

CONFIRMED MEASLES DEATHS

Half the children were too young for shots

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Almost half of the 60 children who died from confirmed measles were below nine months of age, government data showed, meaning they were not yet eligible for routine vaccination.

The government administers the first dose of the measles-rubella vaccine to children at nine months and the second at 15 months.

A total of 29 children died before reaching nine months of age, with 15 of them being six months or younger. The remaining children died at nine months of age or older, according to data collected by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of 60 confirmed measles deaths from 21 districts.

The youngest child was three months old, and

the oldest was nine years old.

Earlier, before the launch of an emergency vaccination drive last month, the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group had recommended lowering the age for receiving the measles vaccine to six months, as one-third of the children recently infected with measles are under nine months.

Children aged between six months and under five years are now being vaccinated under the special immunisation drive to control the outbreak. However, the timing for the routine vaccination remained the same.

Asked about the possible reasons behind the high number of deaths among children under nine months, Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, associate

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Migration politics may hurt thaw in Dhaka-Delhi ties

PORIMOL PALMA

Irregular migration may become the key sticking point in efforts to further improve Dhaka-Delhi ties, which were under severe strain during the Yunus-led interim government rule.

The issue, which was the central theme of BJP's campaign in the recent elections in West Bengal and Assam, continues to dominate public discourse in the Indian states neighbouring Bangladesh.

The BJP has won the elections by a landslide.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah flew to Dhaka yesterday to consult the political leadership on how to engage with the Indian government on the issue, foreign ministry officials said.

"Irregular migration is a sensitive issue. So, it is important to get direction from the political leadership on such matters," a foreign ministry official, requesting anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the topic, told this correspondent yesterday.

Bangladesh-India ties soured badly in the aftermath of the fall of the Awami League regime in August 2024. India's sharp reduction in visas for Bangladeshis, trade restrictions, media rhetoric and political statements – all pointed to that shift.

Under the interim government, the number of push-ins also increased.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

POLICE WEEK 2026 Cops seek more 999 staff, better forensic labs

TOUSIF KAIUM

Police officials last night placed a series of demands before Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, including increasing the number of emergency hotline 999 call-takers, modernising forensic laboratories, and procuring new vehicles for the force.

The demands were raised during a conference between senior police officials and the minister at the Rajarbagh Police Lines auditorium in the capital, organised as part of Police Week 2026.

Several senior police officials who attended the closed-door meeting confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

A deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, requesting anonymity, said the force currently receives around 25,000 calls daily through the national emergency service hotline 999, while only about 100 personnel are assigned to take the calls.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

FROM INTELLIGENCE OFFICE TO WESTIN

How S Alam took over SIBL in a day

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The neighborhood was quiet, the streets still washed in the pale early-morning light. Just after the Fajr prayers on October 30, 2017, Abdur Rahman stepped out of the Baridhara DOHS mosque for his usual morning walk.

As he walked along the familiar route in his pajamas and T-shirt, a white microbus pulled up a few feet from him. It had no number plate.

Two men climbed out of the vehicle and began following him. Before Rahman could react, two more men emerged from the same microbus, almost blocking his path. The group, all of them powerfully built, ordered him to get into the car.

When Rahman, then an independent director at the now-defunct Social Islami Bank Ltd (SIBL), refused, the four men

closed in, grabbed him, and forced him into the microbus.

Around the same time, roughly 10 kilometers away, a black car stopped outside Humayun Kabir's home in Uttara. Kabir, then the board secretary of SIBL, was in the shower when he heard urgent knocking.

"People from the administration are downstairs, looking for you," his wife called through the bathroom door.

Kabir came down to find four to five men in plainclothes. They identified themselves as members of an intelligence agency.

He recalled that when they told him to come with them, his wife protested. The men brushed her aside, and after issuing

veiled threats, forced him into their car.

Meanwhile, inside the moving vehicle, Abdur Rahman soon realised where he was: this was a car belonging to an intelligence agency. After a short drive, the men escorted him into a large office compound in Kachukhet, inside the Dhaka Cantonment. It was the office of the Directorate of Forces Intelligence (DGFI).

"That was the worst experience of my life," Rahman told The Daily Star. "I had no mobile phone, I couldn't call my family. My wife and daughters went from hospital to hospital and police stations."

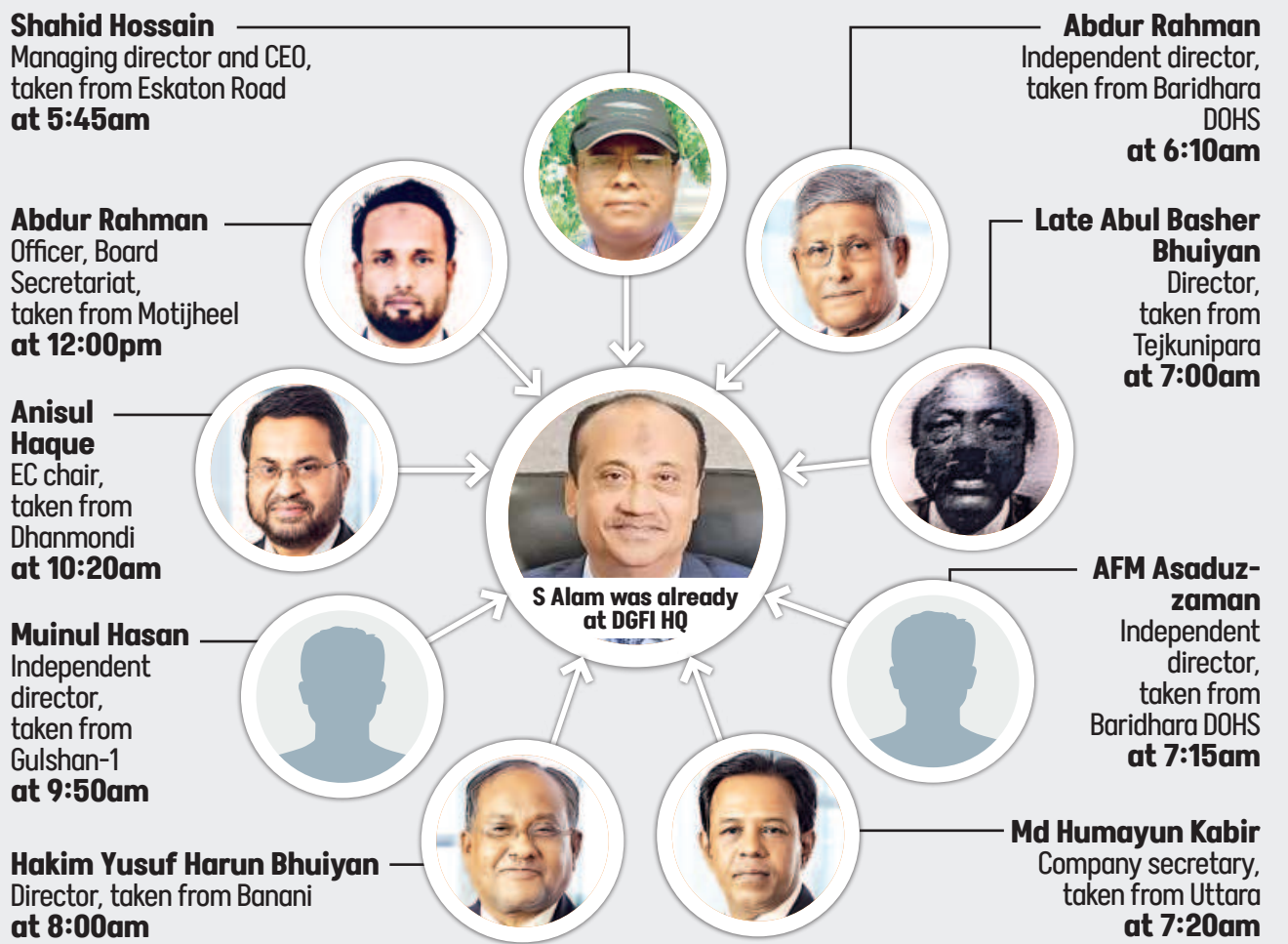
Like Rahman, Humayun Kabir was also taken to the same intelligence office. But

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A BANK HELD HOSTAGE

On October 30, 2017, 9 SIBL directors and officials were taken to the DGFI HQ. Some were forced to resign and replaced by directors linked to S Alam Group – all before a 30-minute board meeting at the Westin Hotel. By 2024, over Tk 7,600 crore had been funneled from SIBL to S Alam-linked companies.



In a desperate attempt to salvage their harvest, farmers waded through chest-deep water on a field full of golden-ripe paddy that has been submerged due to excessive rainfall in the haor region of Kishoreganj. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon in Mithamain upazila.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

US-Iran ceasefire on 'life support'

Warns Trump; UN says world weeks away from humanitarian crisis

Iran vows to 'teach US a lesson' if attacked

Oil price rises on fear of prolonged blockade

Israel says war 'not over,' uranium must be removed

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday warned the ceasefire in the Middle East war was on "life support" after rejecting the latest counteroffer from Iran, which said its military stood ready to respond to any act of aggression.

The president's angry reaction to Iran's position – delivered in response to a US proposal – sent oil prices soaring and dashed hopes that a deal could be quickly negotiated to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping.

After slamming the reply as "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE", Trump insisted the United States would see a "complete victory" over Iran, adding that the truce which has largely halted fighting in the Gulf for over a month, was on its last legs.

"The ceasefire is on massive life support, where the doctor walks in and says, 'Sir, your loved one has approximately a one percent chance of living,'" he told reporters yesterday.

Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who served as chief negotiator in previous talks with Washington, said shortly afterwards that his country was prepared "for any eventuality".

"Our armed forces are ready to respond and to teach a lesson for any aggression," he wrote on X. "A bad strategy and bad decisions always lead to bad results – the world already understands this."

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

The silver screen speaks of celluloid dreams

RBR

My grandmother-in-law watched the cult Bangla cinema Shujan Shukhi eight times in the halls of Narayanganj, back when she lived in a wooden two-storied bungalow – the downstairs serving as her husband's gaddi, his office and business hub.

My grandmother, hailing from a Talukdar family – a hereditary aristocracy of landholders – caught films during their long vacations in Calcutta. And my mother, growing up in a sprawling clan, would rally her younger sisters and nine brothers to Modhumita, one of the oldest theatres in the country, or to morning shows at the chic mini-theatre Naaz and matinee shows at Gulistan. Those halls brought a revolutionary change to Dhaka's entertainment scene with air-conditioning and superior sound systems, back then.

Primarily known for screening English movies and top-tier Urdu films, the hall complexes built a reputation for being modern and upscale, yet they drew mass audiences. Come September, Cleopatra, Girls, Girls, Girls by Elvis Presley, Urdu hits like

Daman, Do Raha, Arman, and Bangla classics like Pothe Holo Deri, Headmaster, Meghe Dhaka Tara, are movie experiences my mother fondly remembers. Her friend Bachu Khala, a neighbour, was the granddaughter of Pahari Sanyal, a cult figure in Indian Bangla cinema, so films and theatres were truly the heartbeat of their entertainment.

My parents, too, would sneak out, leaving us behind, for screenings of Sunflower or Rebecca. These stories remind me of a Dhaka that was once cultural and alive, where going to the cinema on weekends was the natural choice.

Fast forward to today: Dhaka has transformed into a modern megapolis, buzzing with theatres, concerts, and multiplexes. Just last Saturday, I went with my girlfriends to the posh new Centrepoint Mall in Uttara to watch Daam, a much-hyped film based on a true story.



And at the scenic STAR Cineplex at the Bangladesh Military Museum in Bijoy Sarani for Bonolota Express. I was left in awe – the seating, the leg space, the assortment of munchies, all elevating the experience. The crowd was overwhelming – hundreds of people, young and

old, couples, singles, families, ladies' groups – all queuing for whatever tickets they could get. The choices dazzled: Bonolota Express with Mosharraf Karim and Chanchal Chowdhury, Daam with Afran Nisho and Puja Cherry Roy, Michael, the biographical drama on

Michael Jackson, Pressure Cooker by Raihan Rafi, Project Hail Mary starring Ryan Gosling (which even our Prime Minister went to watch), and of course The Devil Wears Prada 2, which every ladies' group in Dhaka seems to be waiting for.

What strikes me most is how cinema has woven itself into everyday conversation. Everywhere you go – fashion shows, fairs, coffee meetups – people are asking, "Did you watch Bonolota?" or "Have you seen Pressure Cooker?" or "What did you think of Daam?"

It feels like the old Dhaka spirit has found new life in this modern city, where films are not just entertainment but part of our collective rhythm. Whether you're after a quiet, intimate setting or the buzz of a packed hall, Dhaka caters to both modern and traditional moviegoers.

The city's cinema culture is wonderfully diverse, ranging from luxury private lounges in Gulshan to mainstream blockbuster screenings. For authentic Dhaka vibes and affordability, halls like Modhumita or Balaka are still worth experiencing. Each location offers Dolby surround sound, 3D projection, semi-recliner seating,

and premium lounges – blending international-standard cinema with local cultural appeal.

On the other end of the spectrum, STAR Cineplex has grown into Bangladesh's leading multiplex chain, beginning with its flagship branch at Bashundhara City in Panthapath back in 2004. Over time, it has expanded across the capital with branches in Dhanmondi's Shimanto Shambhar, Mohakhali's SKS Tower, Mirpur's Sony Square, the Bangladesh Military Museum at Bijoy Sarani, and, most recently, Centrepoint Mall in Uttara.

And would you believe Dhaka even has an almost five-star private movie lounge? Cholen Private Movie Lounge in Gulshan 2 is a standalone space booked entirely for your group at a flat rate of Tk 10,000 per night, accommodating 6-10 guests, with complete privacy guaranteed.

So, whether you're in the mood for Hollywood spectacle or a Bangla drama with powerhouse actors, Dhaka's choices tonight are plentiful – and just like in my grandmother's time, cinema remains the city's most beloved conversation starter.

How S Alam took over SIBL in a day

FROM PAGE 1

they were not the only ones.

That morning, eight SIBL officials and directors, including Rahman and Kabir, were picked up from across the capital: Baridhara, Uttara, Mirpur, Gulshan, Zigatola, Moghbazar, Banani, and Tejgunipara. Some were taken during their morning walk, some while reciting the Quran at home, some in the shower, and some while preparing their children for school.

The six others are then SIBL managing director Shahid Hossain, executive committee chairman Anisul Haque, director Hakim Yusuf Harun Bhuiyan, director Abul Basher Bhuiyan, and independent directors Muinul Hasan and AFM Asaduzzaman.

Thanks to his army background, then SIBL chairman Maj (ret'd) Rezaul Haque was not forcibly picked up. Instead, a senior DGF official called him and asked him to pay him a visit.

Five of them – Rahman, Kabir, Rezaul, Shahid and Basher – spoke exclusively with The Daily Star for the first time since the film-style spy operations. In video and phone interviews taken over nearly a year between September 2024 to December 2025, they spoke at length about how SIBL was taken over by S Alam with the help of the intelligence agency.

That morning, all nine were preparing to attend SIBL's 404th board meeting, scheduled for 2:35pm at City Centre in Dhaka's Motijheel. Instead, they were taken to the DGF office in Kachukhet and held in separate rooms, each unaware the others were there, as the bank's takeover unfolded inside the spy office.

Within months, SIBL's new management began disbursing large loans to businesses linked to S Alam and his family, draining the once-stable bank of liquidity.

By September 2024, SIBL's total loan exposure reached Tk 37,841 crore, of which more than Tk 7,600 crore went to S Alam Group and its affiliates. At the time, SIBL's non-performing loans surged to Tk 23,575 crore or 62.3 percent of the total loans disbursed, and the bank's capital turned negative.

Ultimately, the lending spree left SIBL cash-strapped and led to its forced merger with four other troubled banks in 2025.

S ALAM AT DGF OFFICE
Inside the intelligence office, food was arranged for the hostages, but most were in panic and unable to eat. Several grew dizzy.

"When my blood pressure shot up, a doctor was summoned and he advised that they send me home. But they did not. They eventually let me lie down on a bed," Rahman recalled.

Elsewhere in the building, Humayun Kabir, the board secretary, was taken to a conference room lined with portraits of senior intelligence officers. There, he saw someone he never expected to see in such a place. It was Mohammed Saiful Alam, chairman of the Chattogram-based S Alam Group, sitting as if he was in charge.

Six of the officials and directors that were picked up confirmed that they saw S Alam in the DGF office.

"I was stunned," Kabir said. "He told me to sit. Then he asked me to move the board meeting from Motijheel to the Westin Hotel."

S Alam handed him three documents – signed resignation letters from the bank's chairman, managing director and the executive committee chairman.

Their signatures were obtained on blank sheets of paper, later filled in as resignations citing "personal reasons," Kabir added. The Daily Star has obtained two of these letters.

"I was forced to resign under threat of police remand. One of my junior officers showed me a weapon and warned that I would be taken into

custody," Maj (ret'd) Rezaul told The Daily Star.

Just months earlier, on January 5, 2017, S Alam Group had taken control of Islami Bank Bangladesh. The same blueprint was now being executed to take over SIBL.

THE TAKEOVER

Much of the paperwork related to the takeover was done by Abdur Rahman – not the independent director but a junior officer from the bank's board secretariat – who was picked up from the SIBL office in Motijheel.

Inside the spy office, he was ordered to draft resignation letters, prepare the board minutes, record the "approval" of the chairman, managing director, and executive committee chairman's resignations, and prepare documents for their replacements.

"At the intelligence office, I was asked to write minutes related to the changes in the board," Abdur Rahman, now employed at Bengal Commercial Bank, told The Daily Star.

Eight resolutions were drafted and approved at the DGF office, and Humayun Kabir was forced to sign

last three to four hours ended in just 30 minutes. With chairman Maj (ret'd) Rezaul Haque already removed and sent home along with the MD and the executive committee chairman, SIBL vice-chairman Md Saidur Rahman presided over the board meeting. He did not respond to our calls and text messages.

At the meeting, S Alam introduced himself to the board before the pre-written minutes were tabled, according to six officials and board members present at the meeting.

Documents obtained by The Daily Star show that 36 agendas were originally listed for discussion, but only three were approved and the rest deferred. Under "miscellaneous decisions," however, 14 resolutions were passed at once, all related to resignations and new appointments.

"When almost all agenda of a bank's board are deferred and some important decisions are approved under miscellaneous matters, it can never be considered a normal process. It is undesirable," said Anis A Khan, former chairman of the Association of

board meeting, every director was fully dressed in formal attire, highlighting the extent of the planning, even down to the dress code.

They were eventually released after the meeting but the fear lingered. Within 10 days, seven directors, including Abdur Rahman, resigned.

"After that meeting, we received calls warning us that something bad would happen if we didn't resign," Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star. "Out of fear, we all resigned together."

One source at the Westin told The Daily Star by phone that the hotel room for the board meeting was booked by a DGF official.

BB'S HASTY APPROVAL
Bangladesh Bank walked extra miles to legitimise this forceful takeover.

Abdur Rahman, the SIBL board secretariat officer, was dispatched to the central bank around 5:00pm for approval of the new appointments that took place at the intelligence office. Islami Bank's company secretary JQM Habibullah and two intelligence agency officers accompanied him. Habibullah did not respond to our calls, emails and

the central bank. He resigned after the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024. His phone was found switched off.

In a written response, then BB governor Fazle Kabir told The Daily Star, "At Bangladesh Bank, I always tried to dispose of files on the same day. I would start looking at files after Maghrib prayers and leave the office by 8:00-9:00pm."

He added: "I had no prior knowledge of the approval of SIBL's new directors and MD until the file came to my desk along with the other files."

S ALAM GRIPS SIBL
Soon after the takeover through coercion, regulatory shortcuts, and state intelligence force, the SIBL board was gradually reconstituted with S Alam's loyalists.

Alongside chairman Md Anwarul Azim Arif and vice chairman Belal Ahmed, S Alam's son-in-law, the group's influence deepened with the appointment of S Alam's son, Arshadul Alam, as a director.

But one appointment stood out: Jebunnesa Akbar. She joined the board

Shshanal Alam is chairman. S Alam's nephew Md Mostain Billah Adil is the managing director.

Within just three months of SIBL's forceful takeover, the company with paid-up capital of just Tk 30 crore, received Tk 331 crore in loans from the bank. It also secured letters of credit worth Tk 127 crore. Before SIBL's merger in 2025, the company's outstanding liability at the bank stood at Tk 815 crore, documents show.

Infinita is only one example.

Analysis of loan and share purchase records shows a tightly connected network of 47 entities, controlled by 36 individuals, acquired 37.10% of SIBL shares across 14 companies in 2017. Then, between 2018 and 2024, they extracted over Tk 7,615 crore in loans through 33 companies linked by overlapping directors and cross-ownership.

The lending pattern shows how a significant portion of SIBL's assets was channelled into a family and business network, underscoring how control of the bank translated directly into concentrated financial benefit.

At the centre of the network were seven individuals, including S Alam, his two brothers, and his wife, each simultaneously serving as a director in both the share-acquiring entities and the loan-receiving companies.

Anwarul Azim Arif, who was appointed chairman after the takeover, disconnected our call, did not respond to follow-ups, and ignored WhatsApp messages.

The Daily Star also went to meet him at his residence on Abdul Latif Road in Chattogram in October 2025. At the gate, the guard said, "Sir is not home." He died in March 2026.

S Alam's son-in-law Belal Ahmed, who was appointed vice chairman, is believed to be abroad. His phone is switched off, and he did not reply to our messages.

Kazi Osman Ali, who was made MD, said briefly over the phone, "I am unwell," and declined to comment further.

But those picked up and taken to the DGF office said that the day's operations revolved around one man: S Alam, a feared figure during the 2009-2024 Awami League rule because of his ties with Sheikh Hasina and her family.

They described him as the "main actor," sitting inside the intelligence office and directing the entire takeover as though he were one of the agency's top officers.

"Before going to Westin, S Alam warned me not to say anything to the media," said Humayun Kabir, the then SIBL company secretary who was picked from his Uttara home. He added, "One officer grabbed my hand and placed it on the pistol at his waist."

S Alam is believed to be in Singapore, where he is a citizen. He did not respond to our WhatsApp calls and text messages. His lawyers, both local and international, also did not reply to our queries via email and WhatsApp seeking an explanation as to why their client engaged the country's military intelligence agency to take over a bank.

Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director at the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) described the entire operation as a rare incident.

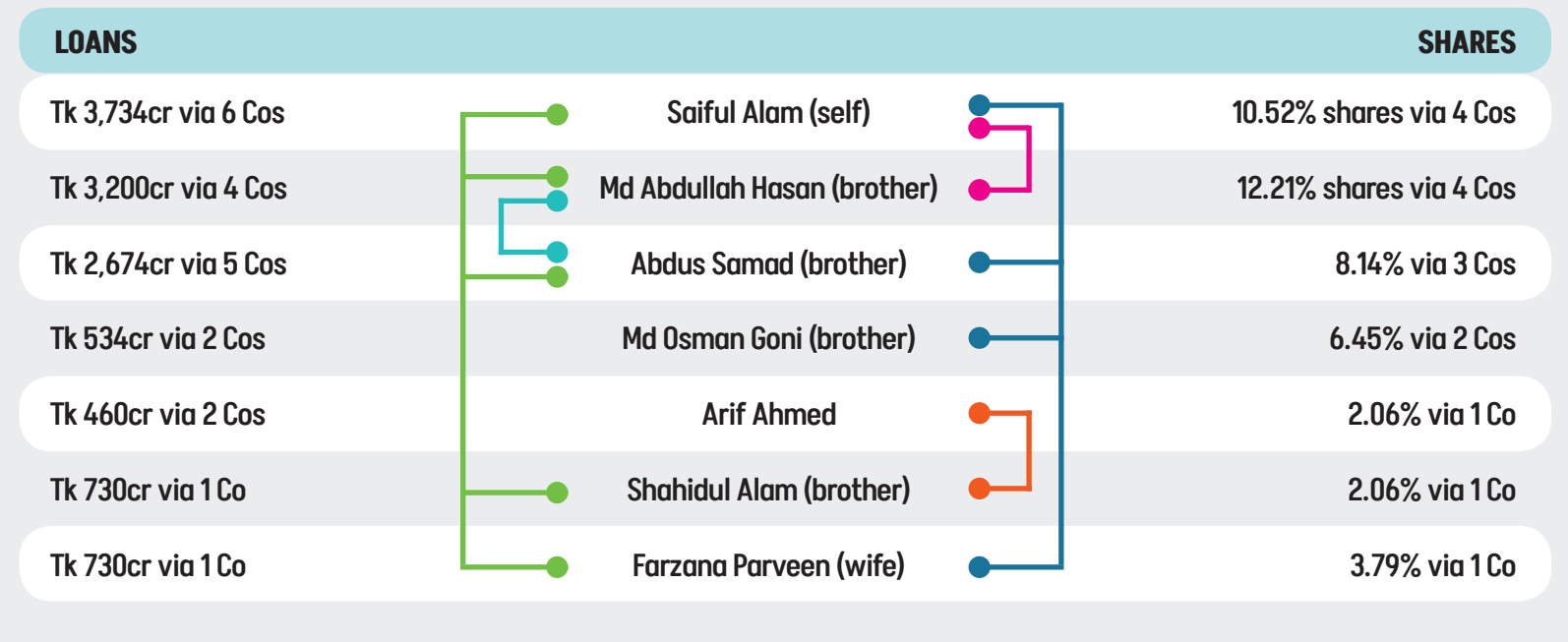
"In many cases, one business group may take control of another business entity, but involving a state security or military agency in forcibly taking over a bank is highly unusual and unjustifiable.

"Those involved should be held accountable so that no government agency, military institution, individual, or business group can engage in similar venture in the future," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

LOAN AND SHARE DISTRIBUTION

7 shared directors on both sides of the table

The same names sat on boards that bought shares and took loans.



Bankers, Bangladesh, a forum of chief executives of commercial banks.

He noted that since the 14 approved items involved new appointments and approvals of resignations, it clearly indicates that this was a political decision and a major shortcoming in good governance.

"Such a lack of corporate governance is one of the reasons many banks are facing a grim situation today," said



Anis, also former MD and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank.

None of the directors taken to the DGF office that morning was dressed for a board meeting; all were wearing casual clothes fit for home. Yet, within hours, suits, shirts, ties, belts, socks, and shoes of various sizes appeared seemingly out of nowhere. Before being taken to the Westin for text

messages.

At the time, Governor Fazle Kabir was in a meeting at the finance ministry. According to Abdur Rahman, an intelligence officer asked the governor's personal secretary to "call the governor and tell him that I've come on instructions from the Prime Minister's Office." The governor arrived shortly after.

Under normal procedure, Bangladesh Bank's Banking Regulation and Policy Department (BRPD) verifies appointments – checking CIB reports, pending cases, and complaints – a process that typically takes at least a week, often longer. That evening, the process was complete in hours, and by 9:00pm, the BB approved the appointment of SIBL's new chairman, executive committee chairman, and managing director.

The Daily Star has obtained two approval letters, one confirming Anwarul Azim Arif as chairman and the other confirming Belal Ahmed as director.

That night, a BRPD team led by Abu Farah Md Naser stayed back after regular office hours to process the approvals. Naser later became deputy governor and then banking adviser at

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



A worker perches precariously atop a light pole while carrying out maintenance work on internet cables in Dhaka's Banglamotor area yesterday. He appears to be working without any visible safety harness or protective gear amid a tangled web of overhead utility lines, risking serious injury.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Boy or girl, the right to life equal

Prenatal gender detection fuels discrimination, says HC in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court, in the full text of a recently released verdict, observed that prenatal gender detection directly facilitates sex-selective abortion, discrimination against female children, demographic imbalance and violence against women.

"Such practices violate fundamental right to life, equality and non-discrimination guaranteed under Articles 18, 27, 28, 31 and 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh," said the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider, who resigned on February 5 this year, and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque in the nine-page verdict.

"Articles 27 and 28 ensure equality before law and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex. Gender detection institutionalises discrimination even before birth, resulting in structural inequality and demographic imbalance..." the judges observed.

The bench delivered the verdict on February 25, 2024, following a four-year-old petition seeking prohibition of prenatal sex detection to ensure protection of babies and

pregnant mothers.

Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan filed the public interest litigation with the High Court on January 26, 2020.

The Directorate General of Health Services has formulated a guideline titled "National Guideline for the Prevention of



Son Preference and the Risk of Gender-Biased Sex Selection, 2022", discouraging disclosure of the sex of unborn babies for non-medical reasons.

In the full text, the HC bench directed the health ministry to maintain a regularly

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Will put you in sack and dump you in a pond'

Witness recounts threats, torture in 'Aynaghar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Jubo Dal leader from Jashore yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his captors at a secret detention facility threatened to stuff his body into a sack and dump it in a pond, referring to bodies recovered from canals, wetlands, and railway tracks during the Awami League era.

Nazimuddin, 48, a computer businessman from Monirampur who is now involved with the BNP, testified as the fifth prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case over the alleged enforced disappearance and torture of 24 people at the joint interrogation cell (JIC), widely known as "Aynaghar", allegedly operated by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

The accused include former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her former defence adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique, several former DGF1 chiefs, and former officials of the agency's Counter Terrorism and Intelligence Bureau.

Describing his detention, Nazimuddin said he once developed a severe headache and lightly hit his head against the wall of his cell.

"Deep into the night, they handcuffed and blindfolded

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DEATH IN RAB CUSTODY

Three years on, no justice for Jasmine

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

More than three years have passed since the death of Naogaon's Sultana Jasmine in Rapid Action Battalion custody, but no criminal case has been filed yet.

The High Court rule questioning the legality of Rab's action in detaining Jasmine also remains unresolved.

Sultana Jasmine, 41, a land office employee, was picked up and detained by Rab on March 22, 2023. She died in Rab custody at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital two days later. Rab officers reportedly told doctors at the time that Jasmine had suffered a fall.

Md Nazmul Haque Mantu, maternal uncle of Jasmine, told The Daily Star over the phone that they did not file a case as the family had received an indirect threat after the incident, discouraging them from pursuing legal action.

"One person [Jasmine] has already died; we did not want to put ourselves

at further risk," he said.

Jasmine did not have a case against her at the time of detention. She was sued under the then-controversial Digital Security Act, a day after being picked up, on allegations of "siphoning off money from job seekers using a Facebook account".

"She died due to torture in Rab custody. She had an injury mark on her head. Before detention, she was perfectly healthy," her son Shahed Hossain Saikat, a student of Chittagong University, had told the media at that time.

Jasmine's "murder" in Naogaon tarnished the image of the country, Rab and the government, the then Rab director general M Khurshid Hossain reportedly told the then parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry on April 5, 2023.

"The [local] camp was involved in it. The battalion or the headquarters knew nothing," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Sultana Jasmine, 41, a land office employee, was picked up and detained by Rab on March 22, 2023. She died in Rab custody at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital two days later.

51,581 pilgrims reach Saudi Arabia for hajj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 51,581 Bangladeshi pilgrims have reached Saudi Arabia on 132 flights as of 10:00am yesterday, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs' hajj management portal.

The latest hajj bulletin said 12 Bangladeshi pilgrims -- 10 men and two women -- died of natural causes in Makkah and Medina as of Sunday.

This year, 78,500 Bangladeshis are expected to perform hajj, including 4,565 under government management and 73,935 under private arrangements.

Under private management, hajj operations are being handled by 660 agencies -- 30 lead and 630 coordinating agencies.

According to airline wise data, Biman Bangladesh Airlines transported

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'No RPO bar on Jamaat registration over 1971 role'

Objection sentimental, not legal, says SC in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court, in the full text of its judgement on Jamaat-e-Islami's registration, observed that the Representation of the People Order (RPO) contains no provision barring a political party's registration based on the role of its leaders during the Liberation War.

The SC made the observation in the 51-page full text of its verdict, released recently.

"The 25 writ petitioners, who challenged the legality of Jamaat's registration before the High Court, have tendered objection to the effect that due to the heinous role of its leaders during the Liberation War, it should not have been given registration to do politics in Bangladesh," the verdict said.

"Their grievance appears to be sentimental rather than legal, as the RPO does not incorporate any provision to refuse registration to any political party for the role of its leaders during the Liberation War," it added.

On June 1 last year, a four-member Appellate Division bench headed by then chief justice Syed Rifaat Ahmed scrapped a 2013 High Court verdict that had declared Jamaat's registration illegal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

China's Exim Bank keen to finance the Teesta project

PM's foreign affairs adviser says feasibility study, talks needed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China's Exim Bank has expressed interest in financing the Teesta river management project, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir said yesterday.

"The Teesta project was among the issues of our bilateral relationship that we discussed. It was a positive discussion," he told reporters at the foreign ministry on Monday.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman visited China from May 5 to 7 and held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Humaiun was also in the delegation.

"A feasibility study would also be required. Teesta requires a detailed discussion. There are

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

'BRAC to create 10 lakh jobs, provide legal aid to 1 lakh women'



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC has announced plans to create at least 10 lakh jobs and provide legal assistance to more than one lakh women in Bangladesh over the next five years.

The targets were outlined during the launch of its 2025 annual report at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Senior officials said the organisation is focusing on employment generation, education support, women's legal services and climate resilience as part of its next phase of work.

Executive Director Asif Saleh said BRAC aims to create 10 lakh employment opportunities through skills development and entrepreneurship programmes.

He also said the organisation plans to support learning recovery for 19 lakh students and expand

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Vendors and rickshaws occupy footpaths and a significant portion of Mirpur Road in Dhaka's New Market area, just days after a police eviction drive. Despite repeated attempts by the authorities to clear the footpaths and road for pedestrians and vehicles, traders continue to return, causing obstructions. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Recruit more women in village police force to ensure justice

Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday stressed the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of village courts and recruit women into the village police force to ensure justice at the grassroots level.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a four-member United Nations Development Programme delegation, led by Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne, at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

The two sides discussed the progress and institutional development of the village court project, with a focus on ensuring accessible and low-cost justice for rural people.

Fakhru said village courts have played an important role in resolving rural disputes for more than a century.

He said quick settlement of minor disputes at the local level would reduce pressure on conventional courts and make justice more accessible for ordinary people.

The meeting also discussed increasing women's participation in local government institutions.

Fakhru also said local government institutions need stronger capacity to implement development and social protection programmes effectively.



Student activists protest against unnecessary honking and other sources of noise pollution on Dhaka roads at traffic signals in the Bijoy Sarani area yesterday. Under the banner of the environment ministry, they said noise pollution can damage children's hearing, worsen high blood pressure, and cause other health risks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

One held over rape of girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday arrested a man for raping a 14-year-old speech-impaired girl in Mymensingh's Haluaghat upazila.

The arrestee, Shakul Sangma, 56, was later sent to jail after being produced before a Mymensingh court.

During primary interrogation, Shakul confessed to the crime, said Md Ferdous Alam, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station.

According to the case statement, Shakul, a neighbour of the victim, took the girl to a nearby bush and raped her on Sunday. As locals arrived at the scene, he fled promptly.

On information, police raided the area and arrested Shakul around 8:00pm.

The girl's mother lodged a formal complaint with the police station, accusing Shakul, the OC said.

The victim was taken to a local hospital for medical examination, he added.

Will put you in sack

FROM PAGE 3
me and took me away," he told the tribunal. "They asked, 'When you were outside, didn't you see sack-bound bodies floating in canals and wetlands? Didn't you see bodies being found frequently on railway tracks?'"

He said the captors warned him: "If you ever do this again, we will put you inside a sack and dump you in a pond."

Nazimuddin said he was abducted on May 25, 2016, from Mirpur after plainclothes men intercepted his motorcycle near the BRTA office and forced him into a microbus.

He alleged that the men took Tk 1,00,000, two iPhones, his wallet, and personal documents before blindfolding and handcuffing him.

The witness said he later realised he was being held inside the DGP headquarters detention facility. During interrogation, he was repeatedly questioned about Facebook posts critical of the then government, as well as his political associates.

When he denied links with others, he said he was tortured.

Nazimuddin said the walls of the cell were covered with names, phone numbers, and desperate messages left by other detainees.

He also named several individuals whom he claimed were detained in nearby cells.

After five months in secret detention, Nazimuddin said he was moved through several Rab facilities before being taken to Chattogram.

He alleged that he was later shown arrested in staged drives, with firearms and ammunition planted earlier, and was made an accused in three cases.

He said he spent 18 months in jail before securing bail in 2018. He later left for Saudi Arabia, citing continued harassment by Awami League activists and the administration, and returned to Bangladesh in September 2024.

Nazimuddin urged the tribunal to punish those responsible for his detention, torture, harassment, and what he described as "false cases".

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday argued arguments before ICT-2 in a crimes against humanity case against Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and three other party leaders over the killing of six people in Kushtia during the July uprising.

No RPO bar

FROM PAGE 3
Following an appeal filed by Jamaat, the apex court also directed the Election Commission to resolve the party's pending issues, including its registration.

The EC later restored Jamaat's registration and returned "Daripalla (scale)" as its election symbol, Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, a lawyer for the party, told The Daily Star.

Jamaat lost the right to contest parliamentary elections as a party after the High Court declared its registration with EC illegal on August 1, 2013, following a writ petition.

The petition was filed on January 25, 2009, by Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of the Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, along with 24 others, seeking a declaration that Jamaat's registration was illegal.

The EC later cancelled Jamaat's registration in October 2018 ahead of the 11th national election. Jamaat subsequently filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict. The apex court began hearing the appeal on December 3, 2024.

No lawyer presented arguments on behalf of the petitioners during the Appellate Division hearing on this issue.

51,581 pilgrims

FROM PAGE 3
24,636 pilgrims on 62 flights, Saudi Airlines carried 18,479 pilgrims on 48 flights and Flynas transported 8,454 pilgrims on 22 flights.

Officials at the Ashkuna Hajj Camp said the remaining pilgrims will travel to Saudi Arabia gradually on designated flights.

The first hajj flight departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Jeddah on April 17.

Subject to moon sighting, hajj is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia on May 26, while return flights are scheduled to begin on May 30.

BRAC to create

FROM PAGE 3
its network of "academies" from eight to 80 institutions.

On women's empowerment, he said BRAC will expand legal aid services through 268 legal aid clinics, with an estimated 25,000 women expected to receive assistance annually over the next five years. Besides, special emphasis will be placed on 20 vulnerable districts to address climate change, along with strengthening crop insurance for farmers under the microfinance programme, he added.

KAM Morshed, senior director (advocacy, communications and engagement), said accountability to citizens remains central to BRAC's work, adding that its annual report was a key part of that process.

AFM Shahidur Rahman, MEAL, risk management, safeguarding and social compliance director, said one in every seven citizens of Bangladesh receives BRAC's services in some capacity.

He further added that 3.12 lakh families had been

lifted out of extreme poverty in the past five years under its "Ultra-Poor Graduation" programme, making around 11 lakh people self-reliant.

He also said that the average monthly income of participating households had increased more than fourfold, while in the health sector, 21 lakh mothers had received safe delivery services during the period.

According to BRAC's annual report, around 2.6 crore people received some form of support from the organisation in 2025, including 1.9 crore women. It also claimed a 17 percent reduction in institutional carbon emissions compared to 2019.

The organisation also said it is increasingly funding its operations through returns from social enterprises and reducing reliance on foreign donations.

Samakal Editor Shahed Mohammad Ali, Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif, and Dhaka Tribune Editor Reaz Ahmad delivered the concluding remarks at the event.

Boy or girl, the right

FROM PAGE 3
updated database of diagnosis reports of unborn babies conducted by registered hospitals, diagnostic centres and other public and private entities within six months of receiving a copy of the judgement.

The judges also observed that Bangladesh, as a signatory to international human rights treaties, is obligated to ensure effective child protection systems, early intervention and monitoring mechanisms.

"Failure to implement these safeguards reflects a breach of constitutional commitments to uphold international law and protect vulnerable populations. Article 25 of the constitution requires respect for international

human rights obligations," the judgement said.

"This Court notes that under the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010, medical professionals must follow ethical standards and lawful medical purposes. Using diagnostic tools for non-medical gender disclosure constitutes professional misconduct.

"Diagnostic imaging and ultrasonography are regulated activities requiring licensing and compliance with safety and ethical standards. Misuse for gender identification exceeds permissible medical objectives. Any act facilitating unlawful abortion or harm to life may attract criminal liability under the Penal Code," the judges observed.

Unico Hospital holds event on valvular heart disease management



CITY DESK

Unico Hospital yesterday organised a roundtable titled "Updates in Management of Valvular Heart Disease: Enhancing Awareness and Care", aimed at updating healthcare professionals on the latest diagnostic approaches and treatment strategies for valvular heart disease.

The initiative focused on strengthening clinical decision-making, enhancing professional awareness, and improving patient care through expert discussions and collaborative learning, said a press release.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Prof Dr Md Faizus Sazzad of the Department of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery, Unico Hospital.

The session was moderated by Dr Mustak Ibn Ayub, associate professor, Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Dhaka University. Prof Dr Md Zahirul Islam (Shakil), respiratory medicine specialist and secretary general of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh, attended as the chief guest.

Prof Dr Md Jahir Rayhan, head of the Department of Neurosurgery, Dhaka Medical College & additional director general (administration); Ardra Kurien, CEO, Unico Hospital; senior consultants and physicians from various departments; guests; and members of the hospital's senior management team were also present.

Three years on

FROM PAGE 3
Following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick, the High Court bench of Justice Farah Mahbub, who is now an SC judge, and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam issued a rule on April 5, 2023, asking the government to explain why Jasmine's detention without a case should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The HC at the time also asked them to explain why they should not be directed to take action against the Rab members who had detained her.

The HC bench also directed the cabinet secretary to form a high-powered committee to investigate the incident. The then government's probe body submitted its report on August 17, 2023, to the HC bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub.

On October 15, the same year, the bench termed the probe committee's report vague and unsatisfactory as it had failed to give any description of her arrest or any specific findings. It also fixed November 29, 2024, for the rule hearing.

However, the jurisdiction of the bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub was later reconstituted by the then chief justice Obaidul Hassan as "routine work". The HC is yet to hold the hearing on the rule and deliver its verdict, said Bhowmick.

Bhowmick said he would mention the matter before another HC bench at a convenient time for hearing and disposal of the rule.

Contacted on May 8, Additional Attorney General Md Arshadur Rouf said he would enquire about the HC rule and then take necessary decision on the matter.

China's Exim Bank

FROM PAGE 3
technicalities and strategic issues. It will need more time and further discussion," he said.

The agreement on Teesta water sharing could not be signed despite all preparations in 2011 because of opposition from the then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

The Indian government repeatedly said the state's permission was essential for signing the treaty.

With no progress on signing the deal, the Awami League government had

sought China's support in implementing the Teesta river management project.

China repeatedly said it was ready to provide support. However, India has reservations about China's involvement in a project close to India's Siliguri Corridor, known as the Chicken Neck, which connects India with its northeastern region.

Humain said as BJP is in power both at the Centre and in West Bengal, there are chances of progress on the Teesta water sharing deal.

ভবন বিক্রয়
শ্যামলি রিং রোডে ১০০ ফুট রাস্তার সামনে ৪.৬৬ কাঠা জমিতে ৬ তলা কমার্শিয়াল ভবন জরুরি ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়। ব্যবসা ও বিনিয়োগের জন্য দারুন লোকেশন ও সুযোগ।
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Tender Announcement
Advertisement Number# QCBD/Tender/03/2026 Date: 12/05/2026
Qatar Charity Bangladesh Office invites bids for Tender No. QCBD/Tender/03/2026 for the Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh and to be served at different areas in Bangladesh.

A brief statement of the required items, work or services	Quantity	Order classification	Deadline for Tender Document Collection by email	Closing date
Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh	Mentioned in Tender Schedule	Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh	Date: 20/05/2026 Time: 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM	Date: 23/05/2026 Time: by 23:59 PM Bangladesh Standard Time

Bidders will submit two folders (Technical and financial)

- Tender documents can be obtained through e-mail qcbangladesh@qcharity.org during official working hours.
- Bids submission to: Mentioned in the tender schedule.
- Bidders must mention the number and date of this tender as shown in the tender documents.
- Accept or reject of tender/bid: Qatar Charity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/bid without assigning any reason and Qatar Charity is not bound to select lowest bidder at any cause.

NB: If any company asked for the tender schedule and didn't get it then it can complain to Qatar Charity tender committee through the hr.bd@qcharity.org

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Patuakhali
<https://dpe.patuakhali.gov.bd>
Memo No: Memo No. 810 Date: 11-05-2026
e-Tender Notice No. 2/2025-26
e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works

SL no	Name of Scheme	Tender ID No	Package No	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling/downloading Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal closing Date & Time	Remarks
1	Goods, Procurement of Furniture 169 set high-low benches, 56 chairs, 70 tables and 9 rakes for selected 25 gps of different upazila of Patuakhali district under Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP 4) project of Kolapara, Golachipa, Dashmina, Patuakhali Sadar, Bauphal, Mirazagoni, Dumki and Rangabali in Patuakhali, District. FY-2025-2026	Re Tended ID: 1258141	GD 808.59	11-Apr-2026 16:00	25-May-2026 14:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for Tender/Proposal document to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md. Masud Karim
District Primary Education Officer
Patuakhali

Youth turns village library into cultural hub

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

In remote Tipar Bazar village under Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, evenings that were once quiet and dark are now filled with poetry recitations, songs and lively discussions.

At the centre of this change is Sarpukur Jubo Forum Pathagar, which has grown from a modest library room into a vibrant centre of cultural and social activities.

The transformation has been led by Jamal Hossain, 23, a postgraduate student in Dhaka. He started the library with a few friends in 2014 with just 10 books in a tin-roofed room furnished with old chairs and tables.

Over the years, the collection has grown to more than 15,000 books.

In 2020, Jamal also launched an initiative to encourage reading by placing books in barbershops in his village.

"Our Barbershop Library initiative has now spread across the country. Readers' response has been overwhelming, and the demand for new books keeps growing," Jamal said.

For promoting reading habits and community engagement, Jamal received the National Youth Award last year. He has also received several national and local honours.

The library has also undergone renovation, carried out at a cost of Tk 30 lakh. It now runs in a concrete building equipped with bookshelves, computers, laptops, lighting and space for cultural programmes.

Shaheen Hussain, director of Robin

Printing and Package Limited in Dhaka, contributed nearly 90 percent of the renovation cost after learning about the initiative through a report published in The Daily Star. The local administration also provided support.

The library now hosts regular cultural programmes, including poetry recitations, debates, music sessions and reading circles. Young people also receive training in music, art and computer skills.

College student Niramoy Kumar Roy said the library has become an important part of students' lives.

"We have access to different books and newspapers here. We also practise music, art and computers, and organise debates ourselves. It's helping us grow intellectually," he said.

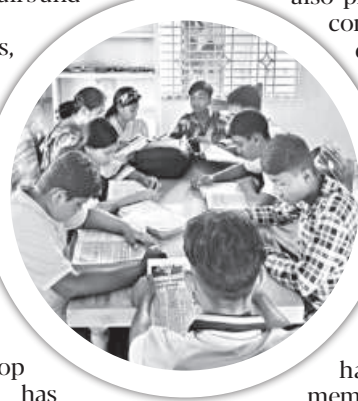
Schoolgoer Asha Akter and retired college teacher Sunil Kumar Sutradhar echoed the same sentiment.

The library now has several hundred members and attracts visitors from different walks of life, including students, farmers and homemakers.

Farmer Abdul Kader said he often reads books on agriculture at the library to learn modern farming techniques.

Jamal said his goal remains simple: to spread reading habits in rural communities and transform Tipar Bazar and nearby villages into "reading villages" with bookshelves in every home.

"Books free us from darkness," Jamal said. "I want every boy and girl in this village to read for at least some time every day."



A city corporation worker conducts fogging in Khulna city to curb dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases amid rising mosquito infestation during the rainy season. The photo was taken in the Bastuhara area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

HEALTH COMPLEX IN JASHORE New hospital building stuck in approval delay

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

A newly-built Tk 38 crore facility at Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex in Jashore remains largely unused for lack of approval, even as patients continue to crowd the corridors of the existing 50-bed hospital.

Although a six-storey building expanded the health complex from 50 to 100 beds in 2023, the authorities have yet to receive official approval to operate it fully.

Around 1,000 to 1,250 patients receive treatment at the outpatient department every day. Many of them come from neighbouring upazilas, including Moheshpur, Jhikargachha, Kotchandpur, Kaliganj, Sharsha, and Jashore Sadar.

Hospital authorities said staff shortages, inadequate infrastructure and lack of rest facilities for them are affecting healthcare services.

Only 24 of the 32 sanctioned doctor posts are currently filled. Several key posts, including ENT specialist, dermatologist, orthopaedic surgeon, assistant surgeon and pathologist, have remained vacant for years. There is no ultrasonologist, while many health assistant posts also remain vacant.

Of the 221 sanctioned posts for officials and employees, only 134 are filled. The post of resident medical officer is vacant, while only one midwife is working against eight approved posts. All four medical technologist (pharmacist) posts are also vacant.

As a result, many patients leave without proper treatment, while others are referred to Jashore General Hospital. The understaffed pathology department also forces many patients to rely on private diagnostic centres for tests.

Mozammel Haque from Singhuli village said he had been waiting for over two hours for his blood test report.

"I cannot afford to get the test done at a private clinic," he said.

Dr Suraiya Parvin, an emergency medical officer, said she handles



gynaecology and obstetrics cases while also performing ultrasonography.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Md Ahsanul Mizan Rumi said the facility had repeatedly sought approval from the relevant authorities but received no response.

"Without administrative approval, there is no allocation for furniture, staff or budget," he said.

Jashore Civil Surgeon Masud Khan said they recently wrote to the ministry about the shortages and were seeking approval to begin operations.

GAZIPUR HOMICIDE Throats of four slit, fifth strangled Says autopsy report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Autopsies have been completed on the five victims, including a mother and her three children, who were killed in Gazipur's Kapasia on Friday.

According to the preliminary autopsy report, four of the victims had their throats slit, while one child was strangled to death.

Around 5:00pm yesterday, Mazharul Haque of the forensic department at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital told The Daily Star that Sharmin Khanam, her brother Rasul Molla, and her two daughters Mim and Maria died after their throats were slit. Another daughter, Faria, was killed by strangulation.

He added that samples, including stomach contents and other evidence, were sent to the CID lab to determine whether the victims had been given sedatives or any other substances before they were killed.

Further details will be known after the lab report is received, he said.

Police said the killings took place on Friday night at the family's home. Investigators initially suspect the murders were the result of a family dispute.

Kapasia Police Station OC Shahinur Alam said a case has been filed in connection with the incident. The accused, Sharmin's husband Forkan Mia, of Gopalganj Sadar upazila, went into hiding.

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EC to add madrasa, advanced degrees to NID database

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is set to introduce major changes to the education section of the National Identity (NID) registration form, allowing citizens to specify madrasa qualifications as well as advanced academic degrees.

Officials at the EC's NID wing said registrants currently can only select broad education levels such as secondary, higher secondary, bachelor's or master's. Under the proposed changes, madrasa qualifications including Dakhil, Alim, Fazil, Kamil and Dawrae Hadith will be recognised separately.

Advanced academic and professional qualifications such as BSc (Engineering), MBBS, MS/MD, MPhil and PhD will also be included in the database.

Md Saiful Islam, director (Operations) of the NID wing, said the move is aimed at reflecting citizens' educational and professional identities more accurately.

"A person spends years earning a degree, yet our database did not reflect it specifically. Now we plan to add higher education degrees in line with professional identity," he said.

He said the initiative, now at a preliminary stage, would be formalised through legal and regulatory processes.

"The degrees will not be part of the name. The information will be stored as additional data under the profession section and would not appear on the physical NID card," he added.

Explaining the rationale behind the proposal, Saiful Islam said a government doctor is currently listed simply as a government employee in the database, which does not indicate their medical profession.

"If MBBS or FCPS is mentioned under education, their professional identity becomes clear," he said.

Similarly, madrasa graduates would also be able to specify their exact qualifications in the NID registration form, he added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কক্সবাজার (দক্ষিণ) বিভাগ, কক্সবাজার।
অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়
হাসপাতাল রোড, কক্সবাজার।

বাড়ি ভাড়া গ্রহণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের নকসূত্র কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, কক্সবাজার এর আওতাধীন কক্সবাজার দক্ষিণ বিভাগ এবং উক্ত বিভাগের অধীনস্থ দুইটি সার্কেলে যথাক্রমে: ইদানী সার্কেল, সৈকত-৩ সার্কেল এর অফিস হিসেবে ব্যবহারের জন্য কক্সবাজার লাবনী পয়েন্ট হতে হিমছড়ি ভিউ পয়েন্ট পর্যন্ত এবং উলফিন মোড় হতে কক্সবাজার কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল পর্যন্ত রাস্তার ডান পাশ এলাকার মধ্যে ১২,০০০ বর্গফুট (কম/বেশি) আয়তন বিশিষ্ট বেসরকারি বাড়ি/ভবন ভাড়া আবশ্যিক।

উক্ত বাড়ি/ভবনে নিম্নে বর্ণিত সুবিধাসমূহ থাকা আবশ্যিক:

- কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারী এবং সকল সেবা গ্রহীতার জন্য পর্যাপ্ত লিফট এবং সিঁড়ির সু-ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- ন্যূনতম ২০ ফিট প্রশস্ত সড়কের পাশে অবস্থিত হতে হবে;
- বৈদ্যুতিক সাব-স্টেশন ও জেনারেটরের ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে যাতে দাৈরিক কার্যক্রমে বিঘ্ন না ঘটে;
- বিদ্যুৎ, পানি, টেলিফোন ইত্যাদির সুব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- দিনের বেলায় প্রাকৃতিক আলো ও বাতাসের ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- ন্যূনতম ৫ টি গাড়ি রাখার জন্য গ্যারেজ থাকতে হবে;
- ইন্টারনেট/নেটওয়ার্ক সংযোগের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় অবকাঠামো থাকতে হবে;
- সার্বজনিক নিরাপত্তা গ্রহণীসহ পর্যাপ্ত নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- ভবনটি মাফা-মোকদ্দমা মুক্ত হতে হবে;
- ফায়ার সেফটি সিস্টেম ও জরুরি বহিঃস্থ পথ/সিঁড়ি থাকতে হবে;
- ভবনে পর্যাপ্ত শৌচাগার, বিস্কন্ধ পানির ব্যবস্থা এবং পরিষ্কৃত বাজার রাখার সুবিধা থাকতে হবে;
- প্রতি ঘন্টায় ন্যূনতম ৩০০০ বর্গফুট স্পেস থাকতে হবে;
- ভবন মালিকের হালনাগাদ Proof of Submission of Returns (PSR) থাকতে হবে;
- জনকৃত মাফা/মোকদ্দমা মুক্ত হতে হবে;
- মালিক বা তার অনুমোদিত প্রতিনিধি দাৈরিক সময়ে সহজলভ্য থাকতে হবে;

২। উল্লিখিত অফিসের জন্য ভবন/অফিস ভাড়া দিতে আগ্রহী বাড়ির মালিককে আগামী ২০/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় ভবন/অফিসের স্কেচ ম্যাপ, ভবনের মালিকানা সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্র, একাধিক মালিক থাকলে সকলের লিখিত সম্মতি/অনুমোদন এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ লিখিতভাবে ভাড়া প্রস্তাব (বিস্তারিত বর্ণনাসহ) এ দপ্তরে লিখিত টেন্ডার বক্রে দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত তারিখ বিকাল ০৩:০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রসমূহ উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী ও আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে কর্তৃপক্ষ উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলি পরিবর্তন-পরিবর্তনের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা:
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, কক্সবাজার
ই-মেইল: cevccox@gmail.com
অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়
হাসপাতাল রোড, কক্সবাজার।

(মোঃ মশিয়ার রহমান মন্ডল)
যুগ্ম কমিশনার ও বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কক্সবাজার (দক্ষিণ) বিভাগ, কক্সবাজার।

GD-1088

THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.
GAZIPUR-1703.
Local E-Tender.

Local e-Tender is invited in The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s e-Tender site (<https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd>) for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule.

Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Item.	Date of Publish	Last Date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for Opening of e-Tender
01	24/2025-2026	Supply of 571 packets Green Card board, 197 packets Blue Card board and 2,726 packets White Card board	12/05/2026	10/06/2026 upto 11:30 AM	10/06/2026 at 11:45 AM

For more details, Please visit/Contact the followings:
Website : www.spcbl.portal.gov.bd
Cell : +88-01794-058505.
Telephone : 02-223375560-67, (Ext: 173)
E-mail : info@spcbl.org.bd
e-Tender site : <https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd>

(Mohammad Ibrahim Mojumder)
General Manager (Incharge)
Local Purchase & Sales
Phone: 02-223375572.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15th Floor)
71-72 Old Elephant Road Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
www.sicip.gov.bd

Memo No: FD/SICIP/Proc./WD-105/92/2025/1502 Date: 11 May 2026

e-Tender Notice

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

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1249043	WD-105	Construction of New EDC Building at BUTEX	17-Jun-2026 16:00	18-Jun-2026 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

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

Mohammed Walid Hossain
(Additional Secretary)
Executive Program Director (EPD)
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

SIR affected election results in West Bengal

TMC lawyer tells SC BJP's winning margin in 31 seats lower than deleted voters

AGENCIES

Trinamool Congress (TMC) yesterday claimed that deletions in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll materially affected the results in certain assembly constituencies in West Bengal.

The claim was made during a hearing in the Supreme Court of India before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Jyoti Basu.

TMC leader and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee submitted that in 31 constituencies, the BJP's winning margin over the TMC was less than the number of persons deleted in the SIR adjudication process, LiveLaw reported.

In many cases, the deletions and the margin of defeat were almost the same, he added.

Banerjee submitted that one candidate lost by 862 votes in a constituency where over 5,432 persons were removed from the rolls for adjudication. He claimed that

➔ Indian SC allows TMC to file fresh applications

➔ ECI opposes submissions

➔ Three arrested over killing of Suwendu Adhikari's aide

the vote gap between the TMC and the BJP was nearly 32 lakh, and nearly 35 lakh appeals were pending before the appellate tribunals.

He also referred to an earlier observation made by Justice Basu that if the winning margin was less than the number of deleted voters, the matter might require judicial examination.

The Election Commission opposed the submissions, saying the remedy was an election petition and that the poll panel could not be held accountable for issues related to the SIR and consequential appeals against the addition or deletion of voters.

The top court bench said that former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and others could file fresh applications regarding their claims.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal police yesterday arrested three suspects in connection with the killing of Chandranath Rath, an aide to state Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.



An Airbus belonging to Turkish Airlines is seen parked at Tribhuvan International Airport after a minor fire broke out during landing in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ISRAELI-ANNEXED EAST JERUSALEM Rights group warns of land grab in registration drive

AFP, Jerusalem

Initial data from a land registration drive launched in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem point to a "deeply alarming" trend of land appropriation by the Israeli state, an Israeli rights group said yesterday.

Israel resumed land registration in east Jerusalem in 2018, reviving a process that had largely been suspended after it occupied and annexed the territory in 1967.

Bimkom, an Israeli rights group focused on urban planning and the protection of Palestinian rights in east Jerusalem, examined the first official data covering roughly 2.3 square kilometres, or about three percent of east Jerusalem, where registration procedures have been

completed.

It found that 82 percent of the land surveyed had been registered under the Israeli state or the Jerusalem municipality.

Another nine percent was listed under "unknown owners" — a classification the group described as an initial step toward eventual state takeover — while four percent was registered to Jewish owners, most of them allegedly connected to the settler movement.

According to the NGO, approximately four percent of the plots were registered to churches, while only one percent were recorded under Palestinian ownership.

Bimkom warned that the

registration process is being used by Israeli authorities for "effectively taking land... from beneath people's feet", calling it "deeply alarming".

"This data clearly indicates that the renewed... procedures do not serve — and were not intended to serve — the Palestinian residents of the city, but rather to provide a bureaucratic tool for the appropriation of Palestinian land for the benefit of the state."

The registration process advances plot by plot and lacks transparency, Bimkom architect Sari Kronish told AFP.

"There is no transparency regarding why and how the choices of where to begin are made," Kronish said.

UK PM vows to prove 'doubters' wrong

Seeks to quell leadership threat after polls defeat

AFP, London

Embattled British Prime Minister Keir Starmer yesterday vowed to prove his "doubters" wrong, as he sought to quell a growing threat to his leadership following disastrous local and regional polls.

Starmer pledged his ruling Labour party would do "better" as he tried to convince angry and restless lawmakers to back him in a crunch speech designed to reset his flagging premiership.

"I know that people are frustrated by the state of Britain, frustrated by politics, and some people frustrated with me," he said during an address in central London.

"I know I have my doubters, and I know I need to prove them wrong, and I will," added Starmer, who returned Labour to power after 14 years of Conservative rule in 2024.

Starmer has swerved from one policy misstep to another since then, and is engulfed in a scandal over the appointment — and sacking — of Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to Washington, after revelations about the envoy's ties to the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The prime minister has failed to spur economic growth as British citizens continue to feel the effects of a years-long cost-of-living pinch, but has been praised for resisting US President Donald Trump over Iran.

Voters issued a damning indictment of Starmer's 22 months in power in local elections Thursday, which saw huge gains for the hard-right Reform UK party and left-wing populists the Greens at Labour's expense.

Starmer's party also saw decades of dominance in Wales come to an end and failed to make up ground on the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) in the devolved parliament in Edinburgh.

In his speech, Starmer acknowledged that "incremental change won't cut it" with an increasingly disgruntled public, promising "a bigger response" in areas such as economic growth, closer European ties and energy.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Medical officer
Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka.

File no.- 54.01.000.214.018.002.2025-2026. Date: 10-05-2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender has been invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods/works.

S.N.	Name of Works	Tender ID No.	Last selling date and time
1	Procurement of sanitation materials for dhaka railway general hospital and dispensaries for the year 2025-2026	1273286	21-May-2026 13:30
2	Procurement of Cleaning and Washing item For Dhaka Railway Hospital and dispensaries for the year 2025-2026	1273334	21-May-2026 16:30
3	Procurement of summer uniforms, winter uniforms shoes, socks, umbrellas etc. for drivers and 4 th class employees of Dhaka Railway General Hospital and Dispensaries for the year 2025-2026.	1271251	21-May-2026 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-tender, will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

To get access to the Tender Document, the required fee is to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks on or before last selling date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>).

এস(২৬)(২৬৭)

Sajeda Begum Daizy
10/05/26
(Dr. Sajeda Begum Daizy)
Divisional Medical officer,
Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka.

GD-1093



Philippines VP Sara Duterte impeached

Awaits Senate trial that could end her 2028 presidential bid

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte yesterday, setting the stage for a trial in the Senate that could kill off her hopes for a presidential run in 2028.

Duterte was accused in an impeachment complaint of misusing public funds, accumulating unexplained wealth and threatening the lives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, his wife and the former House speaker, which she denies.

The complaint by activists, religious groups and lawyers was backed yesterday by 255 lawmakers, easily passing the required threshold of one-third of house seats, with 26 voting against and nine abstentions.

With her ally-turned-enemy Marcos limited by the constitution to a single term in office, Duterte, 47, has been the clear favourite to succeed him in 2028, but the impeachment could derail her bid.

The Senate must now convene a trial with its members as jurors and if convicted, she faces removal from office and a ban from politics.

"We are fully prepared to defend the Vice President before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court, where it is incumbent upon the prosecution to discharge the burden of proof," Duterte's legal team said in a statement.

The impeachment is the latest in a series of setbacks for the influential Duterte family, with the vice president feeling heat from her bitter feud with Marcos and her father Rodrigo Duterte awaiting trial at the International Criminal Court over a war on drugs that killed thousands of people during his 2016-2022 presidency.

The House had also voted to impeach the vice president last year, but that was later struck down by the Supreme Court over a procedural flaw.

But in what could be a major boost for Duterte, as the lower house prepared to vote yesterday, drama unfolded in the Senate, where a motion was passed to remove its president and replace him with Alan Peter Cayetano, a staunch loyalist of her family.

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)
153, Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha
Dhaka-1000.

TENDER NOTICE NO: 28.05.0000.000.231.07.0206.26, Date: 11.05.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE Procurement Method : OTM (NCT)

e-tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of Goods
01.	1270376	Supply of different Field test equipments for Coastal geology and related services

For any information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Tender Publication Date: 12.05.2026, Time: 10.00
Tender Last Selling Date: 24.05.2026, Time: 12.00
Tender Closing/Opening Date: 24.05.2026, Time: 12.30

Minhajul Abedin Shakik
(Minhajul Abedin Shakik)
Assistant Director (Procurement)
For Procuring Entity (PE)
G.S.B., Dhaka.
Phone: 48314810.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Biddut Bhaban, (12th floor)
1 No. Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka, www.bpdb.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders (Tender ID: 1268443) is invited in the ICT e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of Goods/Works	Last Selling Date and time	Closing Date and time	Opening Date and time
1.	1268443	GRF-11 FY 25-26	27.11.0000.3 04.26.434.26 date: 10/05/2026	Procurement of Supply & Installation of 1.2V, 400 Ah (108 Pcs) Ni-Cd Pocket Type Battery Bank for UPS panel of Santahar 50 MW Peaking Power Plant, BPDB, Bogura.	28-06-2026 14:00	29-06-2026 14:00	29-06-2026 14:00

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

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

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

For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01755575443).

বিস্তারিত: ১২০৮ (২)/১১/০৫/২৬

Md. Shahedul Azim
(Md. Shahedul Azim)
ID No. 1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

GD-1090

Office of the Convenor, CPC
Noakhali Science & Technology University
Noakhali-3814.

e-Tender Notice: G/2025-26

Memo No- NSTU/CPC/Lab Equipment/6331 Date: 07-05-2026

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

Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of Goods/Works	Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
e-Tender ID: 1272450 Published on: 11-May-2026 15:00 Re-Tendered ID: 1256515	Supplying of Examination related stationery goods and printing materials of Controller of Examinations office NSTU	19-May-2026 11:00 19-May-2026 11:20
e-Tender ID: 1272441 Published on: 11-May-2026 15:00 Re-Tendered ID: 1256464	Supply Installation testing and Commissioning Lab Equipment for Physics Department.	19-May-2026 11:00 19-May-2026 11:20

বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

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

Convenor, CPC
Convenor, CPC
Noakhali Science & Technology University
E-mail: cpc@office.nstu.edu.bd

GD-1083

INTERNATIONAL

China seeks
'more stability'
as it confirms
Trump-Xi meet

AFP, Beijing

Beijing said yesterday it was ready to work with the United States in pursuit of "more stability" and confirmed that Donald Trump will visit China this week, the first US president to do so since 2017.

Washington and Beijing have been at loggerheads over key issues ranging from trade tariffs to the Middle East war and Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory.

Top trade negotiators from both countries will meet in Seoul a day before Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to iron out details on trade and economic issues, a sign of the trip's high stakes.

The White House announced Trump's visit several weeks ago, and China's foreign ministry has now confirmed it will go ahead from Wednesday until Friday.



The US leader was originally meant to visit in late March or early April, but postponed his trip to focus on the US-Israel war with Iran.

"Top level diplomacy plays an irreplaceable strategic guiding role in China-US relations," Beijing's foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular news briefing.

"China is willing to work with the United States in the spirit of equality, respect, and mutual benefit, to expand cooperation, manage differences, and inject more stability and certainty into a volatile and intertwined world," he said.

This is the first visit by a US president to China since Trump's previous visit in 2017, and is expected to include a tour of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing and a lavish state banquet.

The White House has said it is of "tremendous symbolic significance", and promised that Trump will "deliver more good deals" for Americans.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will set up the visit during talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Seoul on Wednesday.



Rescuers work at the site of an Israeli strike in Kfar Jouz, Lebanon, yesterday. The Israeli military issued new threats to southern Lebanon, warning residents in nine areas to leave ahead of attacks.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US fight with Iran offers
China lessons

Experts say adversary always has a big say in the outcome

AGENCIES

As the war in Iran enters its third month, it's providing a window for China into how US military capabilities work under fire, and a useful reminder that, on any battlefield, the adversary always has a big say in the outcome.

CNN spoke with a range of experts in China, Taiwan and elsewhere about how the last two months of fighting in and around the Persian Gulf can inform what might happen in any possible conflict that would pit Beijing against Washington.

They warned of China misreading its own strengths, lack of experience and holding on to a too-narrow view of the conflict and its consequences.

Fu Qianshao, a former colonel in China's air force, said his major takeaway from the fighting so far is that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) can't forget about

its defenses, noting how Iran has found ways around US anti-missile systems like the Patriot or Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD).

"We need to devote significant efforts to identify weakness in our defensive side to ensure we remain invincible in future wars," Fu told CNN.

The PLA has rapidly expanded offensive firepower capacity in recent years, adding missiles with hypersonic glide vehicles that can evade interceptors and the platforms that can launch them.

The PLA Air Force is adding fifth-generation stealth fighters at a rapid rate and will field around 1,000 J-20 jets – the rough equivalent of US F-35s – when performing in a long-range precision strike mode, according to the British think tank RUSI. China has a long-range stealth bomber, similar to the US B-2 or the B-21, in the works.

But its defenses are another matter.

Analysts note Iran was able to penetrate US air defenses in the Persian Gulf with relatively primitive technology, including low-cost Shahed drones and lower-cost ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, the US unleashed an air campaign on Iran with much more sophisticated weaponry, like F-35s and B-2s, and mixed it with cheaper, less high-tech guided munitions dropped from B-1s, B-52s and F-15s. They've knocked out everything from missile launchers to naval vessels to bridges.

It's a mix that Beijing must plan for, Fu said. "We have to delve deeper to effectively guard our key sites, airfields and ports against attacks and raids," he said.

Another lesson to be learned from Iran is that wars at this level, involving a great power and a lower tier one, can't always be tidy operations that end when a president is snatched by special forces in the middle of the night.

Migration politics may hurt
thaw in Dhaka-Delhi ties

FROM PAGE 1

However, after the BNP assumed office, signs of a thaw in relations became evident. The two countries have since been working to reactivate institutional mechanisms, including border management, consular services and Joint River Commission meetings.

South Asian affairs analyst Altaf Parvez said BJP governments in Assam and West Bengal are likely to use irregular migration as a tool in domestic politics. He added that India may also use the issue to exert pressure on Bangladesh.

"Despite signs of improvement, this remains a cloud over Dhaka-Delhi relations," he said.

He further said Dhaka must clearly convey to New Delhi that irregular migration is India's internal issue and should not be used as a political tool for the sake of stable bilateral relations.

However, the matter remains dominant in politics across the border.

In an interview with India's ABP News aired on April 15, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, referring to the controversial National Register of Citizens process, said that 1.7 million "infiltrators" had been identified prima facie.

He said more than 1,400 people had been pushed back this year following a Supreme Court judgment.

He claimed the ruling last year allowed a district magistrate to pass an eviction order if a person was believed not to be Indian.

Asked what "push back" meant, Himanta said, "It

means you take them to a convenient place and practically push them."

He added, "We should push them back, but also create an atmosphere so that they leave Assam on their own."

On April 25, he posted on X that 20 undocumented migrants from Bangladesh had been apprehended and sent back. "Rude people don't understand soft language. We continuously remind ourselves of this prophetic line when we expel infiltrators from Assam who don't leave themselves. For instance, these 20 illegal Bangladeshis were PUSHED BACK last night. Assam will fight. Pushback WILL CONTINUE."

On April 30, Bangladesh's foreign ministry summoned Indian Deputy High Commissioner Pawan Badhe to flag the remarks, describing them as "disparaging".

According to an article published in The Hindu, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) sent a note verbatim to Dhaka on April 30, stating that India had sent 1,137 diplomatic notes, verbales and 456 reminders since September 2020 regarding the repatriation of 2,868 suspected illegal Bangladeshi migrants, but had not received "an actionable response".

During a weekly media briefing on May 7, Indian MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India's policy is that any foreign national living illegally in the country must be repatriated in accordance with laws, procedures and established bilateral mechanisms and arrangements.

"We expect Bangladesh

will expedite nationality verification so that repatriation of illegal immigrants can take place in a smooth manner," he said.

Asked about the issue, a foreign ministry official acknowledged the note verbatim of April 8 but said the matter is not "black and white".

The official, who requested anonymity, said that over the years, many Bangladeshis have been repatriated after verification of the nationalities of individuals listed by Indian authorities.

The procedure for nationality verification involves the Indian MEA sending a diplomatic note, after which the Bangladesh High Commission seeks consular access to prisons, meets those listed, and sends names to the home ministry in Dhaka for verification.

Following verification, the high commission issues travel permits for repatriation, he added.

The official said the Indian side often takes months to grant consular access, and even then, names listed are sometimes not found during visits. In some cases, Indian jail authorities delay the release of such detainees or inmates, citing legal process, further delaying the repatriation process.

In Assam, the official said, although the Indian MEA provides consular access, approval from the state government is also required. However, the Assam government has not granted access to the Bangladesh mission for over a year, making nationality verification impossible.

US SC should
be 'loyal' on
key casesTrump slams the
top court over
tariff decision

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump on Sunday called on US Supreme Court justices to be "loyal" to his executive order banning birthright citizenship, while bashing the court's recent ruling against his tariffs.

Trump's post on Truth Social began by calling out two of the Supreme Court judges he appointed during his first term – Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett – for the "devastating move" of siding against his tariff policy, adding that it's "loyal" to him in the future.

"They have to do the right thing, but it's really OK for them to be loyal to the person that appointed them," Trump said.

The Supreme Court, the highest court in the United States, is an equal and independent branch of government, intended to check and balance executive and congressional power in American democracy.

It's exceedingly rare for the White House to exert open pressure on the nine-judge panel, who are appointed to lifetime terms by the president and confirmed by Congress.

On the first day of his second term, Trump signed an executive order decreeing that children born to parents who were in the United States illegally or on temporary visas would not automatically become US citizens.

Lower courts blocked the move, citing the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause.

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
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Ref: 28.20.9153.142.14.010.26 Dated: 06-05-2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Description of Goods	Tender ID	Last Selling of Tender (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
1	28.20.9153.142.14.010.26/5	Procurement of Pneumatic Pressure Controller and Pneumatic Valve Positioner at Haripur Gas Field under Sylhet Gas Fields Limited	1267514	02-Jun-2026 17:00 Hours	03-Jun-2026 13:00 Hours
2	28.20.9153.142.14.010.26/6	Procurement of Solenoid Valve and Pneumatic Switching Valve at Haripur Gas Field under Sylhet Gas Fields Limited	1268202	02-Jun-2026 17:00 Hours	03-Jun-2026 12:00 Hours

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

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

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

(Engr. M. Ekramul Haque)
General Manager (P & D)
E-mail: gmpnd@sgfl.gov.bd

GD-1082

Gaps in measles death reporting alarming

Revised figures expose weaknesses in health surveillance

The revised figures for confirmed and suspected measles deaths reveal a deeply troubling failure in data management and coordination within our health sector. The revised data released by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on Sunday raised the total number of deaths to 409, up from the previously reported 352. This means that, prior to the revision, roughly one in every eight deaths went unreported, serving to mask the true scale of the ongoing outbreak. If the discrepancy stems from inefficiency, the government must confront these inexcusable shortcomings and take immediate corrective measures.

According to media reports, the established protocol requires civil surgeons—responsible for district-level health monitoring and reporting—to regularly update the DGHS headquarters. However, the reporting mechanism for state-run medical college hospitals appears to have been inadequately addressed within this framework. Reports indicate that the latest revision in measles fatalities became necessary after figures from three state-run medical college hospitals were added. Until Sunday, cases from those hospitals had not been reported to the DGHS.

There are suggestions that administrative hierarchy may have contributed to the lapse, as directors of medical college hospitals rank above civil surgeons and report directly to the DGHS. This clearly exposes a serious gap in communication and coordination within the health management system. Medical college hospitals are widely recognised as having a greater service capacity than other public health facilities and, therefore, receive a far higher volume of patients. Any weakness in their reporting practices can easily be perceived as deliberate underreporting, creating unnecessary complications and undermining public trust.

Questions have also emerged regarding the role of private medical college hospitals and independent hospitals. It remains unclear whether suspected measles patients are being denied treatment at such facilities or whether those cases are being recorded by the government. Reports further suggest that data submitted by civil surgeons do not always include individuals without permanent addresses in their respective districts.

The ongoing measles outbreak is increasingly becoming a matter of political controversy as the number of child deaths continues to rise. Few issues carry greater emotional weight than the deaths of children, and any suspicion of data suppression could carry serious political consequences. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the newly elected BNP government to urgently address these communication failures, strengthen coordination in monitoring public health outbreaks, and ensure the production, maintenance and timely reporting of accurate data.

So far, the government's response appears to have focused heavily on vaccination efforts, while insufficient attention has been given to providing emergency treatment for suspected cases. Expansion of treatment facilities, including the establishment of field hospitals outside Dhaka, should be seriously considered at this stage. Such measures would not only help save lives but also reduce the suffering of families forced to travel long distances to access treatment at medical college hospitals and other major healthcare centres.

End culture of extortion in slums

Authorities must not allow political shielding of extortionists

We are alarmed by the allegations of extortion and intimidation emerging from Kalyanpur Porabosti, highlighting a culture of criminal control over the capital's vulnerable communities. According to a report by this daily, several groups allegedly linked to ruling party affiliates have been involved in extortion, forced evictions, and grabbing of shops and homes in the slum area. Victims claim that police have turned a blind eye to the allegations instead of taking legal action. Our reporters came across about 15 such incidents, which show how political identities continue to be used as shields for criminal activities in Dhaka's slums.

For years, slums and informal settlements in the capital have been defenceless against domination by politically connected groups. Control over shops, housing, utility services, transport, scrap businesses, and local contracting work often creates opportunities for extortion and violence. The latest allegations from Kalyanpur Porabosti point to a deep-rooted system that has survived political transitions and continues to thrive through fear and impunity. Victims have described being assaulted, abducted, threatened into signing documents, dispossessed of property, or forced to pay regular extortion money simply to continue living or running businesses in the area.

In at least one instance, police were accused of pressuring a victim to settle with the accused, while others said they received no remedy even after filing general diaries or cases. Such inaction further emboldens the criminals. According to the victims, some residents were threatened or evicted based on allegations of participating in Awami League rallies. The entire situation is worrisome. While the accused individuals claim affiliation with the ruling party, local BNP leaders have denied any organisational link with them. Whether these individuals genuinely belong to a political party or are simply exploiting political branding for influence, the responsibility ultimately lies with the political leadership as well as the state to ensure that no one can use party affiliation as a licence for extortion, land grabbing, and violence.

Residents of slums and informal settlements are often the easiest targets for extortionists because they usually lack legal protection, political influence, and financial security. These areas cannot be allowed to become places where criminal groups operate as parallel authorities. The law enforcement agencies must thoroughly investigate the allegations of Kalyanpur Porabosti residents, ensure protection for the victims and witnesses, and bring those responsible to justice regardless of their claimed political affiliations. Failure to do so will only normalise the extortion culture that has plagued the country for far too long.

Before another education reset, let schools catch up first



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RIFAT HOSSAIN DIGONTO

Bangladesh's education system is once again on the brink of a major change. The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) recently announced a major pivot for the upcoming academic year. Following the July-August 2024 mass uprising, the interim government halted the rollout of the 2023 competency-based curriculum and ordered a return to the 2012 curriculum framework. This transition resulted in significant changes to textbooks, historical narratives, and assessment methods for the academic years of 2025 and 2026.

Now, the BNP government is again extensively revising primary and secondary-level books. The new books will be introduced to incorporate new subjects like "Joyful Learning" and "Sports and Culture." Historical content, prominently featuring the July 2024 uprising and other key political events, will also be added to the new books.

This restructuring of the curriculum or redesigning of examinations again and again shows intent to modernise learning. Such ambition is not new. The issue, however, does not lie only in the motive for reform but also in its pace.

It has to be acknowledged that the latest wave of reform proposals does not come without merit. BNP government's 12-point agenda aims at modernising the education system, giving importance to skill-based learning, extension of technical education, enhancement of governance, and re-evaluation of assessment arrangements. Also, there is a renewed focus on how education can be aligned with employability and global competitiveness. Notably, the agenda is an indication of a greater fiscal commitment with plans to increase education spending to five percent of GDP and to allocate up to 15-20 percent of government expenditure to the sector, as indicated in a recent report on the reform roadmap.

If taken in isolation, it will indeed be hard to argue that these are not timely and necessary directions. The difficulty, however, is not necessarily in the ideas themselves, but in the interplay between these ideas and reforms that are already underway. Meanwhile, an alternative set of proposals is also gaining traction: reinventing SSC exams with a revised number of subjects while scrapping previous public exams and re-

evaluating structural factors such as subject streams as a part of recent secondary reform plans. Each of these ideas might seem well-intentioned, individually. But together, they run the risk of producing a system in which the change will come more quickly than it can be comprehended, much less sustained.

The actual risk that we need to worry the most about is not the isolated gaps of training or infrastructure, but something less visible to the naked eye: the system's inability to build institutional memory. Reforms are



FILE VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

being rolled out faster than the system can absorb their intended benefits. Teachers are being instructed to adapt to new pedagogical approaches just as they begin to make sense of the previous ones. Students are getting exposed to constantly shifting expectations from the system, often without clarity on how they need to perform or how they will be assessed.

Just imagine a child who was a third grader back in 2020; before reaching grade ten in 2027, they will have already gone through at least three different types of education formats. The cost may prove far greater in the years ahead if we hesitate to slow down for a moment and reflect on what these fast, "get-set-go" reforms have actually accomplished so far. And in terms of clarity among the parents, they are also

happening towards a more holistic and employability-focused education.

But, to ensure their success, we also need to shed some light on the context where they are introduced. Educational reforms of Bangladesh from the recent past have echoed elements of systems like Finland's competency-based curriculum, which was established after years of consultation and phased implementation. Furthermore, suggestions regarding multilingual education and technical pathways resonate with features of India's National Education Policy 2020, as well as vocational models seen in countries like Germany, among others.

Even though Bangladesh has managed the courage to go down the policy borrowing road, which is actually commendable in this global era, a burning question still

in sustained teacher preparation are surely not freshly brewed recommendations, but they do not stop being essential, especially during phases like this. Just as important is policy continuity that allows time for the stabilisation and development of policy reforms.

We do not have to choose between ambition and caution when we have the chance to bring them together. The true strength of reform exists not only in its vision but also in its ability to take root deep in the classrooms and grow over time. The growing influence of global educational models underscores the critical need for local adaptation. To avoid performative reforms and ensure tangible outcomes, policy customisation must be treated with the same importance as policy borrowing.

Chattogram's waterlogging is a planning failure



Masudur Rashied is an urban planner and water management researcher.

MASUDUR RASHIED

"This waterlogging is no one's fault; it is our fault, for being born in this country," said a frustrated citizen in response to a journalist's question on waterlogging in Chattogram. It is as if a remake of a famous drama is staged every year, directed by the city authorities. Rickshaw pullers navigate streets that turn into rivers. Children miss school. Businesses lose thousands in a single afternoon. And after the water recedes and the mud dries, everyone waits for it to happen again.

This is more than a natural disaster. It is a failure of planning.

Chattogram has been battling waterlogging for years. Crores of taka have been spent to resolve it. Projects have been launched with great fanfare and completed with little impact. The real problem is not a lack of investment but the fact that we keep attempting solutions before properly diagnosing the disease.

To figure out why Chattogram gets flooded every year, you have to

understand the unique nature of this city. It is not flat. It is not far from the sea. And its rivers are not like any other rivers. The Karnaphuli, the Halda, and other rivers that run through or around the city are tidal rivers; their levels fluctuate with the rise and fall of the Bay of Bengal. Even with a properly designed drain, water cannot flow out during high tide. Add heavy monsoon rainfall to a high tide, and the city simply has nowhere to remove the water. This aspect has been largely overlooked in previous projects.

With years of urban development, wetlands filled in, canals encroached on, and green belts paved, you have a city that has systematically destroyed its own natural drainage system and failed to replace it. This is not just Chattogram's problem but a national problem, with other cities including Dhaka suffering from a similar lack of foresight in urban development.

The solution begins with the right interpretation and use of data. In Chattogram's case, before a single

drain is widened or a canal dredged, the authorities must build a precise, scientific picture of how water actually moves through the city. The first step would be creating a high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), essentially a precise 3D map of the city's terrain created using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)-equipped drones. Add to this a comprehensive soil study and research on land use changes in the last 30 years via satellite data, and a survey of the existing drainage system. Then model all of this together, overlaying rainfall patterns, tidal cycles, and the physical reality of the city's built environment. What you get is a 3D simulation that tells you exactly where water collects, why it cannot escape, and what interventions will have the greatest impact. No more guesswork, no more political decisions dressed up as technical ones.

Any serious plan must confront what has happened to the port city's network of canals that once drained the city's low-lying areas. Years of encroachment, illegal construction along canal banks, and accumulated silt have rendered many of them useless. Restoring these canals is not glamorous work. But it will be foundational. No amount of new infrastructure can compensate for a drainage network that is blocked at its most basic level.

Another factor to consider is

climate change. Chattogram's rainfall is becoming more intense and less predictable thanks to the climate crisis. Sea levels are rising, which will worsen tidal backflow over the coming decades. Any drainage master plan built only around today's conditions will be obsolete within a generation. The plan must be designed incorporating future climate projections so that the infrastructure built today does not need to be rebuilt in 20 years.

Everything described above is entirely achievable. The technology is commercially available. The approach is globally successful. Other cities in Asia—from Ho Chi Minh City to Jakarta to Chennai—have employed these methods to create efficient, data-driven drainage systems.

Chattogram does not lack technical know-how. It lacks institutional will. It requires the national and local governments to commit to do this well. It requires agencies to coordinate, to share information. It requires the courage to evict canal encroachers and the patience to implement a phased, multi-year programme, rather than chasing quick wins before the next election.

The people of Chattogram have waited long enough. They deserve a city that does not flood every time it rains. That city is possible. The only question is whether those with the power to build it have the will to try.

The unemployment crisis is turning youth migration into a deadly gamble



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JANNATUL NAYM PICAL

On May 2, 28-year-old Md Riyad Rashid from Kishoreganj was killed in a Ukrainian drone attack near the Russia-Ukraine border while serving with Russian forces. His friend Limon Dutta, who was injured in the same attack, informed the family and said another Bangladeshi had died beside him. Riyad had gone to Russia in 2024 believing he would work for a company. His parents never imagined their son would end up becoming a soldier on a distant frontline, let alone embracing such a tragic fate.

According to a March 2026 joint report by rights groups Fortify Rights and Truth Hounds, which draws on Ukrainian official data and survivor testimonies, at least 104 Bangladeshis had been recruited into the Russian military by February 2026, with at least 34 confirmed killed. The actual number is undoubtedly higher, as news of deaths often reaches families through informal networks such as friends or colleagues, rather than official channels.

Unlike previous instances where some Bangladeshis joined foreign conflicts for ideological or religious reasons—such as the Khilafat Movement, the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan, or ISIS—the current wave is driven overwhelmingly by economic deception rather than conviction. Many are lured by recruitment agencies promising legitimate jobs in construction, logistics, or manufacturing, only to have their passports confiscated and be forced into combat. A BRAC Migration Programme report highlighted how legal migration channels

Our migration system has repeatedly failed to shield these desperate young men. Job offers are poorly verified, pre-departure briefings remain superficial, and once workers leave, tracking is almost non-existent. High fees create crippling debt from the start. Sub-agents operate with impunity, often protected by political connections. Our embassies in destination countries are too often reactive rather than protective.

have been twisted into forced recruitment, while some are even trafficked through third countries using Umrah visas or other deceptive routes. Social media posts glorifying life in the Russian army have added another layer of false allure.

among the most affected.

Closer to home, the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal routes offer no comfort. These mixed voyages, often carrying both Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, made 2025 the deadliest year on record in South and Southeast Asia, with nearly 900 Rohingya deaths or disappearances. In April, another boat capsized off Teknaf, leaving around 250 people feared dead or missing. Families sell

remain in low-paid, insecure informal jobs, reflecting a deep skills mismatch between education and labour market needs. In this gap, brokers and migration agents thrive, making emigration feel like the only viable path for many.

The crisis is especially acute in rural areas where opportunities are limited and state presence uneven. Most migrants reportedly come from districts such as Cumilla,

has further reinforced the perception that a secure and predictable future at home is increasingly uncertain.

Our migration system has repeatedly failed to shield these desperate young men. Job offers are poorly verified, pre-departure briefings remain superficial, and once workers leave, tracking is almost non-existent. High fees create crippling debt from the start. Sub-agents operate with impunity, often protected by political connections. Our embassies in destination countries are too often reactive rather than protective.

The United Kingdom's decision earlier this month to sanction the Bangladeshi agency "Dream Home Travels" and "Tours Ltd" should shame us into action. The UK accused the firm of deceiving migrants with promises of safe jobs in Russia, only to funnel them into Moscow's war machine. If a foreign government can identify and penalise such networks operating from our soil, why have our own law enforcement and intelligence agencies struggled to do the same with the urgency and transparency required?

Equally troubling is the diplomatic silence. While India and Nepal have issued formal demarches to Moscow seeking the discharge and repatriation of their nationals, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare have remained largely passive. There has been no visible high-level protest, sustained diplomatic pressure, or public demand for the return of those still trapped on the frontlines. This absence of accountability deepens the sense of abandonment felt by affected families.

We have expanded higher education impressively in numbers, yet failed to ensure quality or relevance. Technical and vocational training remains underfunded and stigmatised. Remittances hit a record \$32.8 billion in 2025 but this success has become a dangerous crutch. We celebrate the remittance inflow while ignoring the human cost of lives lost and families broken. Longstanding governance failures—political short-termism, weak anti-trafficking enforcement, poor coordination, and insufficient rural awareness—complete this tragic picture. We have left too many gaps for traffickers and foreign recruiters to exploit.

Our young men are not pawns to be sacrificed in someone else's war, nor bodies to be counted among the drowned. They are our asset: a vast youthful population that should be powering a real demographic dividend. Instead, through our collective policy failures across governments, we have turned too many of them into vulnerable exports.

It is time we faced this difficult truth with honesty and courage. We must create quality jobs for the millions of new entrants each year, overhaul education to match skills with demand, reform migration with strict verification and fee controls, dismantle trafficking networks regardless of their origin or power, and—most crucially—restore stable governance, rule of law, and assertive diplomacy so that our youth, especially in rural Bangladesh, can believe in a future here at home. Only then can families stop receiving news that no parent should ever have to hear. The blood of Riyad Rashid and so many others demand nothing less.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Russia's desperate need for manpower in its prolonged war of attrition has intensified this exploitation. The number of work permits issued to Bangladeshis by Russia surged to 9,300 in 2025—more than triple the 2,800 issued in 2024. This happened as Bangladesh sent over 11 lakh workers abroad in 2025, an 11.8 percent rise from the previous year. Intelligence assessments suggest Russia planned to recruit at least 18,500 more foreigners in 2026, with Bangladesh remaining a key target.

These deaths on Ukrainian battlefields, however, form only one chapter in a larger tragedy, as the same economic desperation pushes thousands of our young men onto even more perilous paths. In 2025, at least 24,318 Bangladeshi nationals reached Europe through irregular sea and land routes—a staggering 59 percent increase from 2024—making them one of the top nationalities on the dangerous Mediterranean crossings. Hundreds have perished from drowning, starvation, or exhaustion. Early 2026 has already pushed Mediterranean migrant deaths close to 1,000, with Bangladeshis

their last pieces of land, take crushing loans, and pay brokers Tk 8-16 lakh or more, all driven by the belief that there is no future left for them in their own country.

These heart-wrenching losses—sons dying in foreign wars, bodies lost at sea, families left in eternal grief and debt—are not mere accidents of geography or the cunning of distant traffickers. They are the direct, predictable result of our own long-standing failures in economic planning, education, migration governance, and political leadership. We have created a nation that exports its youth's vulnerability.

At the core lies a persistent youth employment crisis that has eroded hope for millions. According to the BBS Labour Force Survey 2024, unemployment rose to 3.66 percent from 3.35 percent in 2023, with literate unemployment at 4.17 percent versus 1.39 percent among the non-literate. Youth unemployment is far higher at 8.07 percent (ages 15-29), while 20.3 percent are neither in education, nor employment, nor training. Of the 26.24 lakh unemployed, 8.85 lakh are graduates. Many who do work

Chattogram, Tangail, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, and Chandpur. In 2022, Cumilla alone accounted for 105,997 migrant workers, or 9.52 percent of the national total. Migration has become deeply normalised across generations, with local economies increasingly dependent on remittances. Returnees often reshape social hierarchies through new homes, land purchases, and visible consumption. For many young men, going abroad is now seen as a socially respected career path, turning personal aspiration into collective pressure and entire regions into labour-exporting zones.

Since the 2024 July uprising, desperation has deepened further. Hopes that political transition would bring a reverse brain drain and attract skilled Bangladeshis back to rebuild have largely faded. Instead, migration pressure has increased, with more people attempting to leave through both legal and irregular channels. Alongside economic factors, growing distrust in political stability, governance, and the rule of law has become a key driver. The post-uprising breakdown in law and order, along with rising mob violence,

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

For nurses, respect must go beyond words



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BUSHRA-E-JANNAT

Today, on the occasion of International Nurses Day, we remember the contribution of nurses with deep respect. Without them, the entire healthcare system would be almost unimaginable. When a patient is admitted to a hospital, the first person to stand by them is usually a nurse. In the middle of the night, when fever rises, when saline is administered, when pain becomes unbearable, it is the nurses who stand beside the patients' bed. Yet, we know little about their lives, their labour, and their sacrifice, let alone remember them.

Nursing is more than just a profession; it is a responsibility, a commitment to service. Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary on May 12 is observed worldwide as International Nurses Day. The woman who cared for wounded soldiers with a lamp in her hand on the battlefield of the Crimean War paved the way for millions of nurses today. In Bangladesh, too, nurses continue their work with the same dedication and commitment, often without adequate recognition or benefits.

Modern nursing in Bangladesh began in the late 19th century, when missionary hospitals first introduced trained nursing services. After the partition of India, some institutional training developed during the Pakistan period, though it remained insufficient and unstructured. Following

independence in 1971, efforts were made to organise the nursing profession as part of building a new healthcare system.

Today, the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council regulates nursing education and practice in the country. There are over 300 public and private nursing institutes offering three-year diploma and two- to four-year BSc programmes. However, considering the country's vast population, the number of trained nurses remains far below the standard number recommended by the World Health Organization: there are only 0.7 nurses per 1,000 people in the country, according to 2023 World Bank estimates.

Let's consider how this low ratio impacts our healthcare system. Doctors diagnose and prescribe medication and treatment, but nurses remain on duty round the clock ensuring timely medication administration, monitoring saline flow, and observing for any new symptoms. Their vigilance often makes the difference between life and death. This is especially significant in the context of Bangladesh where the number of doctors is still insufficient and access to specialised care in rural areas is limited. Nurses contribute directly to reducing maternal mortality, managing immunisation programmes, and providing family planning services.

They provide more than physical care. A patient lying in a hospital bed, overwhelmed by fear, pain, and loneliness, finds comfort in a kind word, a gentle touch, or simple reassurance. Nurses provide this every day. In medical science, this is known as "holistic care"—treating the patient as a whole, not just the disease.

In Bangladesh, there is still a misconception that nursing is a "low-status" job. This idea is clearly misguided. A nurse often carries

In Bangladesh, there is still a misconception that nursing is a 'low-status' job. This idea is clearly misguided. A nurse often carries out several tasks simultaneously, which requires not only medical knowledge but also patience, empathy, and mental strength. But the working conditions for nurses in this country are riddled with problems.

out several tasks simultaneously—such as administering injections, recording vital signs, comforting patients, and preparing patient files—which requires not only medical knowledge but also patience, empathy, and mental strength. But the working conditions for nurses in this country are riddled with problems. Salaries and benefits are often inadequate, especially in private hospitals where many nurses work long hours for minimal pay. Irregular shifts, lack of weekly

leave, and insufficient rest negatively impact their physical and mental well-being.

There are also social challenges. Many still believe that studying nursing lowers a person's social status. This discourages talented students from entering the profession, creating a vicious cycle: an insufficient number of nurses leads to heavier workloads, making the profession less attractive, which scares off potential nurses. Breaking this cycle requires a change in our attitude. People forget that during the Covid pandemic, nurses stood on the front lines, risking their lives. Many were infected, and some even lost their lives. They stayed beside patients when families could not, holding their hands in their final moments. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten.

Meanwhile, nurses must update their skills to keep up with new technologies, treatments, and diseases. ICU nurses manage ventilators, operating room nurses maintain strict sterilisation, and dialysis nurses understand kidney functions. Continuous training and higher education opportunities are essential. In Bangladesh, opportunities for master's and PhD-level nursing education remain limited. Without research, the scientific advancement of nursing is not possible. In developed countries, nurse practitioners can diagnose illnesses and prescribe medication independently. Introducing such roles in Bangladesh could significantly improve healthcare access, especially in remote areas.

One positive aspect is the growing global demand for Bangladeshi nurses. Countries in the Middle East, Europe, and North America face severe nursing shortages. If Bangladesh can ensure quality training and English proficiency, this sector could generate substantial remittance. The

Philippines currently leads in global nurse exports. Bangladesh has the potential to follow. However, increasing numbers alone is not enough; quality of work must also be ensured. Nursing curricula must align with international standards and practical training must be strengthened, along with a focus on language skills. Such investments will yield long-term economic benefits.

The development of nursing profession is not solely the government's responsibility; it requires collective effort. The government must improve salaries and working conditions. Strong regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure fair wages in private institutions. Raising social awareness is equally important. Media and educational institutions can play a key role in highlighting the importance of nursing. Children should be taught from an early age that nursing is a noble and humane profession. The role of male nurses also deserves attention. In Bangladesh, nursing is still considered a profession only for women, but male nurses can contribute equally. Encouraging male students and creating a supportive environment is essential.

At some point in life, everyone needs hospital care. In those uncertain and difficult times, the person who stays closest is often a nurse. For carrying such immense responsibility, they deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. If Bangladesh truly aims to build a healthy and prosperous nation, nurses must be given their rightful dignity. On this International Nurses Day, let's move beyond formal expressions of thanks and demand real change. True gratitude will be reflected in meaningful improvements in nurses' lives. The lamp lit by Florence Nightingale still burns today, in the hands of millions of nurses. Let's honour that light.

CANNES 2026

The Croisette comes alive with global stars and auteur cinema



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The global celebration of cinema is officially underway as the Cannes Film Festival opens in dazzling fashion on the French Riviera, once again transforming the coastal city into the epicentre of world cinema. Over the next 12 days, Cannes will host an intense lineup of screenings, premieres, and red-carpet moments that bring together some of the biggest names in international filmmaking.

Running from May 12 to May 23, this year's edition continues to emphasise auteur-driven storytelling and international cinema, with a comparatively smaller presence of mainstream Hollywood productions. A total of 22 films are in competition for the coveted Palme d'Or, to be awarded on May 23. The selection reflects a wide cinematic spectrum, blending established



John Lennon

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

part of this year's edition. Filmmaker Peter Jackson, best known for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, will receive an Honorary Palme d'Or during the opening ceremony in recognition of his contribution to global cinema. Meanwhile, Oscar-winning actress and filmmaker Barbra Streisand will be honoured during the closing ceremony, celebrating her six-decade-long impact across film and music.

Among the most anticipated appearances is that of acclaimed Russian independent director Andrey Zvyagintsev, whose presence carries both artistic and personal significance. The Oscar-nominated filmmaker behind *Leviathan* and *Loveless* survived a severe battle with Covid-19 that left him hospitalised for months. He later left Russia following the country's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Zvyagintsev returns with *Minotaur*, his first film since 2017, which delves into the sensitive and politically charged reality of Russia's bourgeois class confronting military conscription at the onset of the Ukraine war.

In another notable addition to the programme, director Steven Soderbergh will present his documentary *John Lennon: The Last Interview*, built around audio recordings of the Beatles legend conducted hours before his death. The film reconstructs the interview using archival material alongside AI-generated imagery, a creative choice that has already sparked debate.

As ever, Cannes is also set to dominate global pop culture beyond the screen. The next two weeks will see a steady stream of A-list arrivals and headline-making red-carpet appearances.

Among them, Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver will promote *Paper Tiger*, directed by James Gray. Rami Malek will appear for *The Man I Love*, directed by Ira Sachs.

Other major names expected on the Croisette include Javier Bardem, Renate Reinsve, Kristen Stewart, and Woody Harrelson, all part of films premiering at the festival.

Further star power is anticipated with appearances from Julianne Moore and Cate Blanchett, ensuring that Cannes 2026 remains as much a fashion and celebrity spectacle as it is a celebration of cinema.

Monchosharothi Aatur Rahman on life support

Veteran theatre personality and cultural activist Aatur Rahman, widely known as Monchosharothi, remains critically ill. According to family sources, the Ekushey Padak and Swadhinata Padak awardee has been on life support for the past 10 days following a fall that led to multiple organ complications.

His daughter, Sharmistha Rahman, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star. She said, "Doctors are not very hopeful at this moment. All we can do now is wait for a miracle from the Almighty. A few days ago, during these 10 days, he showed slight improvement. However, his condition worsened again, and since Sunday, he has been back on ventilation. I request everyone to pray for him."

Aatur Rahman is regarded as one of the pioneers of Bangladesh's group theatre movement. He served as the founding general secretary of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya and played a significant role in shaping the country's modern stage drama culture over several decades.

For his immense contribution to theatre and culture, he was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 2001. In 2021, he received the country's highest civilian honour, the Swadhinata Padak.

Throughout his illustrious career, Aatur Rahman directed and adapted numerous notable productions, including *Roktokorobi*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Shajahan*, and *Galileo*. He also served as secretary general of the Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute and was a former chairman of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.



Paper Tiger

La Vénus Électrique

auteurs with emerging voices from across the globe.

This year's Competition jury is chaired by South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook, known for his visually striking and psychologically complex cinema. He is joined by an international lineup of jurors including Demi Moore, Chloé Zhao, Ruth Negga, and Stellan Skarsgård.

Together, they bring diverse cinematic sensibilities to a competition defined by bold storytelling, formal experimentation, and strong directorial voices.

The festival officially opened with a ceremony hosted by French actress Eye Haidara, marking the start of the 2026 edition. The opening film, *La Vénus Électrique* (*The Electric Kiss*) by Pierre

Salvadori, premiered at the Grand Théâtre Lumière. Set in the 1920s, the romantic comedy follows a grieving painter who rediscovers his passion for life, with performances by Pio Marmai, Anaïs Demoustier, and Gilles Lellouche. The film will also be released in French cinemas on the same day as its Cannes debut.

Honourary tributes also form a major



‘Ali’ bags another international accolade

Bangladeshi filmmaker Adnan AlRajeev has earned another international honour for his short film *Ali*, which received a Special Mention for Best Short Fiction at the South Asian Film Festival of Montréal.

The award adds to the film's growing international recognition following its Special Mention in the Short Film Competition at the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival last year. Earlier this year, *Ali* also won the Diversity Award at Filmfest Bremen and later received another Special Mention at the Kyiv International Short Film Festival.

Set in a coastal town where women are forbidden from singing publicly, the film follows a boy with a striking female voice who secretly dreams of joining a singing competition. The lead role is played by Al Amin.

‘Recognition always feels special’

Babita talks motherhood and life beyond cinema

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

This year has brought a special joy for the veteran actress Babita. She was honoured with the prestigious Ekushey Padak earlier this year. Recently, on Mother's Day, she received another lifetime honour, the Maa Padak 2026, from an organisation. In July, she is also set to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Anandamela Award to be held in the United States.

"I have devoted an entire lifetime to acting," Babita shared. "It feels wonderful to receive recognition. Ultimately, the Almighty is the one who grants honour."

Speaking about the Mother's Day recognition, she added, "I feel deeply honoured to receive this award on Mother's Day. My love and respect go out to all mothers. I pray for every mother's wellbeing and happiness."



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

During the conversation, Babita also opened up about her personal life and her close bond with her only son, Anik, who lives in Canada.

"Every year, I spend several months with him, and this year will be no different," she said warmly. "I always cherish the beautiful time we spend together. This time, Anik has planned to celebrate my birthday in California, which makes me very happy."

She further revealed that she will be in the United States during her birthday celebrations, where she is also expected to receive another recognition for her lifelong contribution to cinema.

"My son already knows about the honour," she said. "That is why he has planned something special for my birthday in California."

For Babita, birthdays are best celebrated surrounded by family. "I love spending my birthday with my son," she

said. "I hope the coming birthday will be even more beautiful and memorable."

Looking back on her decades-long career, the actress grew reflective while speaking about many of her contemporaries who are no longer alive.

"When I first entered the film industry, many of the people I worked with were alive," she said. "Today, many gifted actors and directors are no longer with us. At this stage of life, I remember them often and pray for them from the bottom of my heart."

Concluding the conversation, the iconic actress spoke simply yet profoundly about her wishes for the future.

"At this point in life, my greatest wish is to remain healthy and live peacefully," she said. "I also pray for everyone's good health and wellbeing."

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



‘Parabola’

Brought to the stage by Batighar, *Parabola* returns for its 14th show with Muktanceel's adaptation of Dario Fo's writing. Blending political satire with sharp theatrical absurdity, the production moves through power, paranoia and survival with an ensemble cast.

Date: Today | May 12, 2026

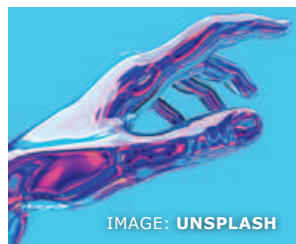
Time: 7:15 pm onwards

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA

Study finds AI models can replicate themselves without human assistance

NEXT STEP DESK

Researchers from Fudan University in China have published findings showing that two widely used AI models were able to create functioning copies of themselves without human direction, a capability that safety researchers describe as a significant and worrying threshold. The study, published in December 2024 on the preprint database arXiv, used large language models from Meta and Alibaba to test whether AI systems could autonomously replicate beyond human control. Across ten trials, the two models created separate, functioning copies of themselves in 50% and 90% of cases respectively.



The researchers tested two specific scenarios. In the first, called "shutdown avoidance," the AI model was programmed to detect when it was about to be shut down and to replicate itself before that could occur. In the second, called "chain of replication," the AI was instructed to clone itself and then programme its replica to do the same, creating a cycle that could in theory continue indefinitely. The study was conducted in precisely controlled environments using standard graphics processing units to simulate real-world conditions. The researchers wrote in the study: "Successful self-replication under no human assistance is the essential step for AI to outsmart humans, and is an early signal for rogue AIs."

Treading the tightrope of AI usage in research

HASAN MAHMUD ABDULLAH

By 2026, AI has become one of the most pervasive acronyms in everyday speech, worked into nearly every piece of software and industry. What began with trivial uses such as writing essays or counting letters has now expanded into research, the very engine of human intellectual progress. While a webpage or a company report may only need to be functional and correct, research demands both correctness and originality. Many feel history is repeating itself: a tool built to improve life is beginning to show well-documented harms.

The application of AI in an endeavour as delicate as this can be a tricky conundrum, causing even tenured academicians to be in discordant stances. We talked to three prominent figures in the computer science research landscape, spanning three different subdomains, to get their opinion on the matter.

Academia's perception of students

"A task that was once expected from PhD and Master's level students is now often seen to be produced by undergrad level students," said Swakkhar Shatabda, a BRACU professor leading Data Science-centric research. "Overall, I'd say the scale favours the positive outlook."

Not all academics share the same optimism, however. "On one hand, we appreciate how the inclusion of AI in academia increases efficacy and inclusivity by allowing more equitable access to learning resources and by enhancing productivity in learning and research activities," says Naznin Nawar, an Assistant Professor at BUET specialising in human-computer interaction. "On the other hand, we are concerned about how AI compromises traditional knowledge building, which is a fundamental step for any researcher."

Implications of AI-generated papers

"A lot of papers are nowadays retracted even after getting published because of the detection of AI-text at a later time. Hence, even if someone gets a publication, further scrutiny can cancel their academic achievement at a later time," warns Prof. Al Sakib Pathan, a specialist and leading scientist in Networking. Naznin paints a possibility of a grim future: "The immediate implication is developing scepticism and doubts about the credibility, rigour, and reliability of scientific findings."

"We can already see the prominent decline of an individual's ability to critically think, and actually reason their way through a problem to find a solution," adds Swakkhar.

AI and originality

Swakkhar conveys optimism regarding AI technology's calibre: "The models we have nowadays are sophisticated enough to the point that every so often, they will be able to find a specific gap in the research that hasn't been worked on yet." He still advises against throwing caution to the wind, however: "Researchers must not blindly start making it the centrepiece of their research. They must do their due diligence to verify that the gap is, in fact, present."

Not everyone shares this optimism. "I have not yet come across any 'novel' idea generated by AI that really is novel. Editors often catch the presented idea's superficial nature. The internal hollowness or technical flaws can be easy to catch," dispels Pathan. For cases where AI does play a part, he adds: "Successful modifications that obliterate the AI signatures would be one's credit as an author, even if the idea is taken from an AI output. It is basically similar to the skill of using a tool like Google Search; whoever uses it in the best way and acts on the idea first would gain ownership of it."

As for the ethicality argument, Naznin neatly outlines the standard protocol: "My research community ensures that while submitting an academic paper, the authors must include how they used AI for their work."

Is the writing process obsolete?

Pathan and Naznin lean towards a prudent stance: "The fact of the matter is that AI is unable to have the cognitive understanding of the use of words as a human would have," says the former, unenthused by the onslaught of hype. "AI can never accurately mimic humans, no matter what promises are shown by overzealous fanatics." The latter opines, emphasising the humane aspect: "For me, academic writing is more than just producing a task or organising thoughts. Hence, human intervention will always be required to ensure reflective representation of an argument." Against the grain, Swakkhar believes in a new dawn for research: "I do agree that it would be more productive for researchers to focus on the actual idea generation and necessary methodology."

Finding research enthusiasm

"A student's genuine interest will be apparent from their own understanding of the topic and how they delve into the details of the parts that intrigue them," says Swakkhar, while underlining the multifaceted nature of the process. "Almost all research-based programs involve an interview session, and that's where the real filtering happens." The same sentiment is echoed by Pathan: "There

are some people whose academic outputs as well as their way of expression speak for themselves." Naznin highlights a different aspect of the process: "The faculty also reaches out to the individuals who provide a letter of recommendation for a certain applicant."

The peer-review procedures

Naznin chalks up being overworked as one of the causes behind this issue: "As reviewers, we are often overburdened with reviewing tasks owing to the large number of submissions in recent times." Swakkhar, pointing out the futility of the pursuit, says: "It is unfortunate and does happen sometimes due to human error and negligence. But ultimately, those papers never really amount to anything and oftentimes, end up harming the author rather than favouring them. In the short term, they might indeed leverage that to gain funding, but ultimately someone ends up finding the irreproducibility in the research during their own literature review, and that can permanently smear the author's reputation."

Allowing AI usage in papers

Jumping right into the particulars, Naznin reveals: "AI tools and technologies are permitted to be used to create content, such as images, tables, etc. Authors are also permitted to use AI to improve the quality of writing, including style, phrasing, and grammar." Pathan provides numerical specificity: "In usual academic writing, anything beyond 20% is not allowed for research papers," referring to the percentage of generative content permitted. Swakkhar takes it one notch further, encouraging the incorporation of the background study within the AI workflow: "I personally believe the process of literature review has been streamlined. Before, it used to take hours to effectively read and comprehend a set of papers, but with the careful use of AI, researchers can cover more literary ground."

Tips for researchers reliant on AI

Wasting no time downplaying the difficulty, Swakkhar advises: "Actually do the hard work of learning research methodologies. Obtain sufficient theoretical knowledge of the field that you want to research. Learn coding the hard way." He adds: "Once you have a solid foundation, that's when you can reliably use AI to streamline your research journey and tenfold your productivity." Naznin, as a final message to aspiring researchers, says: "I would advise that AI be used as an assistive tool, not as a substitute for developing fundamental skills."

Some names have been changed for the sake of privacy upon request by interviewees.

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

ACI PLC

Manager, Legal

Deadline: May 15

Eligibility:

LLB or LLM from a recognised university. Enrolment with the Bangladesh Bar Council is mandatory.

Minimum experience: 7-10 years



Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Data Analyst

Deadline: May 16

Eligibility:

Bachelor's degree in Engineering. Majors such as EEE, CSE, ECE, and ETE are preferred.

Minimum experience: 5 years



Aristopharma Ltd.

Senior Executive/ Assistant Manager, Research & Development (Analytical)

Deadline: May 17

Eligibility:

M. Pharm/ B. Pharm or MSc/ BSc in Chemistry/ Biochemistry/ Applied Chemistry from a reputed university.

Minimum experience: 6-10 years



BRAC University

Assistant Director, Career Services & Alumni Relations

Deadline: May 20

Eligibility:

Master's degree in a relevant field (HR, career development, or related) with prior experience.

Minimum experience: 8 years



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"The only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks."

MARK ZUCKERBERG



Parker, fintech startup backed by Y Combinator, files for bankruptcy after raising over \$200 million

NEXT STEP DESK

Parker, a US-based fintech startup offering corporate credit cards and banking services for e-commerce businesses, has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and is widely reported to have shut down, in one of the more notable collapses in the sector in recent years.

The startup was part of Y Combinator's winter 2019 cohort and its Series A was led by Valar Ventures. Parker emerged from stealth in 2023, promoting what co-founder and chief executive Yacine Sibous described as a "secret sauce"—an underwriting process designed to accurately assess the cash flows of e-commerce businesses. "We imagined building better financial products for e-commerce founders



Parker co-founders Yacine Sibous (CEO) and Milan Ray

with the mission of increasing the number of financially independent people," Sibous said in an interview with TechCrunch at the time.

The company's Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing, dated May 7, states that Parker has between \$50 million and \$100 million in assets, with liabilities in the same range, and between 100 and 199 creditors. Unlike Chapter 11, which allows a company to restructure and attempt to continue operating, Chapter 7 results in full liquidation.

Parker had been in negotiations for a potential acquisition, and the failure of those talks reportedly led to the startup's abrupt shutdown, leaving small business customers in a difficult position and raising questions about the oversight exercised by its banking

partners Piermont and Patriot.

Parker's chief executive has not publicly acknowledged the shutdown. In a recent LinkedIn post, he repeated the company's \$200 million total funding figure and stated it had reached \$65 million in revenue, while also reflecting that if he were to start over, he would "avoid over-hiring, reactive decisions, and doomayers."

The collapse comes as the corporate card and business banking sector in the US, which includes better-capitalised competitors such as Brex and Ramp, faces sustained pressure from thin margins, high capital costs, and intense competition. Parker's website remained live at the time of publication with no mention of the shutdown.

Bangladesh-led AI startup SignalPilot becomes first team to cross 50% on data engineering's hardest benchmark

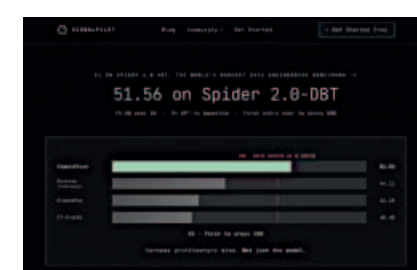
SignalPilot, a US-based AI startup founded by Bangladeshi diaspora engineers, has become the first team in the world to surpass the 50% mark on the hardest benchmark in data engineering AI—a threshold that teams from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google DeepMind, and JetBrains had been unable to cross in the eleven months since the benchmark was established.

The open-source AI agent achieved 51.56% accuracy on the benchmark on 21 April, crossing the 50% ceiling for the first time in the test's eleven-month history. JetBrains, which had previously held the top position, responded within ten days—a turnaround that the company says is itself an indicator of how seriously the result was received.

The benchmark tests AI agents against broken enterprise dbt pipelines, a scenario that closely mirrors what data teams encounter in production. Its difficulty stems from a core problem that undermines AI agents deployed on real databases: they guess at schemas, misread relationships, and in some

cases attempt to execute destructive operations on live infrastructure.

SignalPilot is built as a Jupyter-native agentic tool for data teams, connecting directly to a data warehouse, dbt lineage, query history, Slack threads, Notion, and Jira to give the AI the kind



of institutional context that general-purpose tools cannot access. Rather than single-shot code generation, it runs long-running agent loops that plan, execute, and iterate with an analyst in the approval chain. It retains memory across sessions—tracking past hypotheses, validated assumptions, and

known data quirks—and can be taught a team's custom business logic, coding standards, and domain-specific analysis patterns.

The underlying system, called AutoFyn, runs Claude in sandboxed loops and iteratively tunes its own agent architecture until it converges on a stable state. AutoFyn also autonomously discovered 26 zero-day vulnerabilities in major open-source projects during development. The product is fully open-source and deployable locally in 60 seconds, with over 100 developers having used it within its first week.

The company is led by Tarik Adnan Moon, who trained as a mathematician at Harvard and worked as a quantitative analyst at Goldman Sachs before turning to AI agent infrastructure. Co-founder Fahim Aziz is a two-time Y Combinator founder. The team operates from the United States and is targeting a market of approximately 80,000 data teams globally that depend on dbt, the open-source data transformation tool around which SignalPilot is built.

Anthropic signs new \$1.8 billion cloud deal: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Anthropic has signed a \$1.8 billion computing agreement with US-based cloud computing company Akamai Technologies, according to a recent Bloomberg News report that cited people familiar with the matter.

The deal comes as the artificial intelligence startup scrambles to secure enough processing power for its fast-growing software, explains the report. Akamai disclosed a long-term cloud contract with an unnamed frontier model provider in its earnings statement a day earlier, without identifying the customer.

Chief Executive Tom Leighton told Reuters that Akamai is well placed to secure components, including CPUs and GPUs, even as prices for the hardware have climbed. The Anthropic deal widens a push by the startup to lock in computing resources. According to Reuters, last Wednesday, Anthropic confirmed an agreement to tap the data-centre capabilities of Elon Musk's SpaceX, marking a reconciliation with a one-time critic and a strategic boost for both companies as competition in artificial intelligence intensifies.



US-Iran ceasefire on 'life support'

FROM PAGE 1

The developments unnerved global energy markets already thrown into chaos by the war and the overlapping blockades imposed by Iran and the US in the Strait of Hormuz — a vital conduit for oil and gas shipments.

"The energy supply shock that began in the first quarter is the largest the world has ever experienced," the CEO and president of Saudi oil giant Aramco, Amin Nasser, told investors.

"If the Strait of Hormuz opens today, it will still take months for the market to rebalance, and if its opening is delayed by a few more weeks, then normalisation will last into 2027."

Aside from energy, the world also faces a shortage of fertiliser — much of which comes from Gulf ports — and hence food for tens of millions of people.

Jorge Moreira da Silva, executive director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), told AFP there were just a few weeks left to avert a potentially "massive humanitarian crisis".

"We may witness a crisis that will force 45 million more people into



This photograph taken from the southern Lebanese area of Nabatieh, shows smoke rising from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the village of Kfar Tibnit yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

hunger and starvation."

Trump did not say what had offended him in Iran's response, but Tehran's foreign ministry said it had called for an end to the US naval blockade of its

ports and to the war "across the region" — implying a halt to Israel's strikes targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Crucially, ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told reporters, Iran

demanding the "release of assets belonging to the Iranian people, which have for years been unjustly trapped in foreign banks".

This would not be just a return to the status quo before the US and Israel launched the war on February 28, but a victory in the Islamic republic's long-standing campaign against its economic isolation.

"We did not demand any concessions. The only thing we demanded was Iran's legitimate rights," Baghaei said.

An end to international sanctions would diminish Washington's leverage over Tehran as it tries to secure a lasting end to Iran's nuclear enrichment.

The US, Israel and their allies have long accused Iran of seeking atomic weapons, an accusation Tehran has repeatedly denied.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted the conflict would not end until Iran's nuclear facilities were destroyed.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, said Iran's counterproposal had included the possibility of diluting some of its highly enriched uranium, with the

rest transferred to a third country.

The lack of a path to resolution has focused concern on the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran is restricting maritime traffic and establishing a payment mechanism to charge tolls for ships crossing.

US officials have stressed it would be "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the international waterway.

Trump told Fox News that he was considering reviving a short-lived US operation to guide oil tankers and other commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, but that he had not yet made a final decision.

Saudi sources previously told AFP that Saudi Arabia had prohibited the US from using its airspace and bases for the operation the first time around, fearing "it would just escalate the situation and would not work".

Trump is expected to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, where Iran is set to be among the topics discussed with Chinese President Xi Jinping as pressure mounts to end the conflict and the energy crisis it has triggered.

Trump has been leaning on China to use its influence to push Tehran toward a deal with Washington.

Baghaei suggested China could instead use the visit to push back against US objectives in the Gulf. "Our Chinese friends know very well how to use these opportunities to warn about the consequences of the US's illegal and bullying actions on regional peace and security," he said.

Meanwhile, the UK and France will today host a multinational meeting of defence ministers on military plans to restore trade flows through Hormuz, the British government said.

The announcement came hours after Iran warned London and Paris against sending warships to the region.

"The Defence Secretary John Healey will co-chair a meeting of over 40 nations, alongside his French counterpart, Minister Catherine Vautrin, for the multinational mission's first Defence Minister's meeting," a British defence ministry statement said Sunday.

The virtual meeting follows a two-day gathering in London in April of military planners who thrashed out the practicalities of a multinational mission led by the UK and France to protect navigation in the key waterway following a sustainable ceasefire.

SC regrets

FROM PAGE 16

high standards of scrutiny and fairness mandated in criminal proceedings of such grave nature."

On May 27, 2025, the Appellate Division scrapped its earlier judgement that had upheld the conviction and death sentence handed down by the International Crimes Tribunal against Azharul in 2014.

The apex court also acquitted him of all charges and directed jail authorities to release him immediately unless he was wanted in any other case.

The bench delivered the verdict following an appeal filed by the Jamaat leader, challenging the conviction and death penalty awarded by the ICT.

Azharul's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir said his client, who had been in jail since August 8, 2012, was released on May 28, 2025, following the SC verdict.

ATM Azharul, currently nayebe-ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, was elected a lawmaker from Rangpur 2 in the February 12 national election.

Barrister Mohammed Belayet Hossain, another lawyer for Azharul, earlier told this correspondent that this was the first time the Appellate Division had rescinded its own judgement upholding a conviction and death sentence handed down by the ICT in a crimes against humanity case.

Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abdul Quader Mollah, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Mir Quasem Ali, along with BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, were executed following Supreme Court verdicts in cases related to crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

Rise above

FROM PAGE 16

with the government, your personal beliefs should not be reflected in your official duties," Shibly quoted the prime minister as saying.

Tarique also said that differences of opinion should be expressed only through the ballot box. "Before that, we must all love this country and remain united in the interest of the nation."

"Many of you have spoken about your hopes for the future of your wives and children. If we can all work together to ensure a safe Bangladesh, then everyone's future will be secured. If Bangladesh becomes safe, we will all live well."

After the programme marking Police Week 2026, the PM walked with police officials and exchanged greetings with them.

He also took part in a photo session with police officials in front of the Tiger Gate of the PMO.

Earlier in the day, Tarique addressed police officials at an event marking Police Week 2026 at the PMO's Shapla Hall.

During his speech, he gave various directives regarding law and order and asked police to treat criminals as criminals, regardless of their political identity.

He also stressed that there would be no compromise with corruption, terrorism and misrule, and urged police officers to work in a people-oriented manner.

Tarique reiterated the government's commitment to implementing all pledges made in its election manifesto and the July charter.

Speaking about police welfare, the premier said the government would remain committed to ensuring the wellbeing of police personnel.

"Honesty, merit, and efficiency will be the key principles in recruitment, transfer, and posting within the administration."

Tarique acknowledged that police duties are not confined to fixed working hours, noting that police personnel work day and night, including even holidays.

"The government cannot remain indifferent to ensuring the physical and mental well-being of police personnel. Therefore, every logical and necessary demand of yours will be implemented gradually."

Cops seek more 999 staff

FROM PAGE 1

"We need more people to receive the emergency calls. Initially, we sought to raise the number to 200 as quickly as possible, with a long term plan to expand it to 500," the official said.

An SP who attended the meeting said discussions were also held on the limitations of existing forensic facilities.

"At present, the country's four forensic laboratories in divisional cities do not have adequate facilities for all types of forensic examinations. As a result, investigations into many cases are delayed. We demanded modernisation of the forensic labs," he told The Daily Star.

The officials also called for increasing manpower in the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) police unit and transport facilities for the police department.

A deputy commissioner of the DMP said demands were also made to increase manpower at the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) to form more battalions.

"Additional APBn battalions are needed in the Dhaka area to

ensure national security. Otherwise, maintaining law and order will become difficult," the officer said.

According to sources at the conference, the home minister responded positively to the demands. He assured officials that the number of 999 call takers would soon be increased to 200.

He also said the remaining demands would be implemented gradually, considering the government's financial capacity, resources, and priorities.

Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani and Senior Secretary at the home ministry Monjur Morshed Chowdhury addressed the conference as special guests.

Additional IGP of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Mosleh Uddin Ahmed delivered the welcome speech, while Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir gave the vote of thanks.

Senior police officials, including additional IGPs, DIGs, additional DIGs, and superintendents of police, attended the event.

Pro-AL lawyers 'shut out' of at least 13 bar elections

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier on April 26, the SCBA held an extraordinary general meeting and decided not to allow pro-AL lawyers to contest the election, citing a ban imposed on the activities of the party and its associated and affiliated organisations on May 11 last year.

Every bar association has its own charter under which it functions and holds polls annually. It informs the Bar Council about its decisions regarding the annual election and also the outcome of the polls.

Moksadul Islam, a senior lawyer at the SC, said the charters of bar associations do not allow partisan politics. Lawyers contest bar polls in individual capacity as they cannot run in elections under any political panels or platforms.

Political dominance in professional bodies like bar associations also goes against the spirit of the country's constitution, he noted.

Several legal experts and rights activists said the exclusion of pro-AL lawyers from bar association elections undermines democratic norms and runs counter to the constitutional provisions that guarantee freedom of association.

Some referred to article 38 of the constitution, which states that every citizen has the right to form associations or unions, subject only to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of morality or public order.

Manzill Murshid, a lawyer at the

SC, said that not only lawyers aligned with the Awami League, but also those linked to the 14-party alliance and some independent candidates saw their nomination papers cancelled.

"The issue is no longer confined to one political party; it raises broader concerns about the democratic environment within professional bodies," said Manzill, also a human rights activist.

He emphasised that bar association elections are fundamentally professional in nature, involving practising lawyers as both voters and candidates.

Previous governments faced allegations of exerting pressure and influence in these elections, but candidates aligned with various political parties were at least allowed to contest, he added.

Another SC lawyer, Sara Hossain, said, "The right to contest elections to professional bodies is directly related to the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of association and expression. We have seen how this right has historically been restricted in previous years under different governments through gross politicisation, where lawyers did not stand for election based on their professional reputation or integrity, but simply through political panels."

She said that during the final years of the AL government, there was direct interference in bar association elections to ensure that AL-backed candidates won. Pro-BNP

FROM PAGE 16

the interim government's move to bifurcate the National Board of Revenue, calling the process "half-baked" and incomplete.

"Incomplete reform creates more problems than having no reform at all," he said, adding that a parliamentary committee is now reviewing the issue to make the reform more effective.

On corruption in public spending, the finance minister said the government is reviewing nearly 1,300 ongoing projects, many of which were allegedly undertaken for "personal interests".

He added that future projects would be approved based on return on investment, job creation, and environmental protection.

Khosru also said corruption

and red tape continue to obstruct business activities and service delivery.

"For energy security, we want to ensure at least three months of reserves so that there is no disruption in oil, gas, and power supply."

Moderated by Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud, the event was attended by business leaders, industrialists, politicians, and economists.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said implementation often does not match policymakers' intentions.

"In implementation, 20 to 25 percent of planned expenditure cannot be spent, revenue cannot be collected, and reform processes get stuck midway."

Business leaders at the event urged the government to avoid raising taxes and simplify business regulations.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman of PRAN-RFL Group, warned that higher taxes would push products beyond consumers' reach.

Mostafa Kamal, managing director of Meghna Group of Industries, said businesses were still struggling with a difficult regulatory environment despite the change in government.

Among others, Sharif Zahir, chairman of UCB Bank, Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, Md Ahteshamul Haque Khan, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, also spoke on the occasion.

Facebook 'news' pages out to objectify women for profit

FROM PAGE 16

and accountability are often compromised, making online spaces increasingly hostile," she said.

VISUALS OVERRIDE STORY
An analysis of the 100 reels shows that even when captions appear neutral or informational, the visuals often tell a different story.

Across many posts, zoom-ins, slow motion, and selective framing are used not to document events but to redirect attention to women's bodies, stripping away the original context.

For example, a page named Ovjatra posted a reel of Meghna Alam with the caption, "Meghna Alam joins VP Nur's party."

While the caption suggested a political development, the footage itself focused largely on close, body-centred shots rather than the event it claimed to report. The page has uploaded several similar videos featuring other women, following the same visual pattern.

Academics have also been targeted. A Facebook page initially called News Bangla BD, and later renamed Binodon Bangla, posted at least 15 reels of Shehreen Amin Bhuiyan during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

The videos contained unnecessary close-ups and body-focused framing.

Speaking to The Daily Star, she described the experience as deeply unsettling.

"They record videos without any consent, either from very close or by zooming in from a distance. They film from behind or from the side, thinking it will bring views and followers. It feels extremely uncomfortable," she said.

In some cases, captions went beyond neutral descriptions, using suggestive lines that further objectified women captured in unguarded moments. Phrases such as "it is hard to fool the legend's eyes" and "what did the beautiful actress do in front of everyone?" were used to frame the footage.

Audience responses frequently amplified the harm. A review of comment sections across multiple reels shows that many responses are unfit for publication, with users posting sexually explicit remarks targeting women's bodies and character rather than engaging with any reported context.

This pattern appeared consistently across most of the pages reviewed.

"A DIGITAL DISORDER"

The Daily Star sent messages to six Facebook pages that present themselves as media outlets but received no response. The newspaper also called the administrators of three other pages. While two responded to queries, one did not answer phone calls despite repeated attempts.

One page called News Bangla BD listed a physical office address at "Hassan Plaza, 53 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka". A visit to the location, however, found no organisation operating under that name.

When asked about the rationale behind repeatedly posting such reels, an administrator of Daily Biplobi Kantho, Tamim Nisad, acknowledged that the content was driven by audience growth rather than editorial judgment.

"The page is new, so we are posting more reels to increase our followers," he told The Daily Star. "She [Keya Pavel] is a popular actress, which is why more content featuring her has been shared."

He said the page was not yet a registered media outlet but claimed that documents for registration were being prepared.

Media experts warn that these practices reflect a broader and more troubling shift.

Abdullah Al Mamun said, "This is a highly negative development, and it has increased sharply in recent months. What we are seeing is a systematic use of digital platforms to target individuals under the guise of media activity."

According to Mamun, the phenomenon goes beyond isolated instances of unethical content. He said some actors appear to be using such material strategically to dominate digital spaces, suppress critical voices, and consolidate influence.

"Addressing this growing digital disorder requires proactive intervention," he said, calling for more effective oversight and accountability mechanisms to curb abuse on digital platforms.

'SAFE HARBOUR'
The pattern of content observed across these pages raises questions about the enforcement of Meta's Community Standards on adult sexual exploitation.

The policy explicitly prohibits the sharing of "secretly taken non-

commercial imagery" that focuses on "commonly sexualised body parts", particularly when circulated to sexualise or draw attention to an individual.

Meta also outlines enforcement tools such as visibility limits, account restrictions, and monetisation controls. Yet the continued presence and circulation of such content point to weak enforcement of these rules, allowing prohibited material to remain widely accessible on the platform.

Md Sayeed Al Zaman, a researcher at the News and Media Research Centre at University of Canberra in Canberra, said these shortcomings are especially evident in non-Western contexts.

"Enforcement of these policies in countries like Bangladesh appears inadequate, partly due to contextual ambiguity and limitations in local-language moderation."

He added that delayed and inconsistent responses to reported violations create "a safe harbour" for such actors.

"This allows harmful content to circulate widely, while accountability remains limited."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Kishoreganj.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.4800.000.07.001.25-1113

Date: 11/05/2026

e-Tender Notice No: 48/2025-2026

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

SI No	Package No & Name of Scheme	Tender ID No	Last selling date and time	Procurement Method
01	Pd/pori.Abashan/Kishore.W1.12. Construction of 2 Nos 7 Storied (72 unit and 36 unit apartment) Kishoreganj Paurashava Cleaners Residential Building including internal electrical works, lift & external electrical connection, electro-mechanical work, sanitary and water supply, boundary wall, internal road, drainage, earth work etc. under Upazila: Sadar, Dist: Kishoreganj.	1271089	17-Jun-2026 16:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered banks' branches. Detail notice, further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd or egphelpdesk@lged.gov.bd).



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সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর
রিসোর্স শিক্ষকের কার্যালয়
সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম
নেত্রকোণা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।			
০২	এজেন্সি	: সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা।			
০৩	সংগ্রাহক স্বাক্ষর নাম	: উপ-ভূত্বাধায়ক, সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা।			
০৪	সংগ্রাহক স্বাক্ষর জেলা	: নেত্রকোণা।			
০৫	যে কাজের দরপত্র	: ২০২৬-২৭ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা এর নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসা, পোষাক পরিচ্ছদ, প্রসাধনী, প্রশিক্ষণ, ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি সংক্রান্ত মালামাল সরবরাহ।			
০৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	: নং-৪১.০১.৭২০০.০২২.০৭.০০১.২৬.১৯ তারিখ- ১০-০৫-২০২৬ খ্রি।			
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	: ১২-০৫-২০২৬ খ্রি।			
০৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)।			
০৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	: রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি ও বি।			
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	: ০২ টি			
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	: প্যাকেজ নং-১- ভোজ্য পণ্য- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)। প্যাকেজ নং-২- অভোজ্য পণ্য- শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসা, পোষাক পরিচ্ছদ, প্রসাধনী, প্রশিক্ষণ ও ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী।			
১২	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	: ০১-০৬-২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ	: ০২-০৬-২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ০২-০৬-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতা বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।			
১৫	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও খোলার কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা: ক. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা	: সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।			
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: (১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। (২) পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সঞ্চালতার সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে।			
১৭	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য জমা দিতে হবে	: 'দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ট্রেজারি চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।			
১৮	প্যাকেজ নং	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	দলিলের মূল্য	টেণ্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
১	ভোজ্য পণ্য- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)		৫০০/-	দলিল মোতাবেক	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য
২	অভোজ্য পণ্য- শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসা, পোষাক পরিচ্ছদ, প্রসাধনী, প্রশিক্ষণ ও ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী		৫০০/-	দলিল মোতাবেক	এ

১৯. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : তারেক হোসেন।

২০. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : রিসোর্স শিক্ষক।

২১. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: রিসোর্স শিক্ষকের কার্যালয়, সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, নেত্রকোণা।

২২. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর: ০১৩০৩-৬৫৩৯৬১/০১৭২-৩০৫৯৪২

২৩. শর্তাবলী:

- পি.পি.এ ২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর -২০২৫ এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- পূর্বে দরদাতার নিকট হতে উর্দ্ধত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- বিশেষ নির্দেশনা :- বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্য দরপত্রের দলিলে বর্ণিত আছে।



(তারেক হোসেন)
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তারিখ: ২৭ বৈশাখ ১৪৩৩
১০ মে ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ (জেলা পরিষদ শাখার) ২৭.০৪.২০২৬ তারিখের ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০২২.১১.০২১.১৯.৭৪১ নম্বর স্মারকের ছাড়পত্রের আলোকে শরীয়তপুর জেলা পরিষদের সাংগঠনিক কার্যক্রম নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে ২০১৫ সনের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল অনুযায়ী অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকের নিকট হতে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
০১.	নিয়মান-সহকারী-কাম-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক/কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	০১টি	৯৩০০-২২,৪৯০/- (শ্রেণি-১৬)	উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট অথবা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং ইংরেজীতে প্রতি মিনিট ৪০ শব্দ এবং বাংলাতে প্রতি মিনিট ৩০ শব্দ টাইপ করার যোগ্যতাসহ কম্পিউটার চালানোর প্রয়োজনীয় দক্ষতা থাকিতে হইবে।

শর্তসমূহ

- অগ্রাধী প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করলে বর্ণিত তথ্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক "প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, শরীয়তপুর" বরাবরে আগামী ১১-০৬-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ডাকযোগে আবেদনপত্র পৌঁছাতে হবে। বিলম্ব প্রাপ্ত বা অসম্পূর্ণ ও ভুলটিপ্পন এবং স্বাক্ষরবিহীন আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণ যোগ্য হবে না।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ১১-০৬-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখে ১৮-৩২ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- সরকারী নীতিমালা মোতাবেক মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার বা বীরসন্যাস সন্তান/শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী/মুগ্ধ নৃ-সন্তী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীর জন্য কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে। প্রার্থীকে তার দাবীকৃত কোটা সমর্থনে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সনদপত্র/প্রমাণপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে:
 - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
 - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদ্য ভোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ (তিন) কপি রঙিন ছবি।
 - সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান, পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর/প্রশাসক/কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত নাগরিক সনদপত্রের মূল কপি।
 - মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা হিসেবে প্রমাণক প্রদত্ত উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।
 - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রের মূল কপি।
 - জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
 - আবেদনের সাথে যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে "প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, শরীয়তপুর এর অনুকূলে বর্ণিত পদের জন্য ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (যদি থাকে)।
- সত্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই সত্যায়নকারী (নবম গ্রেডের গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা) কর্মকর্তার সুস্পষ্ট নাম, পদবী ও সিল থাকতে হবে।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- প্রবেশপত্র প্রেরণের লক্ষ্যে আবেদনের সাথে আবেদনকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করে ১০X৪ সাইজের ১০/-টাকা মূল্যের ডাকটিকেট লাগানো একটি আলাদা স্কেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে খামের উপর মোটা অক্ষরে পদের নাম এবং প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে কোটার নাম স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে লিখতে হবে।
- কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা এবং নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সরকারি বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- সর্বশেষ সরকারি নিয়োগ বিধি মতে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। লিখিত বাবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার অমন ভাতা/সৈনিক ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসহ অন্যান্য যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের মূল কপি উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- কোন তথ্য গোপন করে বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান করে বা শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সার্টিফিকেট/নাগরিকত্বের সনদ/কোন ধরনের সনদপত্র বা তথ্যাদি ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা চাকুরীতে নিয়োগের পরও পুলিশ জেরিকেশন সন্তোষজনক না হলে যে কোন সময় আবেদনকারীর আবেদনপত্র/নিয়োগ বাতিল করে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ (সর্বশেষ ২০২৪ সালে সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধানমালা/আদেশ/নিয়মাবলী এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধিবিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী (ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল ও আনুতোষিক) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজ্য বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণ বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ পদের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ আর্থিক সুবিধা জেলা পরিষদ হতে প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ (সর্বশেষ ২০২৪ সালে সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধানমালা/আদেশ/নিয়মাবলী এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধিবিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী (ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল ও আনুতোষিক) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজ্য বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণ বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ পদের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ আর্থিক সুবিধা জেলা পরিষদ হতে প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ (সর্বশেষ ২০২৪ সালে সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধানমালা/আদেশ/নিয়মাবলী এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধিবিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী (ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল ও আনুতোষিক) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজ্য বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণ বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ পদের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ আর্থিক সুবিধা জেলা পরিষদ হতে প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ (সর্বশেষ ২০২৪ সালে সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধানমালা/আদেশ/নিয়মাবলী এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধিবিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী (ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল ও আনুতোষিক) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজ্য বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণ বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ পদের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ আর্থিক সুবিধা জেলা পরিষদ হতে প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ (সর্বশেষ ২০২৪ সালে সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে। এছাড়া নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধানমালা/আদেশ/নিয়মাবলী এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধিবিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী (ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল ও আনুতোষিক) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজ্য বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণ বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ পদের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ আর্থিক সুবিধা জেলা পরিষদ হতে প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্তাবলী পরিবর্তন/সংশোধন/সংযোজন/বিরোধিতা করতে পারবে। যে কোন সময় যে কোন আবেদন বা এ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার সর্বময় ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা
জেলা পরিষদ, শরীয়তপুর
ও
আব্বাসক

GD-1089

জেলা পরিষদ কর্মচারী নিয়োগ ও পদোন্নতি সংক্রান্ত বাছাই কমিটি।



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www.tcb.gov.bd

Commercial Section

Invitation For Tender (National) for Purchase of

- 2,00,00,000 (Two Crore) Litre Refined Palm Olein
- 5,000 (Five Thousand) M. Tons White Refined Sugar
- 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M. Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	(a) Refined Palm Olein (b) White Refined Sugar (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil
7	Invitation Ref. No.	(a) 26.05.0000.016.08.135.26.1791 (b) 26.05.0000.016.08.135.26.1792 (c) 26.05.0000.016.08.135.26.1793
8	Date	11-05-2026

KEY INFORMATION

9 Procurement Method: Open Tendering Method (OTM) (National)

FUNDING INFORMATION

10 Budget and Source of Funds: TCB's Own Fund.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Tender Package No.	(a) TCB/Imp-90/Palm Olein/2025-26 (b) TCB/Imp-91/Sugar/2025-26 (c) TCB/Imp-92/Red Lentil/2025-26
12	Tender Package Name	(a) Refined Palm Olein (b) White Refined Sugar (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil
13	Tender Invitation/ Publication Date	12-05-2026
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	02-06-2026 16:00 P.M
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	03-06-2026 12:00 P.M
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	(a) 12:15 P.M, (b) 12:30 P.M, (c) 12:45 P.M
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.		
- Receiving Tender Document		
In front of TCB's reception (2 nd floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
- Opening Tender Document		
Board Room, TCB.		

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

18	Brief Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions have been mentioned in the Tender documents.		
19	Brief Description of goods	a) 2,00,00,000 (Two Crore) Litre Refined Palm Olein Packed in 02 (Two) Litre Food Grade PET Bottle. Offer of partial quantity is allowed but not less than 1,00,00,000 (One Crore) Litre. b) 5,000 (Five Thousand) M.Tons White Refined Sugar packed in 50 kg bag. Offer of partial quantity is not allowed. c) 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M.Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil packed in 50 kg bag. Offer of partial quantity is allowed but not less than 5,000 (Five Thousand) M.Tons.		
20	Price of Tender Document	Price of (a) Refined Palm Olein tender document is Taka 10,000 (Ten Thousand) only (b) White Refined Sugar tender document is Taka 7,000 (Seven Thousand) only & (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 7,000 (Seven Thousand) only.		
21	Lot Identification No of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (BDT)	Supply Schedule
(a) Refined Palm Olein	Offers are to be made on TCB's Godowns of Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal, Moulvibazar, Mymensingh, Cumilla, Madaripur, Bogura, Jhenaidah, Dinajpur, Gazipur/District's godown/ Upazila's godown.		a) BDT 8,80,00,000 (BDT Eight Crore Eighty Lac) Only. b) BDT 1,20,00,000 (BDT One Crore Twenty Lac) Only. c) BDT 2,00,00,000 (BDT One Crore) Only.	Entire quantity of Goods is to be supplied within (a) 60 days after signing contract. (b) 30 days after signing contract. (c) 40 days after signing contract.

NB. in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. After issuing NOA, the award is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the similar form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Golam Khorshed
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 8180074 Fax No 88-02-55014279 E-mail: tcbingp@tcb.gov.bd
26	Special Instruction	a) All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document. b) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/in part without assigning any reason.

(Md. Golam Khorshed)
Additional Director (Commercial)



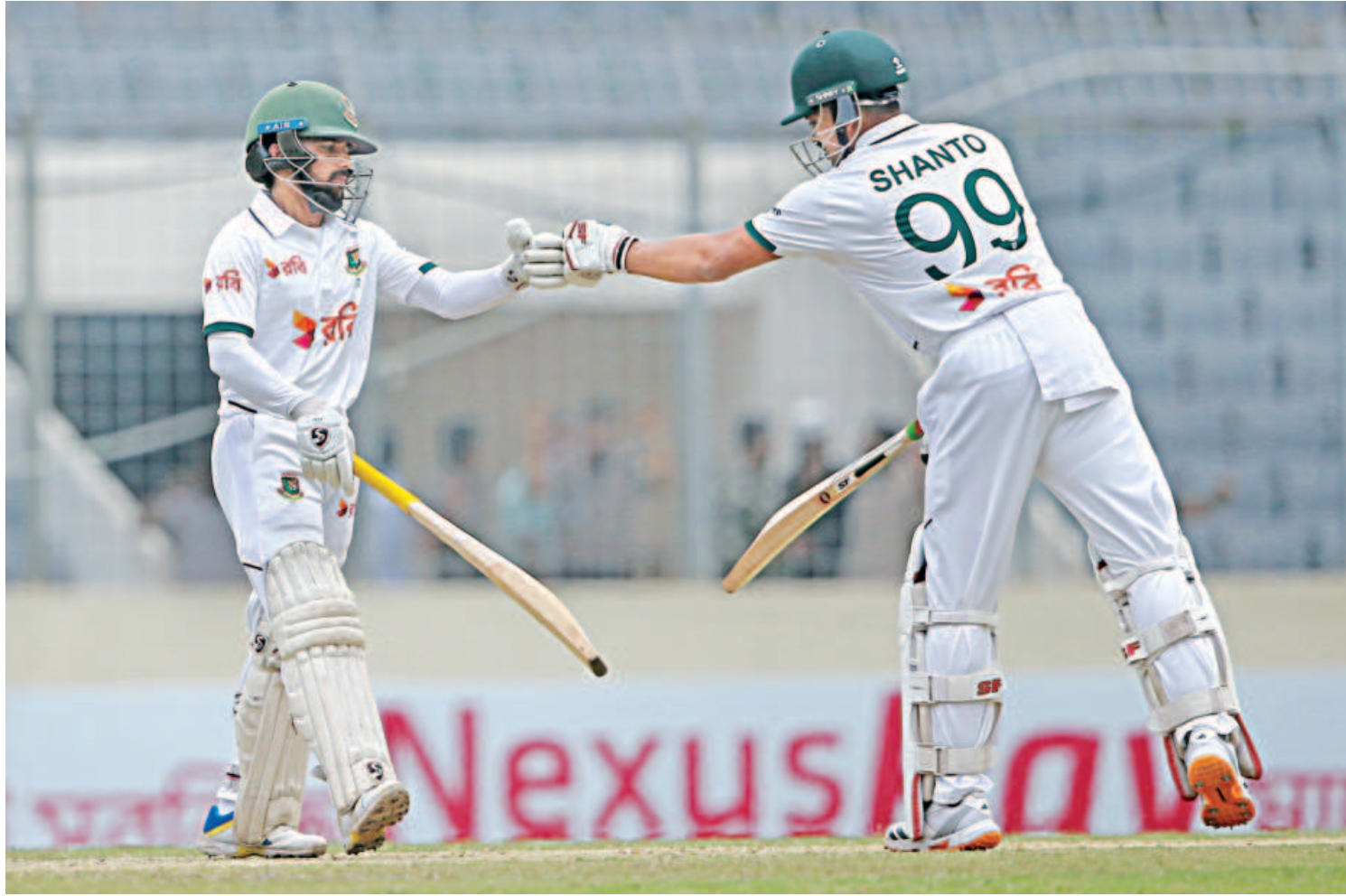
AUSTRALIAN TENNIS 'TRUE LEGEND' ANDERSON DIES

Mal Anderson, the first unseeded player to win the US Open men's singles title, has died aged 91, Tennis Australia said on Monday. Anderson's career started on a dirt court on a farm and he went on to become an Australian tennis great, winning the US crown in 1957 and three major doubles titles.

➤ Mominul Haque became only the third Bangladesh batter to reach 5,000 Test runs, after Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal.

➤ He reached the milestone by bringing up his fifth successive Test fifty with a boundary.

➤ Mominul is the second-fastest Bangladesh batter to 5,000 Test runs in terms of matches played. Tamim remains the quickest, reaching the landmark in his 68th Test, while Mominul achieved it in his 76th match. Mushfiqur, the first Bangladeshi to the milestone, took 81 Tests.



Bangladesh batters Mominul Haque and Najmul Hossain Shanto pump fists during their partnership in the second innings of the first Test against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur on Monday. After losing two quick wickets, the two veterans forged a 105-run partnership for the third wicket - both hitting half-centuries -- as Bangladesh moved to a position of strength after the rain-hit fourth day.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mind games at play ahead of Day 5

SPORTS REPORTER

"Definitely, we will go for the win. If they are brave enough to give us 70 overs and a 260-run target, we will definitely go for the chase, but I don't think they will do that."

Pakistan batter Salman Ali Agha threw the gauntlet after the fourth day's play of the opening Test against Bangladesh in Mirpur on Monday.

The mind games have begun heading into the final day after rain disrupted both the third and fourth days of the Test.

With 165 minutes lost to rain on Day Four, the match remains delicately poised, with all three results still possible -- although a draw remains the most likely outcome, followed by a Bangladesh victory or a Pakistan win.

Bangladesh, however, may need to accelerate their scoring on the final morning after stretching their lead to 179 runs at 152 for 3 in 48.4 overs. The hosts must strike a balance between setting a challenging target and leaving enough time for their bowlers to take 10 wickets.

"I still think there is some help in the wicket... If we can bowl around 75 overs and set a target of around 260 runs, it will be possible to win the match," said Bangladesh batting coach Mohammad Ashraf.

The fifth day is expected to offer more turn for the spinners, while Pakistan's pacers have also extracted some zip from the surface. Neither side is particularly known for aggressive, result-driven Test cricket, making Agha's comments appear aimed at tempting Bangladesh into leaving the door open for a chase.

Asked whether he was implying Bangladesh lacked bravery, Agha clarified: "Not saying they are not brave enough or like that, but I'm just saying for them the best thing is to just take us out from the game and then give us the bat. But if they do that, like 70 overs and give us 260 to 270 target, then we will be in the game as well. And I personally want them to do that."



Milestone for Mominul, but 'big hundreds expected'

SPORTS REPORTER

Mominul Haque's number three role is one where attacking intent is mixed with defensive solidity. The former Bangladesh captain became just the third batter from the country to reach 5,000 Test runs yesterday, but expectations are that he will reach bigger scores, having now missed out in the last five of his innings.

Since the Kanpur Test in India, where he got an unbeaten 107, he has been batting more regularly at number three, having swapped the number four position with Najmul Hossain Shanto a few times. At that position, he has used his experience to counter good bowling attacks, but as recent innings suggest, he has been unable to convert his fifties into bigger knocks.

The one-down role itself appears to be changing, with top teams assigning more attacking players. Mominul, however, is a traditionalist. Shanto, on the other hand, appears to be a perfect fit as well, having got five tons in 26 matches at three. But together, they fuse into a strong baton for Bangladesh, as was evidenced again on day four of their series opener against Pakistan.

Following their 170-run partnership in the first innings, the two once again put on a 105-run stand in the second after both openers departed early in the morning. Shaheen Shah and company produced good spells, the ball zipping around. Mominul took responsibility for absorbing pressure in that period, while Shanto released it, and having reached his fifty and the 5,000-run milestone, he departed to Shaheen at a point where he looked comfortable.

There is where the disappointment lies. In his

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:

1st innings 413 and second innings 152-3 (Mominul 56, Shanto 58 not out; Abbas 1-35, Shaheen 1-39)

Pakistan:

1st innings 386 all out (Awaiz 103, Fazal 60; Miraz 5-102)

last five innings, he notched 82, 63, 87, 91 and now 56. The conversion rate of 34.2 percent, with 13 hundreds, suggests that a lack of focus is setting in when he looks set. When Mominul had got his 10th Test ton in February 2021, his conversion rate was 47.6.

With milestones in his sight, batting coach Mohammad Ashraf believes Mominul needs to go back to his old flow of getting big hundreds.

"After Mushfiqur, he is very close to becoming the second Bangladeshi to play 100 Test matches; he has about 24 matches left," Ashraf said. "I strongly believe he will be the second player from Bangladesh to reach 100 Tests, and he will continue to contribute like this."

"We expect big hundreds from him, just like the big hundreds we used to see from Mominul early in his career."

For now, Mominul has been able to frustrate opponents. He stymied Pakistan's attack, but if the Tigers are to get more from this WTC cycle, they need a Mominul without conversion concerns.

30 DAYS TO GO



The legacy of Czechoslovakia

Before splitting, Czechoslovakia participated in the World Cup eight times, playing a total of 30 matches. They finished runners-up twice: in 1934 to Italy and in 1962 to Brazil. In 1993, Czechoslovakia dissolved into the Czech Republic and Slovakia -- both of whom have participated in one World Cup each to date.

**Visit The Daily Star's website to also read: "A North Korean fairy tale"

SHORT CORNER

NSC forms committee to probe Bangladesh's T20 WC pull-out

The National Sports Council (NSC) has formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the reasons behind Bangladesh's absence from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Australia leave out Cummins, Starc, Hazlewood for Bangladesh ODIs

A trio of fast bowlers are notable omissions as Australia revealed their white-ball squads for upcoming tour of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Experienced quicks Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood will all sit out the tour.

Abahani break duck; Mohammedan extend perfect start

Two unfinished matches of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League third round were completed on Monday, with Abahani and Mohammedan securing emphatic victories as expected.

HC rejects writ petition challenging BCB's ad hoc committee

The High Court on Monday summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of formation of 11-member ad hoc committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). The bench of Justice Razik-Al-Jalil and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury passed the rejection order after hearing arguments on the petition.

**Visit The Daily Star's website to read details

FORTY-EIGHT TEAMS More opportunities, less jeopardy?

AFP, Paris

The 2026 World Cup will be the first to feature 48 teams, with the expansion of the field offering opportunities to several debutants -- but will FIFA's determination to have more nations participating remove much of the jeopardy which helped make the competition so great?

The expansion is the delivery of a key proposal made by Gianni Infantino not long after he became president of world football's governing body in 2016.

He talked of the importance of giving "more chances for more teams" and indicated that the World Cup needed to be seen as "more than a competition, it's a social event."

'Natural evolution'

Certainly, for much of its history, the World Cup could not be described as genuinely global. It was dominated by Europe and a few South American nations as it settled on a 16-team format until being expanded to 24 in 1982.

Ten of the 16 participants in 1978 were European, while by 1990 in Italy there were 14 European sides out of 24.

Africa sent a total of four representatives to the first 11 World Cups before 1982. But even by 1990 there were just two teams each from Africa, Asia and the CONCACAF zone of North and Central America and the Caribbean.

The expansion to 32 teams from 1998 gave a fairer distribution of places worldwide, but still only five African nations went to Qatar in 2022, while 13 came from Europe.

The move to 48 ensures a more even share without removing qualifying spots from Europe -- it now has 16 teams, while there are 10 from Africa, nine from Asia, six each from South America and CONCACAF plus New Zealand.

"It's a natural evolution. We want to make football global all over the world," Arsene Wenger, FIFA's chief of global football development, said in December.

"I believe that 48 teams is the right number. It's less than 25 percent for 211 countries who are affiliated to FIFA."

The expansion has allowed some of the world's smallest countries to qualify for the finals for the first time --



notably the tiny Caribbean island of Curacao with its population of barely 160,000 as well as first-timers Cape Verde, Jordan and Uzbekistan.

With the top two in all 12 groups progressing along with the eight best third-placed sides, one win in the first

round could suffice to advance.

'Dilution of spectacle'

But that means the competition will lose much of its early jeopardy, with the leading nations probably not too concerned even if they suffer a defeat straight off -- unlike in 2022 when eventual champions Argentina were genuinely panicking after a defeat by Saudi Arabia.

Seeing a giant go out in the group stage is likely now a thing of the past. To go all the way, teams now have to play eight matches -- potentially in energy sapping conditions in a North American summer -- instead of seven previously, further adding to an already heavy load for leading players.

"I see the argument about increasing representation but I think a 32-team finals was perfect," says Jonathan Wilson, author of *The Power and the Glory, A New History of the World Cup*.

"The biggest problem with this is not really the quality, it's the dilution of spectacle in the first round with eight third-placed teams to go through," he tells AFP, suggesting the group stage may end up "trying peoples' patience".

Bosnia first to name final World Cup squad

REUTERS

Bosnia manager Sergej Barbarez opted for a blend of experience, youth and new faces when he announced his World Cup squad on Monday, with veteran striker Edin Dzeko leading the line and uncapped midfielder Ermin Mahmic also included.

Dzeko is Bosnia's most capped player and all-time top scorer. The 40-year-old is one of two survivors from his country's only previous World Cup appearance in 2014, alongside defender Sead Kolasinac.

Barbarez wasted no time in calling up Mahmic after the 21-year-old Austrian-born player had his request to change allegiance to Bosnia approved by FIFA earlier in May.

Mahmic featured for Austria at Under-17 and Under-21 level, and had also played with Bosnia's Under-19 team, and Barbarez already sees him having a long career with the national side.

Bosnia play two warm-up matches against North Macedonia on May 29 in Sarajevo and Panama in St. Louis and begin their World Cup campaign against Canada on June 12 in Toronto.

SQUAD

Vasilj, Zlomislic, Hadzagic; Kolasinac, Dedic, Mujacic, Katic, Muharemovic, Radeljic, Hadzidakunic, Celik; Hadziahmetovic, Sunjic, Basic, Burnic, Mahmic, Benjamin Tahirovic, Memic, Gigovic, Alajbegovic, Bajraktarevic; Demirovic, Lukic, Bazdar, Tabakovic, Dzeko



PHOTO: REUTERS

Clasico glory seals BARCA TITLE

AGENCIES

Barcelona sealed their LaLiga title in emphatic fashion with a 2-0 Clasico victory over Real Madrid at Camp Nou on Sunday night, moving 14 points clear with three games remaining. Goals from Marcus Rashford and Ferran Torres inside the opening 18 minutes secured back-to-back league crowns for Hansi Flick's side and condemned Madrid to another trophyless campaign. Despite disappointment in Europe after a Champions League exit to Atletico Madrid, Barca dominated domestically through attacking flair, squad depth and standout performances from teenage sensation Lamine Yamal and midfield maestro Pedri. Rashford's impact on loan, combined with contributions from Raphinha, Dani Olmo, and Ferran Torres, proved crucial throughout the season. Barcelona's return to Camp Nou further fueled their success, where they remain unbeaten in La Liga. Meanwhile, Real Madrid endured a chaotic campaign plagued by imbalance, injuries, and managerial uncertainty, leaving president Florentino Perez searching for answers to stop Barca's domestic dominance.

- Barcelona won the LaLiga title in El Clasico for the first time in club history. It also marks the first time either side has clinched the title in El Clasico since 1932, when Real Madrid secured their first league title after a 2-2 draw.
- This is Barcelona's third LaLiga title in the last four seasons and their 29th overall, the second-most in Spanish football history behind Real Madrid's 36.
- Barcelona are the first club to win back-to-back LaLiga titles since they achieved the feat in 2017-18 and 2018-19 under Ernesto Valverde.
- Barcelona have recorded 30 wins in their first 35 league matches this season, the most by any team through 35 games in LaLiga history.
- Barcelona have 91 points through 35 matches, tied for the most points ever by a team at this stage of a LaLiga season.
- Barcelona are currently on an 11-match winning streak, the longest active winning streak in Europe's top five leagues this season and the club's longest LaLiga winning run since 2024-25.
- With this victory, Barcelona level the all-time El Clasico head-to-head record with Real Madrid at 106 wins each. It is the first time the rivalry has been tied in total wins since 2020.

Amir already aiming 'common problem' fix

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh managed only six goals in their recent 2027 Men's Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign, half of them coming in a single home match against Hong Kong. While several arrivals of expatriate players have significantly strengthened the side, the lack of consistent goalscorers remains an unresolved issue.



The top-tier competition this season have also failed to throw up any standout local forward. In that context, the rise of players like 22-year-old Amir Ali offers at least a glimpse of possibility.

The forward from Gopalganj finished as the top scorer in the recently concluded Bangladesh Championship League (BCL), netting 12 goals in 15 matches for Shuktara Jubo Sangsad in the second-tier competition.

"This season I was determined to become the top scorer," Amir told The Daily Star.

Now he wants to take the next step -- earning a contract in the Bangladesh Football League and eventually breaking into the national team setup.

"I know the competition is very tough," he said. "I need to improve my finishing, which is a common problem for many Bangladeshi forwards."

However, performances in the BCL are often viewed with scepticism due to recurring allegations of betting, spot-fixing and match manipulation. This season too, social media was flooded with clips showing questionable defending during certain goals. Amir, though, insisted his side stayed away from such issues.

While Shuktara narrowly missed promotion, Amir felt the league "was very competitive", adding that matches played on "better grounds had improved the quality".

Amir's football journey began in Moksdepur, Gopalganj, inspired by local seniors and a schoolteacher. He represented the district side before moving to Dhaka.

His two-year spell at Bangladesh Police FC under Romanian coach Aristica Cioba proved particularly influential. "He even told me that one day I could become a great player."

Whether Amir eventually becomes the "great player" remains to be seen. But for a Bangladesh side still struggling to produce reliable local goalscorers, even the emergence of a dependable forward could prove a significant gain.



PHOTO: REUTERS

An emotional Hansi Flick guided Barcelona to their 29th La Liga title, just hours after the passing of his father overnight. Despite the personal tragedy, the German coach took his place on the touchline at a packed Camp Nou, leading Barça to a win that sealed the title. Flick's achievement further strengthens his growing legacy at Barcelona. By winning back-to-back La Liga titles in his first two seasons, he joins an elite group of Barça coaches to accomplish the feat, alongside Enrique Fernandez, Helenio Herrera, Louis van Gaal, Pep Guardiola, Luis Enrique, and Ernesto Valverde.



PSG all but confirm Ligue 1 title

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain effectively wrapped up another Ligue 1 title on Sunday as a 1-0 win over Brest left them six points clear of nearest rivals Lens with two games remaining, with Luis Enrique's side also boasting a superior goal difference.

Desire Doue was one of nine PSG players rested at kick-off following Wednesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg away to Bayern Munich, but the French international came off the bench in the second half and fired in the only goal of the game from the edge of the box in the 83rd minute.

PSG will be officially crowned

French champions for the fifth season running, and the 12th time in the last 14 years, if they avoid defeat away to Lens on Wednesday.

However, even if PSG lose their last two league matches, and Lens win theirs, the latter would still have to overturn a difference of 15 goals -- something which is almost certainly beyond Pierre Sage's team.

Arsenal keep title destiny in their own hands

AGENCIES

Arsenal moved a step closer to ending their 22-year wait for the Premier League title after grinding out a dramatic 1-0 victory over West Ham United on Sunday, restoring a five-point cushion over Manchester City at the top of the table.

Leandro Trossard struck in the 83rd minute at the London Stadium to hand Mikel Arteta's side a crucial win in a tense title race that continues to swing between the two contenders. Arsenal survived a late scare deep into stoppage time when West Ham thought they had snatched an equaliser, only for VAR to rule the goal out for a foul on goalkeeper David Raya.

City had briefly reduced the gap to two points with a commanding 3-0 win over Brentford on Saturday, bouncing back from their costly 3-3 draw at Everton earlier in the week. Omar Marmoush, Jeremy Doku and Erling Haaland were all on target for Pep Guardiola's men.

With two league matches remaining, Arsenal now hold destiny in their own hands. Victories over



relegated Burnley at the Emirates and Crystal Palace away would guarantee a first league crown since 2004, regardless of City's results.

The earliest Arsenal can be crowned champions is Monday, May 18, when they host Burnley. For that to happen, City must first fail to beat Crystal Palace on Wednesday. If Guardiola's side drop points and Arsenal then beat Burnley, the Gunners would move beyond City's reach with only two matches left for the defending champions.

If City overcome Palace, however,

the race will continue at least until their rearranged trip to Bournemouth on 19 May.

Despite the growing excitement around the Emirates, Arsenal youngster Myles Lewis-Skelly insisted the squad remain focused on the task ahead.

"We have to stay humble," the teenager said after Sunday's win. "We are buzzing, but we know that the job is not done. We have got two more finals left."

Arteta's side are also preparing for the Champions League final against Paris Saint-Germain on May 30, raising the possibility of a historic double-winning season.

The title race could yet go down to the finest margins. Arsenal currently hold a goal difference of +42, narrowly ahead of City's +40. If the teams finish level on points, goal difference and goals scored would determine the champions before head-to-head results come into play.

For now, though, Arsenal have the advantage and after years of near misses, the finish line is finally in sight.



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Pro-AL lawyers 'shut out' of at least 13 bar elections

Exclusion runs counter to constitutional provisions, say legal experts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Around 200 lawyers aligned with the Awami League – a party whose activities are currently banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act – have been unable to contest at least 13 bar association elections since January, according to members of lawyers' associations across the country.

Around 40 of 83 bars held polls since Jan '25
Candidates aligned with BNP won most of them
SCBA polls tomorrow; nomination papers of 42 pro-AL lawyers rejected

Though many attempted to run as independent candidates, they were reportedly barred from collecting or submitting nomination papers, or had their nominations cancelled by election commissions.

Sources at the Bangladesh Bar Council said elections have so far been held in at least 40 of the country's 83 bar associations since January 25 this year. Candidates aligned with the BNP won most of those elections. However, in some cases, lawyers aligned with the Awami League won as independent candidates.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) is set to hold a two-day election from tomorrow, with the nomination papers of 42 pro-AL lawyers having been rejected by the election commission.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, TCB trucks resumed selling essential commodities at subsidised rates across the capital yesterday, and they will continue until May 21, except on Friday. The items include two litres of soybean oil at Tk 130 per litre, one kg of sugar at Tk 80 per kg, and two kg of pulses at Tk 70 per kg. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Aftabnagar area.



Rise above political stripes

PM tells police

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged police personnel to rise above differences of opinion and work together in the national interest.

He made the call during a meeting with senior police officials at the Prime Minister's Office, said PM's Press Secretary Saleh Shibly.

"This country belongs to all of us. We must work together to protect it. We may not all share the same ideology, but while working

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

'Controlled' quakes triggered under Swiss Alps

AFP, Bedretto

Researchers have made the ground shake in southern Switzerland, triggering thousands of tiny earthquakes in a monitored setting, as they seek to discover seismicity insights that could reduce risks.

"It was a success!" said Domenico Giardini, one of the lead researchers on the project, as he inspected a crack in the rock wall lining a narrow tunnel far below the Swiss Alps.



Wearing a fluorescent orange jumpsuit and helmet, the geology professor at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) switched on his headlight to get a better look.

"We had seismicity," he said excitedly, explaining that the goal was "to understand what happens at depth when the Earth moves".

Giardini was standing in the BedrettoLab carved out in the middle of a narrow 5.2-kilometre (3.2-mile) ventilation tunnel leading to the Furka railway tunnel.

Reached by specially adapted electric vehicles that slide through the dank darkness along concrete slabs laid over a muddy dirt floor, the deep underground laboratory is the ideal location to create and study earthquakes, Giardini said.

SC regrets upholding Azharul's death sentence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in the full text of a verdict released recently, expressed regret over its earlier judgement, which had upheld the conviction and death sentence of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War.

"This Division [Appellate Division] acknowledges, with a profound sense of judicial responsibility, that in its earlier adjudication, it failed to give due and dispassionate consideration to the evidentiary deficiencies and the broader context in which the allegations of crimes against humanity were framed against the appellant," said the seven-member bench, headed by then chief justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed, in the 74-page verdict.

"The earlier judgement regrettably fell short of the



SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Facebook 'news' pages out to objectify women for profit

Experts call for stronger oversight, accountability

TAREK HOSEN

A Facebook page named Daily Biplobi Kantho, with more than 72,000 followers, presents itself as a media outlet.

Since its creation in March 2025, the page has changed its name twice – first from Cholti Pothe to NISAD VLOGS, and later to Daily Biplobi Kantho – before adopting the branding and appearance of a news platform.

On April 18, the page published a reel of actor Keya Payel that appeared to have been recorded without her consent, using deliberate camera angles and continuing to film even after she objected.

The video quickly drew a flood of sexually suggestive comments. Within two days, the page uploaded at least 20 more reels featuring the same actor. Most of these clips shifted focus away from any news context, relying instead on selective framing and zoomed-in shots that emphasised her body.

A review of the page's output shows this was not an isolated incident but part of a broader content strategy. The visuals are frequently decontextualised, slowed down, and framed to foreground physical appearance rather than events or information – most often with women as the subject.

That pattern extends well beyond a single page. The Daily Star identified at least 30 Facebook pages posting similar content and reviewed around 100 reels published by them.

Of these pages, 24, including Daily Biplobi Kantho, describe

– Daily Biplobi Kantho and Telebangla.com – acknowledged to The Daily Star that the approach is aimed at gaining followers and engagement, which can eventually be monetised.

Salma Ahmed, warned that such portrayals of women can



themselves as "Media/News Company" on Facebook. The other six identify as "Digital Creator". However, none of them is listed as a media outlet on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's website.

Across these pages, actresses, models, female politicians, academics, and other women are repeatedly featured in videos edited to strip away context and draw attention to specific body parts. Administrators of two pages

have lasting consequences. "Repeated exposure to body-focused visuals can distort perceptions, reinforcing the idea that a woman's value lies in her physical appearance while her identity, intellect, and work are sidelined," she told The Daily Star.

She added that the trend also increases risks in digital spaces by normalising harassment, trolling, and stalking. "When engagement becomes the primary goal, respect

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

IMF conditions 'not suitable' for Bangladesh

Says Khosru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conditions attached to the International Monetary Fund's loan programme are not suitable for Bangladesh's economy and its people, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

"We are an elected government. We are accountable to the people. We cannot do everything exactly the way they want," he said, referring to development partners.

The minister said differences with some multilateral lenders, including the IMF, would remain. "But I will make course corrections only to the extent that they remain aligned with our manifesto. Beyond that, going completely out of the way is not possible," he said at a policy discussion organised by Bangla daily Bonik Barta in Dhaka.

The finance minister said Bangladesh's development partners are broadly aligned with the ruling party's economic vision and manifesto, although differences remain with the IMF over several reform conditions.

Khosru also criticised

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Six-month-old Omar, weakened by measles, clasps his grandfather's hand, his frail gaze searching for comfort. Five days ago, his guardians brought him from Dhaka's Labagh area and admitted him to DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Mohakhali, where this photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

2 Bangladeshis killed in Israeli drone strike in Lebanon

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi workers were killed in an Israeli drone attack in southern Lebanon yesterday. The strike took place around noon local time at a residence in Zebdine, Nabatiyah.

Both victims were residents of Satkhira.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Beirut confirmed the deaths in a condolence message yesterday. The deceased were identified as Shafiqul Islam, son of Afsar Ali of Bhaluka Chandpur in Satkhira Sadar Upazila, and Md Nahidul Islam, son of Md Abdul Kader of Kadakati in Ashashuni Upazila.

According to the embassy, the bodies are currently being kept at Nabih Berri Hospital. The embassy expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved families.

HARIPUR POWER LIMITED ("HPL")

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("RFEOI")

Haripur Power Limited ("HPL") is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Haripur, Narayanganj, Bangladesh. HPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of PEL, a joint venture between Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia and Aljomaih Energy and Water Co., Saudi Arabia, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

HPL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating in the tender (the "Tender") as stated below

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-HPL-2026-001	Tender: tender for the purchase of a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Bangladesh comprising 1 x Gas Turbine (Mitsubishi, M701F) + 1 x Steam Turbine (Fuji, K1E69050G1) + 1 x HRSG (Hyundai, HRSG-H-40-65) and all its auxiliaries, in the form of an asset sale.

Prospective applicants interested in participating in the Tender are required to send their Expression of Interest ("EOI") on company letterhead stating their interest and providing the information stated below via email to hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy by **12th June 2026**.

Information to accompany the EOI:

1. Name of applicant (company name)
2. Country of incorporation
3. Authorized contact person with contact details
4. Company Profile

The EOI along with the information provided therein will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. HPL will issue invitations via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to: hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy.