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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

PM slams attack
at White House
correspondents'
dinner

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has strongly condemned the violent attack at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner attended by President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump and other top officials and business leaders.



"Strongly condemning the cowardly act of violence at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner," he shared a post on X yesterday.

He said he was relieved to learn that President Trump, the First Lady, and others were unharmed.

"We stand firmly against all forms of violence," he said.

On Saturday, a man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby outside the event, charging towards the ballroom in a chaotic encounter with Secret Service agents as guests dived under tables at the sound of shots being fired.



Battery-run rickshaws operating illegally being towed near Mohammadpur Bus Stand in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A hundred frames,
everlasting lossBILS exhibition captures
human toll, lived realities
within urban tragedies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As you make your way through the exhibition, the first few images that catch the eye almost begin on a hopeful note, showing labourers returning home with quiet dreams and the joy of reuniting with loved ones. But that warmth swiftly fades. Beyond the opening frames, the tone shifts as over 100 photographs tell stories of grief, capturing the raw anguish of loss and the hollow stares of those left behind.

This emotional journey, titled "Still Standing: Industrial Disasters, Workers' Lives and the Cost of Forgetting in Bangladesh", showcases photographs from 10 of the country's most devastating industrial and urban disasters over the past two decades.

Starting from Friday before ending yesterday at the National Art Gallery (Gallery 5) of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the exhibition was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). It featured the work of The Daily Star photographers Anisur Rahman, Amran Hossain, Rashed Sumon, Palash Khan, Prabir Das, and Rajib Raihan.

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Govt agencies rack
up Tk 629cr in
unpaid land taxes

DIPAN NANDY

Government ministries and their subordinate agencies owe more than Tk 629 crore in Land Development Tax (LDT), with the highest arrears accrued by the ministries of railways, environment, and local government.

Data from the Land Reform Board shows that arrears owed by institutions under 37 ministries stood at Tk 711.21 crore, including Tk 561.78 crore accumulated till June 2025 and an additional Tk 149.43 crore since then. Of this, around Tk 82 crore has been recovered, leaving Tk 629.14 crore unpaid.

Bangladesh Railway, under the Ministry of Railways, is the largest defaulter, owing Tk 202.25 crore.

Md Afzal Hossain, director general of BR, said, "We are making efforts to pay the outstanding land development tax. However, the allocation we receive from the Ministry of Finance is insufficient. For example, if we are required to pay Tk 100 crore in taxes, we receive only Tk 20-30 crore in allocation. That is why the backlog has accumulated."

"Bangladesh Railway is a service-oriented institution. Yet we have to pay land development tax as if we were a commercial entity. I would request the government to reconsider and reassess the land development tax, taking this issue into account," he added.

Other major defaulters include the Roads and Highways Department

(Tk 57.88 crore), Water Development Board (Tk 28.96 crore), city corporations (Tk 26.04 crore), the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Tk 16.42 crore), and the Public Works Department (Tk 16.39 crore).

The Land Reform Board has recently taken initiatives to recover the outstanding taxes, including organising a workshop in January and planning to send letters to all ministries and agencies next month. A

Bangladesh Railway is the largest defaulter, owing Tk 202.25 crore. Other major defaulters include Roads and Highways Department (Tk 57.88 crore), Water Development Board (Tk 28.96 crore), city corporations (Tk 26.04 crore), and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Tk 16.42 crore).

draft letter has been finalised, stating that mobilising internal resources and increasing domestic revenue are essential for national development and that land development tax is a key source of government revenue.

Officials of the Land Reform Board say the overall arrears have reduced compared to previous years following various initiatives to this end. Earlier,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladesh
lacks 'A-status'
NHRC to
curb tortureSays UN Special
Rapporteur Dr
Alice Edwards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Alice Edwards, the United Nations special rapporteur on torture, has said Bangladesh lacks an "A-status" National Human Rights Commission and a national preventive mechanism to combat custodial torture.

Dr Edwards said that violence in Bangladesh is deeply rooted, institutional, and long-standing.

She was speaking at a Consultation Meeting on Strengthening Prevention and Accountability Frameworks for Torture in Bangladesh held at the Hotel Holiday Inn yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), Association for the Prevention of Torture, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and Redress.

The special rapporteur is in Bangladesh for a week-long study visit.

She said Bangladesh has developed a strong "legal scaffolding", but the rest is missing.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

FROM PRESS GALLERY

Local govt polls
under consideration
Fakhrul tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is actively considering holding local government elections, and the process will begin swiftly once preparations are complete, said Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Responding to a question from Jamaat lawmaker Zahirul Islam during a parliamentary session, the minister said authorities are working on necessary groundwork before announcing any schedule.

Answering another query from independent MP Rumcen Farhana, the minister said local government elections are conducted in phases and may take between 10 months and a year to complete across all tiers.

He said several factors must be considered

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Drive against drugs
after April 30
Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nationwide coordinated drive will be launched against drugs and gambling after April 30, said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed in parliament yesterday.

He made the announcement while responding to an attention notice on urgent public importance at the parliament, chaired by Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad.

Noakhali 2 lawmaker Zainul Abidin Farroque, in his notice, said, "As night falls, wild revelry begins... shisha lounges never die down. Illegal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Absence of MP,
ministers disrupts
JS proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament's regular work was disrupted yesterday after three urgent notices under Rule 71 could not be dealt with on time due to the absence of the relevant ministers and one MP.

Rule 71 allows MPs, with the speaker's permission, to raise urgent public matters.

The sitting began at 3:05pm, five minutes late, but the notices for the home, road transport, and disaster management ministers stalled as the ministers were absent.

A notice by ruling party MP Kamruzzaman Kamrul also failed when he was not in the chamber. The discussions resumed around 4:20pm.

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2026

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