have taken a strict stance for animal protection. While these judgments could be championed for animal protection and welfare, many other incidents from different areas of the country paint a very different picture. This begets the question: How well does our legal and policy framework protect the voiceless around us? A look at our legislation/s focused on protecting animals from cruelty can give us an answer.

Arguably, the shift from the Cruelty to Animals Act 1920, to the current Animal Welfare Act, 2019, not only shows the passage of time but also reflects a positive shift in the philosophy of how we treat animals. While the earlier colonial-era law, in my view, considered animals only worthy of protection by virtue of their economic value, the 2019 Act sees them as sentient beings that ought to be protected regardless of whether they have any extrinsic benefit. The Codes of the World Organisation for Animal Health is the standard that most countries follow for setting the bar against animal cruelty, including Bangladesh. The WOA standard establishes the 'five freedoms' of animal welfare, comprising freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from fear and distress, freedom to express normal behaviour, freedom from pain, injury and disease, and lastly, freedom from discomfort. While setting the offences relating to animal cruelty, the 2019 Act also attempted to uphold the spirit of the WOA standard. How much it falls short of the proper realisation of the standards is a question that requires more in-depth introspection.

Indeed, the ambiguity in some of the law's core concepts are glaring and is a big reason for the law's ineffective implementation. First, section 6 of the Act introduces the phrase 'unnecessarily overworking the animal' under the definition of animal cruelty without any indication as to the standard for a necessary amount of labour. Moreover, section 8 states that it would be a punishable offence if anyone puts an 'excessive load of weight' on draught animals but does not specify how the level of excessive



load would be determined. These two ambiguities alone can be confusing to determine whether an offence was committed at all. Furthermore, when the Act made selective provisions to ban physical movement only for dogs, excluding all other animals, including cattle, which are usually prone to this form of abuse.

Although an objective of this law is to ensure and promote animal welfare, the law left the entire 'welfare' part to the executive without vesting any corresponding accountability mechanism. Because animals are not legal persons, they cannot directly file a case for cruelty inflicted upon them. A duty-based framework could be suitable for the current legal environment of Bangladesh without overburdening the government or introducing yet-unfamiliar concepts of animal personhood. Currently, the animals have no means of protection unless a court case is filed on the incident, or the Mobile

Court is in the vicinity. Section 18 further complicates the situation by setting up a gatekeeping clause that is notoriously present in some of our other conservation and welfare laws. It makes authoritative permission a prerequisite for trying an offence before a Court. This is a procedural bottleneck known to exacerbate the efforts to seek justice. Where even the Court cannot try a matter without an executive permit, the judiciary loses its independence, and whistleblowing is discouraged.

Establishing animal personhood or giving them 'protection rights' can be ambitious endeavours, but the seemingly pitted nature of our animal protection law is something the state can revise right now. In a world where animals are facing torture and mistreatment every day, it is only humane to ensure our voiceless friends are as protected as they should be.

The writer is lecturer at the Department of Law, East West University.

LAW LETTER

Regulating "visual pollution"

Visual Pollution is an emerging environmental problem of modern urbanisation. It refers to all unnecessary, excessive, and cluttered visual elements that ruin environmental beauty and create visual discomfort for people. It may occur both in natural and urban environments by excessive advertisements, illegal banner festoons, uncontrolled signboards, graffiti, hanging wires, and scattered wastage. As a result, this sight pollution disrupts people's concentration and affects their quality of life negatively.

In natural environments, it impacts biodiversity by interrupting various animals' migration process and disrupting the normal photoperiod of plants. From a social perspective, visual pollution has negative effects on mental health and well-being. Moreover, economically, local government have to spend extra money to maintain urban cleanliness by removing these clutterers.

It appears that a lack of comprehensive legal and judicial guidance is one of the limitations, as very few statutory frameworks and judicial decisions explicitly address visual pollution. Due to ambiguous regulatory and enforcement mechanisms, and the absence of a structured system for reporting illegal billboards or visual hazards, citizens often lack clarity about where and how to file complaints. As a result, the legal remedies remain largely inadequate. Although there is still no separate law to control visual pollution in Bangladesh, a few piecemeal approaches are there in some existing laws and policies. For instance, sections 4-6 of the Graffiti Writing and Poster Sticking Control Act 2012 empower authorities to designate permissible locations, ensure the removal of unauthorised posters and graffiti, and impose penalties for violations. Whereas section 41 together with the Third Schedule of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009 allow the authority to undertake urban beautification. Similarly, the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates in Parliamentary Elections 2008 (section 7) prohibits candidates and their supporters from displaying posters, leaflets, or handbills on certain places. Moreover, the

Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 mandate the control of public nuisance and environmental pollution, respectively. Pertinently, Article 18A of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh requires the State to protect and improve the environment, which, although indirect, still supports the regulation of visual pollution.

However, in my opinion, the absence of a comprehensive regulatory and policy framework to define, prohibit, and penalise visual pollution remains a critical gap. Weak penalties often fail to control illegal political banners, posters, festoons, billboards and graffiti, from which businesses generate significant profit. Notably, the Election Commission exercises its regulatory authority over banners, posters, and billboards only during election periods, although their effects continue year-round.

Several legal reforms appear necessary to strengthen control over visual pollution based on identified gaps in the existing framework. Strict laws should be enacted to ensure that political actors who violate



the code of conduct by postering and displaying banners are held accountable. Such measures will not only encourage political parties but also raise awareness among their supporters about complying with local authorities' directions. With a well-planned, comprehensive legal and implementation mechanism, visual pollution can effectively be controlled. Thus, it can contribute to safer streets, improved urban livability and a more orderly public space.

Amirul Islam Bapon Law student, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

School cricket begins amid calls for better scheduling

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's most widely contested cricketing competition -- Prime Bank National School Cricket Tournament -- will begin its 11th edition today amidst questions over the timing of the event.

An approximate 8,750 budding cricketers from 350 schools across 64 districts will compete in this edition. The tournament will commence in three phases: District, Divisional and the National Round.

The National Round will begin in the first week of June, at the start of the monsoon, which could potentially affect the tournament, as it had done in the previous season.

In the 2024-25 edition, the final between Modern High School Cumilla and Police Lines School & College Bogura got rained out and the former were declared champions after a coin toss.

National team star Tawhid Hridoy, who along with Test captain Najmul Hossain Shanto spoke at the pre-tournament press conference yesterday, urged the organisers to rethink the tournament's timing.

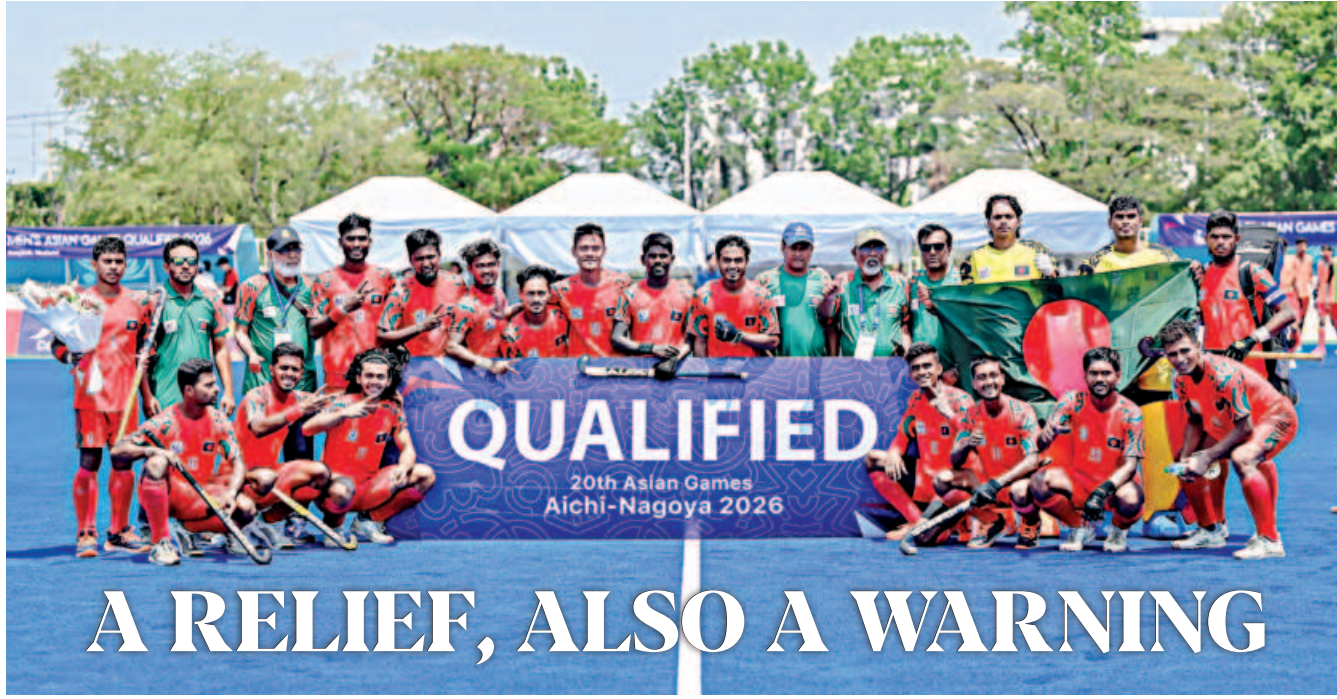
"If I'm not mistaken, last year the championship was decided by toss due to no play because of rain... I want the tournament to not take place during the rainy season. If it's held earlier, the cricketers will be able to play all the matches," he said.

Shanto, who like Hridoy is a product of school cricket, talked about competing in an U-17 school tournament in Kerala as part of a BCB team and hoped for similar opportunities for the next generation.

BCB officials suggested that informal talks have been held with Sri Lanka and Pakistan regarding school cricket. When asked about the issues plaguing the tournament, one Game Development official spoke about the role of the schools.

"If the schools become a little professional, appoint district level coaches even for a week before tournament and take care of the venues, it would be a great venture. In Sri Lanka, the cricket board does not oversee school cricket. The schools take care of the facilities too and in that regard we are behind," he remarked.

The organisers also handed scholarships worth Tk 1,20,000 each to 25 young cricketers yesterday on the basis of last season's performances. While the number of recipients has risen from 15 and the amount has doubled, greater focus on venues, facilities and scheduling remains essential to improve the event's overall relevance.



Bangladesh men's hockey team just about made it to the 2026 Asian Games, edging Hong Kong 3-2 in a tense shootout after a 4-4 draw in the Men's Asian Games Qualifiers in Bangkok yesterday. The men in red and green have never missed the Asian Games, finishing as top two teams in the last three editions of the Qualifiers. Yet this time, the 2014 champions could not reach the semifinals, leaving them in a must-win fixture to land among the top six in the nine-team competition and advance to the main event. "Winning against Hong Kong was like a stone being removed from our chests, because playing in the Asian Games has always been a matter of pride for Bangladesh," forward Rakibul Hossain said. The outcome should serve as a wake-up call more than a celebration. "Missing out would have sunk our hockey, and we would not have been able to show our faces," Rakibul added.

PHOTO: AHF



The unwanted club

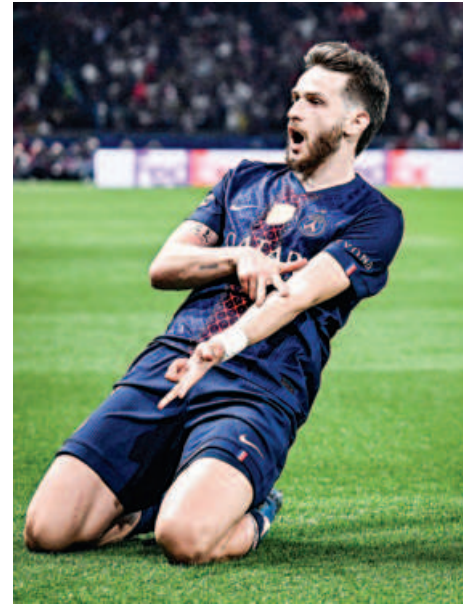
Mexico scored 62 goals across 17 FIFA World Cup editions. But they carry a dubious distinction. With a staggering 101 goals conceded, they share the record for the tournament's worst-ever goal difference (-39) alongside South Korea. In doing so, Mexico joined an unwanted club -- they are one of only four nations to have shipped a century of goals, alongside Brazil, Germany, and Argentina.

** Visit The Daily Star's website to also read: "The butcher of Seville."



Atletico Madrid forward Julian Alvarez (Left) opened the scoring with a powerful long-range freekick before striker Alexander Sorloth added a second, sealing a 2-0 first-leg advantage over 10-man Barcelona -- who had Pau Cubarsi sent off -- in a tense Champions League quarterfinal at Camp Nou yesterday. It was Alvarez's ninth goal of the campaign, the most by an Atletico player in a single Champions League season, surpassing Diego Costa's eight in 2013-14. Meanwhile in Paris, defending champions PSG put one foot in the semis with a dominant 2-0 win over Liverpool, courtesy of goals from Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Right). Liverpool, meanwhile, failed to register a shot on target for the first time in the competition since November 2020 against Atalanta.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK



U-19s win TT gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh clinched the gold medal in the boys' U-19 team category at the South Asian Youth Championship in Himachal, India, yesterday, defeating Sri Lanka 3-1 in the final match.

The win also secured Bangladesh's place in June's ITTF-ATTU Asian Youth Championships in Oman.

In the decisive round-robin game, Abul Hashem lost 3-2 in the first match, but Bangladesh bounced back to seal the victory, with Nafiz Iqbal winning the second and fourth matches 3-0 and 3-1, sandwiched by Joy Islam's 3-0 win.

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives all finished on five points from three games, but Bangladesh topped the group thanks to superior set wins, having earlier lost 3-1 to Nepal and beaten Maldives 4-3.

Bangladesh had previously won this category in 2022, claimed silver in 2023 and 2024 in Arunachal and Kandy, and bronze in the 2025 edition in Nepal.

BFL resumes with Dhaka derby today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a nearly month-long break due to the Bangladesh national team's international commitments, the Bangladesh Football League (BFL) resumes today with the Dhaka derby between archrivals Abahani Limited and Mohammedan SC at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla.

Elsewhere, Fakirerpool Young Men's Club host Brothers Union in Manikganj, while Rahmatganj MFS face hosts PWD SC in Gazipur.

Out of the title race, defending champions Mohammedan will be playing for pride, while Abahani need a win to stay in contention with leaders Bashundhara Kings (24 points) and second-placed Fortis FC (21). Abahani, on 19 points, will also seek revenge for their 3-2 defeat earlier in the season.

Brothers and Fakirerpool -- both on 10 points from 11 matches, but with the former ahead on goal difference -- will be looking to topple each other in the points table, while third-placed Rahmatganj will be aiming to extend their winning run against relegation-threatened PWD SC.



Prime Bank



11th EDITION OF THE BIGGEST NATIONAL SCHOOL CRICKET TOURNAMENT BEGINS!

Since 2015, Prime Bank and the Bangladesh Cricket Board have been powering the dreams of young cricketers through the National School Cricket Tournament.

For over a decade, this platform has nurtured talent, built resilience, and inspired a new generation to rise with confidence and excellence.

More than just a tournament—it's where passion turns into performance, and future stars begin their journey to the world stage.

Our contribution since 2015

Schools participated
3,507

Matches played
6,195

Students empowered
76,235



Dhaka, KL discuss zero-cost digital migration plan

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has taken initiatives to introduce a technology-driven labour recruitment system for all source countries, including Bangladesh, aimed at ensuring zero-cost migration as per the ILO guidelines, as the two countries agreed to expedite reopening of labour market.

The issues were discussed during a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh and Malaysia in Putrajaya yesterday, according to a joint statement.

"The system would ensure that employers bear the full cost of recruitment, resulting in zero cost to workers, in line with the Employer Pays Principle under the guidelines of the International Labour Organization (ILO)," it said.

Ariful Haque Choudhury, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment and labour and employment minister, led the Bangladesh side, while the Malaysian side was led by Ramanan Ramakrishnan, minister of human resources. Mahdi Amin, prime minister's adviser on overseas employment, was present.

Currently, there are over 8,00,000 Bangladeshis working there, but the recruitment in the Southeast Asian country was frozen on May 31, 2024, following allegations

The two countries agree to speed up the reopening of labour market.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Eight-month-old Mahadi Islam Siam from Mirpur was admitted to DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Mohakhali on Sunday with measles. He was experiencing breathing difficulties when the photo was taken yesterday afternoon. At least 23 more patients died of suspected measles in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, raising the number of deaths to 143 since March 15. Besides, over 12,000 suspected cases were reported during this time, according to DGHS.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

'Only Allah knows who did what in 1971 war'

Says Shafiqur as JS passes Jamuka bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday passed the Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council (Amendment) Bill, 2026, retaining the names of the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Nizam-e-Islam Party as local collaborators of the Pakistani invading force during the 1971 Liberation War.

Placing the bill before the House, Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan stressed the need to preserve the ideals of the Liberation War and uphold its core goals of equality, human dignity, and social justice.

According to the document, "Bir Muktiyoddha" refers to individuals who actively engaged in combat or underwent military training during the fight against Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators -- Razakar, Al-Badr,

BNP wins Bogura-6, Sherpur-3 elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP candidate Rezaul Karim Badsha clinched victory in the Bogura 6 by-polls held yesterday, while Mahmudul Haque Rubel, also the ruling party candidate, won the Sherpur-3 election.

The by-polls saw 42.57 percent turnout, and the Sherpur-3 election recorded 52.19 percent turnout, according to returning officers.



Rezaul Badsha Mahmudul Haque

The voter turnout figures did not include postal ballots.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami raised the allegations of irregularities in both the polls and boycotted the Sherpur-3 election.

The 13th national election was held on February 12 in 299 constituencies. With the two victories, BNP lawmakers in parliament rose to 210.

BNP also won Chattogram-2 and Chattogram 4 seats, but the gazette is yet to be published as the High Court issued directives to withhold the results following writ petitions.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairman

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

Vitamin A, deworming campaigns on hold for over a year

Experts say children with malnutrition, weakened immunity vulnerable to severe measles



- Last National Vitamin A Plus campaign in March 2025
- Last National Deworming Campaign in May 2024
- Both campaigns supposed to take place twice a year

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Two crucial national campaigns -- distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A Plus capsules -- have remained suspended for over a year, a disruption experts say may have worsened the measles outbreak.

These campaigns aim to improve children's immunity and nutritional status, and lapses are likely to increase malnutrition and weaken immunity, making measles more severe, they added.

Although both campaigns were scheduled twice a year, the National Deworming Campaign has not been held since May 2024, and the last National Vitamin A Plus campaign took place in March last year, officials said.

They blamed the cancellation of the sectoral programme, under which the campaigns were funded, without renewed funding by the interim government, as well as complications in the tendering process to procure capsules.

The matter comes to light as the country faces a measles outbreak on a scale unprecedented in the past two decades.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 23 confirmed measles deaths yesterday. With the latest report, the number of suspected measles deaths since March 15 has risen to 143. Besides, over 12,000 suspected cases have been reported nationwide during this time.

Experts link the crisis to disruptions in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Fuel Pass app launched for 2 Dhaka pumps

Govt says supply secured for 2 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has launched a pilot of a mobile application for two filling stations in Dhaka, aiming to streamline fuel distribution, curb irregularities, and bring transparency to a system strained by global uncertainty.

Developed under the Energy and Mineral Resources Division initially for motorcycle users, the QR code-based Fuel Pass app is being implemented by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) at Trust Filling Station near Bijoy Sarani and Sonar Bangla Filling Station in Asad Gate.

Officials said the system would be expanded nationwide for all types of vehicles if the pilot proves successful, as the US-Israel war on Iran continues to mount pressure on global energy supply chains.

The move comes amid long queues at filling stations, even when supply remains adequate. Authorities attribute the situation to inefficiencies in manual distribution and repeated fuel collection by some individuals, which contributes to artificial shortages.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Classes 3 days online, 3 days in person

Govt pilots hybrid model in selected Dhaka schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to introduce a blended model in selected schools in Dhaka from tomorrow, under which students will attend online classes for three days and physical classes for three days each week.

The decision was taken in view of the global energy crisis, severe traffic congestion, and the growing need to

"The decision was taken in view of the global energy crisis, severe traffic congestion, and the growing need to adapt to a technology-based education system."

Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon

adapt to a technology-based education system, Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon said at a press briefing at the International Mother Language Institute yesterday afternoon.

Under the arrangement, students will attend physical classes on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays, while they will have online classes on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Calling it a limited pilot initiative rather than a pandemic-style restriction, Milon said, "It is not a pandemic-era measure. We are not forcing it." He added that the system would initially be introduced in selected institutions.

Primary schools will remain outside the arrangement for now, he said, adding that a decision on them would be

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

THE WINGED GARDENER

A flash of black and ivory cuts through the pale sky over Satchari National Park in Habiganj, as an oriental pied hornbill glides above the forest canopy. Native across South and Southeast Asia, this striking bird thrives in moist lowland forests, riverine edges, and even secondary growth near human settlements. Primarily frugivorous, it feeds on figs, palm fruits, and papaya, but will also take insects, small reptiles, and nestlings. A master gardener of the forest, it disperses large seeds across vast distances, quietly shaping entire forests. Listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, it still faces growing threats from deforestation, hunting, and the loss of nesting trees.

PHOTO: MONJUR MORSHED

পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ, বাংলাদেশ
মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা-১২০৬

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Master of Applied Criminology and Police Management (MACPM)
(জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্ত)

এমএসিপিএম প্রোগ্রামের উদ্দেশ্য	প্রত্যাশিত ফলাফল
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> পুলিশিং, অপরাধবিদ্যা এবং পুলিশ পরিচালনা বিষয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তত্ত্ব এবং বাস্তব প্রয়োগের শিক্ষা; একাডেমিক জ্ঞানকে সমৃদ্ধ করা এবং পেশা সংক্রান্ত জ্ঞান ও বিশ্লেষণ কার্যকরভাবে উপস্থাপনের প্রয়োজনীয় দক্ষতার বিকাশ; গবেষণা পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে ও ফলাফল মূল্যায়নের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ধারণা এবং বিভিন্ন টুলের বাস্তব ব্যবহার শিক্ষা। 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> নেতৃত্ব, অনুসন্ধান পদ্ধতি, প্রতিষ্ঠান ব্যবস্থাপনা, মানবাধিকার, রাষ্ট্রীয়/প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক নিরাপত্তা বিধান ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে প্রায়োগিক উপযোগিতা; প্রাসঙ্গিক গবেষণা এবং কর্মক্ষেত্রে গবেষণালব্ধ জ্ঞান ও প্রাপ্ত সমাধানের সফল প্রয়োগ দক্ষতা।
<p>অবেদনের সময়সীমা: ১০ এপ্রিল হতে ১০ মে ২০২৬ খ্রি. ভর্তি পরীক্ষা: ১৬ মে ২০২৬ খ্রি., ফলাফল প্রকাশ ২০ মে ২০২৬ খ্রি. প্রায়োগিক সময়সীমা: জুলাই ২০২৬ খ্রি.</p>	<p>গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য: কোর্সটির সময়কাল: ১২ মাস/০২ সেমিস্টার সর্বমোট ক্রেডিট: ৪০ ক্রাসের সময়: গুরুবার ও শনিবার</p>

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ফোন নম্বর- ০১৩২০২১৬৩১৬। ই-মেইল- macpm.psc@gmail.com

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